

Mount Airy News.

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LOOKING AT THE FACTS

There is hardly a newspaper of importance that does not carry articles frequently that bear on the controversy that seems to be unending between those who are now known as Fundamentalists and Modernists. We wonder just how much interest the general reader takes in this controversy. We have no way of knowing but we do know that the human mind is always interested in any question that is of a religious nature and that affects one's eternal welfare.

Just now the effort to keep Dr. Chase at the head of the State University makes all this prominent. It is known that Dr. Chase is likely to leave the state and accept the presidency of another big university. If he leaves here it will be for no other cause than that he holds views that are not acceptable to those who have come to be classed as fundamentalists.

When the microscope was invented it opened up to the eyes of men the unseen world about us. There are untold numbers of living things about us that are too small to be seen by the eye unaided by the glass known as the microscope. With this unseen world laid bare to men there arose discussion on many subjects that were never discussed before. Men studied the microscopic world as they studied the things that can be weighed and measured.

For long ages men have speculated upon how life started on this planet. Every people has its bible, or what to it is its bible, and every one has its theory as to how life originated on this earth. The accepted theory in this land is that life started by a special creation of two people on a day about 6000 years ago. This view was reached by the interpretation placed upon the writing of Genesis by scholars and has been accepted by the people.

With the opening up of the microscopic world about us men saw how things grow and develop and change from one form to another and how rapidly these changes take place. With this study once started the old theory of the special creation of two individuals became a question in the minds of many. Now it is a question in the minds of most educated people who have taken time to give the subject thought.

The microscope was invented many years ago, but not until forty or fifty years ago was it used in colleges to open the eyes of students to the world about us. Up to that time the course of study in colleges was confined to mathematics, languages, history, etc. Little attention was paid to the study of what is now known as science. But forty or fifty years ago colleges added to the course of study what is called biology. It is the study of life. Biology is the Greek word for life and its teaching. Students were required to study life in its simplest forms. They would be asked to go down on the branch and find a pool of stagnant water and put a drop of it under a microscope and look and see what they could find. It was a revelation to see just what could be found. Untold numbers of living forms of life were wiggling about there under the eye, without scales or fins or bones or any of the protection that surrounds the higher forms of life. Students secured forms of life in the lowest order, because these simple forms could be easily studied and the work of taking in food and the process of living and change and reproduction could be observed better than in the higher forms of life. One of the prettiest sights at all is to look down through the microscope at a strand of what we call spring moss. Magnified it looks much like a reed with all its joints and walls standing out so that it can be clearly seen. This spring moss is a very low form of life. The general reader would be surprised to know how interesting all this is and how much time students can put in to learn all that can be learned by such study. Every medical student works along this line for a time that would seem entirely too long to the layman, but it is just such study that has opened

the eyes of the world to what is about us and how to meet conditions that are as real as a rusty nail or a bent roset, and just as harmful or as helpful.

Along with all this study of life as it is seen down through the microscope has come a theory of the origin of man that is different from that as long held by our fathers. The theory was first given prominence by Charles Darwin. It is a theory that is more satisfactory to many scholars than the theory of the special creation of two individuals, as is credited to the writings as found in Genesis. It is this new theory that is at the bottom of all the controversy that is raging in church and state. This new theory of the origin of man has back of it a whole mass of material that has developed as the result of the teaching of biology as it is taught in all the schools in the whole civilized world.

Now, while this new theory is objectionable to many good people to that extent that we would have the persecution that the early church had only for the fact that we are a more enlightened people, this new theory is accepted by many of the best people in our land. To say that it is destructive to Christianity is only a statement, for one would be surprised to know how many christian ministers have accepted this modern view of the origin of life. They are too wise to cripple their usefulness by expressing their views before those who would not understand and are forced to keep silent on their views to protect their good standing among a people who have not yet accepted this new view point.

