

The Rutherford Star

AND WEST-CAROLINA RECORD.

"BE SURE YOU ARE RIGHT AND THEN GO AHEAD."—DAVY CROCKETT.

VOL. VII.

RUTHERFORDTON, N. C., JUNE 6, 1874.

NO. 17.

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Mayor Holden's Address.

Below will be found the address of Hon. Jo. W. Holden before the Press Banquet at Raleigh a few days since.

Mr. President and Gentlemen Assembled:

So much has been said, and so many things have been presented to the enjoyment of our honored guests since their arrival in this city; they have been so warmly welcomed and so hospitably entertained; they have heard the story of our growing wealth and vigorous enterprises so much better told by more eloquent lips than my own, that nothing on these matters has been left for me to say; and yet, as at this moment I must speak, and as my thoughts have held a different flight, therefore, per force, I'll speak of that which struggling hardest in an utterance, comes readiest in answer to the sentiment which your President has just so pleasantly enunciated.

The name of the city of Raleigh, gentlemen, awakens a train of far-reaching associations. It summons from the placid depths of the past the memory of a grand and gallant hero, the towering shade and central figure of England's golden Elizabethan age; it evokes, in quiet majesty, the form of Sir Walter Raleigh, the statesman and soldier, the sailor and courtier, the poet and philosopher, the chemist and historian, and the martyr in the cause of human freedom. On him, it was once said, the old world gazed as at a star! while from the new, where the crystal cliffs of Mt. Raleigh, amid the solitudes of arctic seas, shimmer beneath the aurora's rays, the reflection of his fame flashed back! flashed over old ocean's wrinkled waters three centuries ago, when the keels of his intrepid fleet first cleft the inland waters of the hemisphere which we now inhabit.

Here, too, on the soil of North Carolina, he built a monument of enduring fame, for here he planted the new home of the Anglo-Saxon race; and here, among the vines and flowers of our Eastern shore, where the breath of spring is filled as of old with the perfume of blossoms and the cool forest's air is still made harmonious with the carols of innumerable birds, in a land whose loveliness fires the imagination and enchants the heart, he laid the foundation of a colony, destined by lofty fate to imperishable renown; and gave to it, the island city of his hopes, in those distant years, the glorious name which has been so often uttered here to-night, the name of the City of Raleigh.

Let us then for a moment, as we gather about the festive board, roll back the chilling tide of the fast-flowing decades, and listen amid the rising notes of triumph over toils forgotten and sufferings ended, to the wondrous story of the fate of our scarce-remembered mother city. It was a lonely settlement on a wild and stormy coast, the sole habitation of civilized man from the circle of the Hesperides to the Pole. One hundred and fifty persons made up its devoted band of pioneers, who had faced the terrors of ocean, the invisible fevers of the land, the starvation of the wilderness and the implacable malice of treacherous foes; and who, finally, faced an unknown and mysterious doom, whence no record has been rescued from the tones of eternity.

By the spell of this story the words of the historian have ever thrilled into tender and mournful harmony, for into the midst of that unhappy city there came one, whose name has grown into a household word—a babe, the first, sweet, lily infant of an English mother, born on American soil, a heavenly gift, a merciful memory from the skies! Virginia Dare, the first born citizen of the first City of Raleigh, the first free born

citizen of a land consecrated to freedom forevermore!

And therefore may we not now, with this memory in our hearts, indulge our fancy with a dream, as all have sometimes dreamed, that if there be a tutelary divinity which guards the grove, the fountain, and the hill, that surely from the balmy arc of this May evening, somewhere among the shadows of yon floating, fleecy clouds, clothed in the thin radiance of the stars, the spirit of Virginia Dare looks down to watch o'er our second city of Sir Walter Raleigh, which is alone, since her translation to ethereal realms, the true daughter of the island City that was blessed, three hundred years ago, with the brightness of her natal morning! Aye, it is well thus to dream, and to believe, and to consent, in variance with the callous scepticism of the hour, to the presence of so pure, so gentle, so angelic an ideal at our feast! Virginia Dare! Virgin child of a virgin land! May thy spirit watch o'er our thresholds and guard our heartstones with unflinching love!