The discussion of the origin of man is what gives the supreme offense to the fundamentalist. If this one feature of the subject could be left out then there would be no offense in the present teaching of biology, but it is natural that the principles of biology be applied to all forms of life and thus to man. The discussion of the origin of man comes up as inevitably as the origin of any other living organism. It would be impossible to teach biology as it is now taught in all the schools and not bring the origin of man into the discussion. The Pool bill that was before our last legislature, the action of the state of Tennessee, the efforts of many of the states of the Union, all these efforts to suppress the discussion of the origin of man would also suppress the teaching of the subject of biology. If this could be done the fundamentalists would think the day was won for their cause. Any man who has studied biology in the modern schools or in medicine knows that its importance in the whole educational program is such that no act of legislature could suppress it. It would be just as easy to suppress the talk about the revolution of the earth. Of course many of the conclusions are based on theory, but many solid facts can be pointed to that seem to substantiate the theories.

Just how much truth there is in this new view point there is no way to determine, but it is a fact that most men who give it careful thought accept it. This does not mean that most men who attend college accept it, for a great many men go to college with their minds already made up on their views of life, and study with what could be really called a closed mind. They are not open to conviction and therefore are never able to get the new outlook that they might get if their minds were not already in what can be truthfully said to be a fixed state.

And so, it can be very safely said, the layman can count on hearing much about this controversy for many a day to come. One party to the controversy is known now as the fundamentalist and the other the modernist. The fundamentalist is the man who holds to the view of creation as accepted by the old churchman in his interpretation of Genesis, and the modernist holds to the theory of a developing life, a growing up slowly and by degrees that are so slow as to require a long period of time, centuries and centuries, and he sees life as a continual change from one form to another, always seeking a higher level and lopping off the useless and adjusting itself to some better state of being.

The fundamentalist contends that the view point of the modernist is dangerous and will destroy all that is good, while the modernist insists on the very opposite and answers by saying that his view point is a reasonable and scientific explanation that has back of it facts that are so clearly shown in the unseen world about us that no man should carelessly throw them aside without giving them due consideration.

RICHARD EARLY REEVES

In the death of Richard Early Reeves this county loses its most distinguished citizen. His prominence in the world of finance was so great that it attracted nation-wide attention.

As we understand it, Mr. Reeves was the head of a selling agency that found a market for the products of cotton mills. The volume of business increased from year to year until one-fifth of the manufactured goods of southern mills was finding a market through his agency. Some months ago the American Magazine, a journal of nationwide circulation, carried an illustrated article telling of the great ability of Mr. Reeves, his wonderful success, his ideal family life, and the high place he had made for himself in New York City and the business world. He died in the prime of life and possibly before he had reached the highest period of his usefulness, for he was making a reputation of loyalty to his church and associates and was rapidly becoming one of the world's richest men, we have never heard an estimate of his wealth, but he was, we understand, rated as many times a millionaire. No family ever lived among our people who had more devoted and loyal friends who felt a distinct loss when they found homes in other parts of the country. Their success in their various pursuits in life has been watched with interest and pride. The devotion of the family to the home land is unmistakably shown when they elect, when life's work is over, to be brought back to sleep the last sleep among the eternal hills of their birth.

AS A MAN THINKETH

As a man thinketh will be set. The only way to change the acts of men is to first change their way of thinking. In China where the people are so numerous as to be uncountable the ideas held about life have caused one third of the farm lands to be occupied by cemeteries. In India the religious ideas of the people will not permit the killing of a rat or a snake or any animal that is a pest to mankind. It costs more to support the rats of India than it does to run their government.

If all this is true, and we think it is, then the way the people right here in Surry and Mount Airy think will be shown in the lives they live. The trouble with the majority of our people is that we have not fallen in line with the progressive ways that have been worked out during the past years of scientific investigation. Our fathers denuded the trees of the forests and dug holes in the ground with a hoe and planted the grains of corn and made a living. They produced, maybe, fifteen bushels of corn to the acre. We do little better. Our fathers sowed the wheat grains by hand and reaped the ripened grain with a hand hook and got, maybe, eight bushels of grain to the acre. We do but little better.

Along with the changing times in this age of scientific investigation when "two blades of grass are made to grow where only one grew before" have come changes in our manner of living in many ways. The home of our fathers was a simple affair of the bare necessities of life. The modern home has its automobile, its piano, its cook stove, its radio, its library, its newspapers and magazines. These new and coveted things, and most people covet them, can not be had until our people get away from the ideas held by our fathers.

The encouraging thing is that many of our people are learning. We were out in the country a few days ago and saw the nice home of a young man, not yet thirty years of age, and he has already made a place for himself in his community that makes it possible for him to have his modern bungalow, his electric light and water system, his automobile, his wife and baby and his radio. Evidently his ideas are far from the ideas of our fathers or from the ideas held by a great majority of our young people of this day. It is all in the way one thinks.

If you would listen to us we would say get a farm paper, get in touch with your county agent, get in the habit of associating with progressive people and line up with the best that is to be had in the world of thought.

IF THEY COULD ONLY KNOW

If the people of the many states north of us could only know of the delightful climate we have here in a part of the country when compared with their, they would, many of them, close out their holdings and make a new home here in this sunny south land. There is a disposition on the part of the people of this state to induce others to come and make their homes with us. The effort will not fail, for there is good reason why this should be done. We have much vacant land, many undeveloped opportunities and all we need is men of energy and some capital to make ideal conditions for every man who will cast his lot with us.

All this was made so very plain to us one night last week that we are telling about it. On Thursday we noticed a bunch of carpenters working all day in the open air on a building. The weather conditions were ideal for outdoor work, neither too hot nor too cold. That night we were listening in over the radio to a musical concert in a city in Ohio. All at once the announcement was made that a severe storm was raging over that country and the condition of the wires was such as to make it necessary to discontinue the concert. The following day here in our state was another ideal one as to weather. But we read in the morning papers how a storm had caused much damage to property and many deaths in several western states. This was such a definite contrast as to the conditions here in our own state in contrast to the conditions in the other states that it made a lasting impression on our mind. And so, we repeat, if the people of the north could only know of the ideal living conditions in this section many of them would most certainly cast their lot with us.

THE JOKE ON THE CONGRESSMEN

All laws that are made to apply to the city of Washington and the district of Columbia are made by Congress. One day last week was taken up in committee meeting trying to decide whether or not a law shall be made to stop fortune telling in that city.

The fortune tellers were there all right to defend their profession or trade or calling, whatever it is, and the joke was on the law makers when it was brought out that many congressmen and senators are in the habit of getting advice from these fakirs. One woman stood up in meeting and testified that she was often called upon by these mighty law makers to tell them what to do. And no man was there to contradict her. If all this was not so astonishing it would be funny.

Eggs \$1.33 Each

J. B. Midkiff, of this city, this week received a setting of 15 Plymouth Rock eggs from the famous chicken breeder, E. B. Thompson, Amenia, N. Y.

This setting was from his best prize-winning pen and cost Jim a twenty dollar bill, or \$1.33 for each egg. If Jim does not get as many as 10 chicks from the setting he can get a second one for half price. There are several chicken fanciers about this city and there has developed among them a desire to get the best stock that is obtainable.

Dr. and Mrs. R. J. Lovill were called to Siler City by a phone message announcing the injury of Mrs. Lovill's father Dr. Kirkman in an automobile accident, Monday.

WE MUST WAKE UP

The movement started in this city several weeks ago to employ a county time secretary for a Chamber of Commerce should be pushed to an early completion if this section is to reap any of the benefits of the wave of industrial prosperity that it is evident will continue to sweep over this state in the future years. North Carolina is fast gaining a reputation as one of the leading states of the union and her progressiveness is attracting the wealth of the nation. This immediate section is the garden spot of the entire state and only needs to be advertised to the outside world.