And yet forever, methinks, beside her form there stands another shade, dissimilar but inseparable, rising from the placid depths of the past in serene and tranquil majesty. It is the martyr and the babe of the statesman and the child, the poet and the angel of this song. It is the oak and the vine—the English oak and the Carolina vine—the vine, whose trailing tendrils wander among the branches of our City of Oaks! It is more. It is the virgin and the hero! Oh, then let this be our prayer, that the fame of the spotless purity of Virginia Dare may remain a memento to the unsullied sweetness of the maidens of the City of Raleigh; and that the memory of Sir Walter's virtues and his achievements may stir the hearts of our young men, as with a battle blast, to emulate the deeds of him whose name is perpetuated by the City of their Asylum, of Penn., caused by a slight fire in the fan house so that smoke instead of pure air was blown into the main building. Great alarm occurred among the inmates, who broke the glass in the windows to admit fresh air. Finally the doors were thrown open and about four hundred inmates were allowed to escape into the grounds. Only 12 left the grounds, and all but six have since been returned. Among the missing was Gen. John Sydney Jones, of Philadelphia.

Says the St. Louis Journal: The version as to what Washington said to his father varies with localities. In the old spelling book he is reported as saying: "Papa, I cannot tell a lie"; in New York, "It wouldn't payrowin' or weeding ground, would to quibble; I did it, but I'll prove an alibi"; in Boston, "My esteemed progenitor, do you deem it possible that, under any circumstances, I could reconcile my ideas of the ultimate infinite with a present concealment of existing but by no means extenuating circumstances"; in Chicago, "I'll bet you two to one that I can do it quicker next time"; in Cincinnati, "Yes, papa, I wouldn't lie for a barrel of pork"; in St. Louis, "I did it, but the trouble is over—let us bury the hatchet," and in Denver, "Look ahead, old man, d'ye s'pose I'd put up a job on you?"

The new constitution adopted by the Swiss, by a vote of 321,870, to 177,000, will introduce several important changes. Among these it gives for the first time, the federal government the control of the army and military stores and fortifications; makes every man liable to military service; makes education secular and compulsory; provides for the passage of a uniform bankruptcy law; subjects the ecclesiastical to the civil power; makes civil marriage obligatory; prohibits the creation of any new bishoprics without the permission of the legislature; and grants a guaranty ability and to its agricultural reliability and enterprise.

The statements made public of the unhealthiness of our climate above that of other regions are false, and our country population is about as civilized as elsewhere. But what we must have, and that speedily, is an increase in our numbers, and in our financial capacity.

A great step in this direction would doubtless be the division of our unclaimed and untenanted lands into sections, and the gratuitous bestowment of alternate sections upon settlers. This is a simple suggestion, we know.—But it has worked well elsewhere, and why may it not succeed among us? If a real estate owner would only familiarize himself with the facts and figures, see what imposing advantages he would bring to his own doors by such a liberal policy, how the marketable value of his meanest acres would be quadrupled, how the moral and social tone of the agricultural community would be elevated, how both the quantity of labor would be improved, and what a distinguished advance in our entire agricultural condition would be brought about, he could not hesitate a single moment to endorse and adopt such a policy.

The trouble with our people is, they do not look deep enough into their own interest. For an embarrassed farmer to give away his land, seems at the first blush to be a remedy worse than the disease. But the history of financial speculations, over all this country, proves beyond a doubt, that it is the easiest pathway to success. In order to make money we must lose money. The grip policy of the miser, to hold on to every shilling and to pick up rags and rusty nails to get more, may do for a cracked brain and a hardy constitution, but it will not do for the advanced civilization and critical circumstances of these times. We must take in the necessities of the situation, understand the interests at stake, become familiar with the emergencies of other people and other regions, and then address ourselves boldly to the curative treatment of the maladies which have fallen upon us.

Keeping Work Ahead.

The great trouble with the most of us is that we lay out too much work for ourselves to do. We get a great many things half done, and work twice as hard as need be, when the same amount of labor judiciously expended would have a threefold result. This is just how it is in the war against weeds. We are so accustomed to get into a "fury" about getting the weed crop in now in and going on at a rapid pace. We have not unfrequently seen the greatest exertion in getting in seeds or plants that would have done just as well a week later, when the same time spent in harrowing or weeding ground, would have been equal to four times as much later period. These remarks of course apply more to garden than farm-work. Where horse power is at hand, weeds half an inch high, if annual weeds, are easily destroyed by a broad tooth cultivator, as if they were but just pushing through the ground; but in garden work a simple raking up of the ground when weeds are just sprouting is quite as effective as the best hoeing would be. An hour or two raking of a garden between the rows of the various crops, will in fact almost render hoeing unnecessary, and thus save many a hard day's labor.

Discharged.

A Whitehall groceryman marks the prices of provisions on the covers of his barrels and casks.—He had a new clerk the other day who mixed things. He got the cover of the sugar barrel, which was labeled "9 cents a pound," upon the lard barrel and straightway began to sell lard at nine cents. The sudden decline in the price attracted all the people in town, and the clerk thought he was doing a big thing until the proprietor returned, paid him off and told him to emigrate to Troy, where smart people were in demand.—Troy Press.

New Potatoes—Potato Culture.

On this subject a correspondent of the Country Gentleman writes as follows: Being one of the successful competitors for the \$500 premiums offered by B. K. Bliss & Sons, in the spring of 1873, for the largest quantity of potatoes grown from one pound of tubers planted, I have received numerous letters requesting me to give my views of the best varieties of potatoes for general cultivation, and also my mode of cultivation. I will give my opinion as to the varieties that I think are best for general cultivation.

The first Extra Early Vermont. For an early potato it is decidedly preferable to anything I have ever tested. It is at least ten days earlier than the celebrated Early Rose; far superior to it in quality and yield; perfectly free from disease, and, in fact, in every way a most valuable early variety.

The next I would recommend is the Ice Cream. Out of 73 varieties that I tested the past season, the Ice Cream was third in productiveness, and fully equal to any in quality and flavor. It is a late variety, and matures with the Peerless.

Carpenter's Seedling is a potato that I can recommend as a variety which I think is worthy of more than a passing notice. It combines the qualities of the Rose with those of the Peachblow. For earliness, it is fully equal to the Early Rose, and has the keeping quality and splendid flavor of the Peachblow. In fact, if I were to be confined to a single variety, I should select the Carpenter's Seedling in preference to any other I have ever tested. It is a beautiful cropper, and in every way worthy of a general cultivation.

MY MODE OF CULTURE.
In the first place I select the lightest soil I have, one year in advance. If poor, I give it a liberal dressing of barn yard manure; turn it under very deep, then sow on some green crop, such as wheat, rye or oats, and plough under before it gets so large that I cannot cover all with the plough. I let it lie over until Spring, then harrow smooth, mark each way three feet apart; select the moist perfect tubers, cut to single eyes and drop from one to two eyes in a hill; then make a compost of salt one part, slacked lime two parts, unbleached wood ashes four parts; put one good sized handful in each hill; then cover all from four to six inches deep, according as the season is wet or dry; the drier the soil the deeper the covering should be; keep the weeds down and the ground mellow with the hoe and cultivator, until just before the blossoms make their appearance; then hill up broad and flat, slightly cupping towards the vines, in order to hold all light showers of rain; keep the weeds down by cutting off or pulling up. I do not disturb the ground after this time, as it would injure the young tubers that are then in process of formation.

Early planted corn, it is true, may be seriously injured by drought, but it is less liable than that planted later. On level dry lands we prefer to plant in checks, but on hillsides the drill is preferable, as, if the rows are run around the hill on a level, as they should be, the ridges prevent washing. Some early variety may be planted with advantage, for a part of the crop. We have succeeded well with Pennsylvania Gourd Seed, which will mature a month earlier than our common kinds, and may escape droughts that would prove fatal to later crops. Corn is indispensable and should generally be made at home, the cost of transportation being great. It may not prove a remunerative crop on all our tobacco lands. It certainly is not always made so, nor is tobacco; but there are good corn lands on almost every plantation—lands on which good crops can always be made, with proper cultivation.

Chinamen are destroying the fish in Carson river, Nevada, with lime. They select dead water, and cast the powdered lime by handfulls over the surface. The lime absorbs the atmospheric air, the fish are suffocated and rise to the surface for breath. If not taken they float out to pure water and recover.