Other towns are fast organizing publicity campaigns and unless Mount Airy pushes her claims before the country she will suffer in the end. Recently a movement was started in North Wilkesboro similar to the one that is being talked of here. In that hustling little city funds are now being employed to train train tain tain tain raised to employ a whole time secretary to work for the interest of that mountain section. Wake up folks and lets get our just portion of the wealth that is being invested in North Carolina by outside capital.

Solicitor Graves to Be in the Race

In a statement issued to the press last Saturday Solicitor S. P. Graves, of this city, definitely made it known that he would enter the primaries for renomination as solicitor for this district. Mr. Graves' many friends in the district have had some fears that he would decline to seek the nomination, and since the entry into the race of J. M. Sharpe, of Reidsville, was announced the friends of Mr. Graves have urged that he enter the race. In announcing his decision to enter the primary Mr. Graves said:

"I have deferred making any statement for the reason it has been a difficult matter for me to determine just what was my duty to the district and myself. Again, folks were busy and I certainly did not want to burden them with a long drawn-out campaign. Now, inquiries have become numerous and many good citizens have insisted that I ought to answer to public requirements and urged me to say that I would stand for re-nomination. "In making the statement that my name will be presented in the coming primary I feel that I have not been impelled by selfish motives, but am answering to a public duty—a duty to a people who have been graciously kind to me during all these years of association and service."

County Republican Convention Called

O. B. Webb, of this city, has gone and started the political pot to boiling in this county by calling a convention of the Republicans which is to meet in Dobson on Saturday, April 3, to perfect a county organization that will make an effort to redeem old Surry to the Republican cause. Already talk of candidates for the various offices is heard among the politicians. For sheriff the names of ex-Sheriff A. L. Ashburn and T. G. Samuels are freely mentioned, while it is understood that Miss Lillian Harkrader will again be placed on the ticket for Register of Deeds and Clerk of the Court. F. T. Lewell will have as his opponent A. H. Wolfe, of Kapps Mill.

The following is the call that Chairman Webb is broadcasting from station OBW on Lebanon Street, this city:

"To the Republicans of Surry County. "You are hereby called to meet at some place designated by your township chairman on Saturday, March 27th, 1926, at 2 P. M. and elect your township organization and at the same time elect your delegates to the county convention which is called to meet in Dobson on Saturday, April 3, at 2 P. M., to transact the following business: "To elect delegates to the state convention which meets in Durham April 8th; to elect delegates to the Congressional, Judicial and Senatorial conventions; to elect a county chairman, secretary and members of the executive committee and to transact such other business as may come before the convention. O. B. WEBB, Chairman."

Inducements For Manufacturing Enterprises

H. O. Woltz, Secretary of the Mount Airy Merchants Association, gave out the information here today that Zeb B. Hatcher, local hardware merchant and progressive business man, has fifty acres of land adjoining the right of way of the Atlantic & Yadkin Railway which he proposes to donate for manufacturing sites to persons or firms desiring to locate plants in the Granite City.

Mr. Hatcher came here a few years ago from Virginia and he is so completely sold on Mount Airy that he is not only telling others of its advantages but is willing to hand out substantial inducements to those seeking a new field of endeavor. The local Merchants Association has raised a large sum of money to be spent in telling the outside world some of the great advantages of this city and section, not only its attractiveness as a place to live, its matchless climate and its great and varied resources, but the thing which is of vital concern to those seeking a field for enterprise, the abundance of intelligent native workers.

A committee composed of the leading business men of the city is busy working out the details of the organization of Mount Airy's new Chamber of Commerce. With this new organization ready to function within the very near future and the coming of the Southern Public Utilities Company on July 1st the people of this section are looking for a period of constructive progress that will rival the forward strides made in any given period of our history.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Jackson, of this city, Mr. and Mrs. Lote Armfield and Miss Kate Jackson have returned from a visit to Mrs. C. H. Armfield at Miami, Fla.

Buist's Onion Sets And Garden Seed W. S. Wolfe Drug Co. Next to Post Office

Farm Land Brings Low Price

The sale of the Floyd Eldridge lands at Zephyr was held last Saturday as advertised by the trustee for the bondsmen that are securing the county in the amount that Mr. Eldridge is due the county as a former treasurer. On his retirement from office four years ago Mr. Eldridge was found to be due the county more than \$20,000.00. In reaching a settlement with Mr. Eldridge the present board of commissioners required a note from him signed by his bondsmen. In signing the notes the bondsmen in turn took a deed of trust on 600 acres of fine farming land that Mr. Eldridge owns at Zephyr.

As time has dragged along Mr. Eldridge has been unable to make good the loss to the county and last month the bondsmen who signed the notes advertised his lands for sale at public auction. The entire 600 acres brought \$10,200 and was purchased by Mr. Newt Martin of Salem Fork. It is said there is already a mortgage of \$4,000 against the land, held by the farm loan board, which would still leave the bondsmen of Mr. Eldridge short about \$15,000.

The land owned by Mr. Eldridge is very valuable and under normal conditions should be worth \$20,000. The bondsmen expect to meet in Elkin one day this week and determine what course to pursue to protect their interest and perhaps make an effort to secure more money from the sale of the land. There are about 15 bondsmen that are liable for the loss.

Health Question Remains Unsettled

The question of whether or not this county is to have a health department still remains unsettled. A hearing before a Superior court judge has been scheduled on different occasions when the County Board of Health would demand that the court require the County Commissioners to continue to make the regular appropriations. The Commissioners last month made an order discontinuing the appropriation on March 1st, but at the meeting held Monday the board continued the health work until April 1st. W. J. Byerly, chairman of the board, is in Florida and it is understood that at the meeting in April he will perhaps be able to attend an effort will be made to reach some satisfactory settlement between the two boards without taking the matter into court.

A. D. Folger in Hospital

Attorney A. D. Folger, of Dobson, is a patient at Martin Memorial hospital where he is being treated for indigestion and a general breakdown. His many friends in the county will be glad to know that his condition is not serious and that he is expected to be able to return to his home in a short time.

Kiwanians Entertain the Boys

The Kiwanis Club of Mount Airy was host to forty-odd boys of the town on Friday night, February 26th, at the regular luncheon at the Blue Ridge Hotel. This was "Father and Son" night and those members who had no sons of their own borrowed sons of other men for the occasion.

Ed Linville was in charge of the program. The first number was a humorous talk by Rev. Arthur Marshall. Then Jack Martin made a response to an address of welcome on behalf of the boys. Everyone pronounced Jack's effort a real masterpiece.

Rev. W. A. Newell talked to the boys about the world in which we live today and told the boys something of what their dads have done to make this a better world to live in.

Calvin Graves, Jr., presided while the boys introduced the Kiwanian whom they were attending the meeting with. Russell Barlow knives were presented to each boy present as a memento of the occasion and cut fingers and hands are now the fashion among the boys.

Those present pronounced this the very best meeting the club has had in some time. The attendance was good and the enthusiasm great.

The following boys were guests of the club: Robert Lovill, Jr., Billy Simpson, Thomas Fawcett, Jack Martin, Robert Jackson, Joe Jackson, Robert Foy, Calvin Graves, Jr., John T. Moore, Jr., Wyatt Partridge, Thamar Kiger, Charlie Witt, Joe Tesh, Jr., Byron Watson, Locke and Lewis Webb, Red Binder, Dockery Wolf, Hale Yokley, Winston McKinney, Lonnie Williams, Chester Mays, Wilson Barber, James Combs, James Johnson, Eugene Whitman, Harry Binder, James Bray, Jr., Robert Brown, Jr., Moir Fulk, Kenneth Cook, Clyde Crouch, Duke Cundiff, Wm. Taylor, E. H. Dixon, Jr., Paul Stewart, Miles Foy, Geo. Wright, Claude Monday, John Hollingsworth, Bowman George, Yancey Graves, Jr., Ralph Herman, Henry Armfield, Joe Hayes, Clyde Banner, Ben Johnson, Paul Kirkman and Hegry Rowe, Jr.



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