

STUDENT FORUM—Competitions, essays and themes. Prize, cash or kind, for every acceptable contribution. See Page Two.

POPULAR BIOGRAPHY—Short sketches of lives that signify. Prize, cash or kind, for every acceptable contribution. See Page Three.

# Carter's Weekly

FRANK CARTER, Editor  
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NORTH WILKESBORO, N. C. FRIDAY, SEPT. 17, 1920. DAN J. CARTER, Publisher \$1.00 A YEAR

## TOPICS OF THE WEEK

### On Flatterers.

From The New Statesman.  
Disraeli's confession that he was deliberately a flatterer has been much quoted during the last week or two. Disraeli believed that every man was susceptible to being flattered. "And when it comes to Royalty," he added, "you must lay it on with a trowel." It is, we should have thought, a safe rule to use the trowel in almost any company. Even among the people who affect an abhorrence of flattery, nine out of ten will purr under the hands of a skillful workman. To pretend to be above flattery is, as a rule, merely the most detectable way of flattering one's self. When a man says that he does not like being flattered, he means that he does not like being flattered in the presence of a third party who may be secretly laughing to see him fooled. He feels uncomfortable if he is called a second Pericles in presence of a man who does not even believe he is a second Bonar Law. An unbelieving eye destroys the atmosphere of illusion, which is necessary to the success of flattery. To enjoy being praised, one must keep doubt from the door. Hence the best occasion for flattery is a private letter or a conversation between two.

As one reads a letter, all the world ceases to exist except one's self and the writer. It is a communication from throne to throne—a conspiracy of two to greet one another across a space inhabited by a population of the meet-to-be-criticized. It is flattering to receive a letter in which the rest of the world is belittled and laughed at. It gives one the feeling that one is walking above other people's heads. It is an exceptional man who does not get pleasure even from the disparagement of his friends in such circumstances. He will no longer enjoy it if the disparagement is vicious or excessive. But he likes to be able to look on his friend good-humoredly from above. He may know his friend to be a better man than himself, but he appreciates an occasional relief from the knowledge. After all, even one's dearest friend is not a god, and it is delightful once in a while to hear somebody saying so.

Lamb did not love Wordsworth the less for being able to laugh at him behind his back. Half the quarrels of men arise from the fact that they talk a different language when face to face and behind each other's backs, and that they find this out. It is impossible to tell the whole truth to an average human being and still to remain on terms of friendship with him. There is little friendship without make-believe. If two men are close friends, you make take it that they have been pretending to a considerably higher estimate of each other than they would set down in a perfectly honest diary. It is not necessary that they should deliberately lie to one another, but they must discreetly conceal a certain amount of the criticism that is going on all the time behind the bones of their skulls. There are a few men who remain friends with their critics, but that is generally because they regard them as eccentrics.

To tell the truth without fear or favor is the best way to get the reputation of a crank. Tennyson remained friends with Carlyle, though Carlyle told him to give up poetry and take to honest work and write prose. He realized that on the subject of the relative merits of poetry and prose Carlyle was a comic character. He knew that Carlyle's criticism was directed not against him so much as against the art of poetry. Carlyle, in summoning him to write prose, was actually paying him a compliment. Had Carlyle told him his faults, instead of merely brushing aside the art of verse, the situation would no longer have been comic but bitter.

We do not suggest, of course, that friends cannot criticize each other at all. Life would be intolerable if friends could never speak the truth. Even as they criticize however, there is usually an undercurrent of appreciation taken for granted. And, as men grow older, the need for appreciation becomes stronger. Wordsworth was deeply offended when Coleridge, in his splendid appreciation of his genius in Biographia Litteraria, also enumerated his faults. The man of genius will almost always admit that he has faults, but he will seldom admit that they are the faults that even the tenderest critic has found in him. Hence the estrangements of men of genius. A friend blames where he should have praised. What is said in a spirit of

truth is set down to malice. Can a man be your friend if he steals the crown from your head, Can he be your friend even if he steal a single jewel from your crown—especially the paste jewel? We have all—the greatest and the meanest of us—paste jewels in our crowns. Will a true friend point them out to a world that is already overmuch inclined to scoff? Or will he not rather organize a clique that will pretend to be dazzled by diamonds?

It is a curious but indisputable fact that a man may be under no illusions about his paste diamonds, and yet resent the absence of these illusions in other people. Man is not only a realist. He is also a lover of romance. He dreams of what he would be quite as often as he deplores what he is. He cannot help being attracted by people who make his dream appear true. There are some men who are such intense egoists that they can believe in the truth of their dreams without any assistance from other people. Souhey agreed that his Madoc was "the best English poem since Paradise Lost." There was no need to tell him so, he knew it already. Victor Hugo, again, as Henley said, was himself the greatest of the Hugolaters. No one else could flatter him as he could flatter himself. Did he not indie letters to Queen Victoria as to a fellow monarch. It may be retorted that it proves no great vanity on Hugo's part to know that his genius put him at least on a level with Queen Victoria. His vanity consisted, however, in his flattering himself that Queen Victoria and everybody else must listen to him as they would listen to no other man. He was not a democrat asserting the equality of men, he was an egoist asserting his eminence above thrones and peoples. In spite of his immense self-importance, however, he was not sufficient to himself without the assenting flattery of others.

A man may have a swelled head and yet go about in terror lest somebody may prick it. Even emperors on their thrones are not content to deify themselves, they must also be deified by their courtiers. The Roman emperor came to look on himself as a rival, not of other kings, but of the gods Olympus. It was not enough that he should be the greatest of men, when he could dream of himself as the Lord God. It is difficult for a modern European not to smile, when he reads Horace's flattery of the "divine" Augustus. Yet the Romans apparently did not smile. The Christians were persecuted at a later date, because they would not speak of the Roman emperor as "the Lord." And yet, when Augustus came to die, it was as a man, not as a god, that he wished to be flattered. After a glance in the mirror to see that his hair was not disarranged he turned to those present and said: "Did I play my part well? If so, applaud me!"

The story may be apocryphal, but it has the good qualities of a fable. It reminds us that, if you can flatter a man for what he is, he will be even more pleased than if you flatter him for being what he is not. The pleasure of being an imposter disappears for most men at a tragic crisis, even though the love and applause survives. At the same time, it would be foolish to believe that every man who allows himself to be flattered into a belief in his own divinity is a conscious imposter. Was Alexander the Great a rogue, when he listened to the oracle of Ammon and allowed himself to be persuaded that he was the son of Zeus? He appears to have taken his position among the gods fairly seriously, since he hanged Aristotle's nephew for denying that he was divine. Aristotle was a wise man; he should have remembered to provide his nephew with a trowel.

When we recall the flatteries of the ancient world or even of the seventeenth-century world, the flatteries of our own day seem modest and cautious enough. Our trowels have undoubtedly grown smaller. Even Disraeli's trowel was small in comparison to that of a courtier in the time of Elizabeth or Louis XIV. We can notice the change of tone in the dedications of books. The old sort of dedication, which seemed natural even in a man of heroic character, would be regarded as servile coming from the most ordinary pen today. The convention has changed in these matters. Hyperbole of phrase has gone out. Christians still speak in the Roman fashion of "Our Lord the King," but even if, as some people say, the phrase originated in the deification of mon-

### DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY AND CONVENTION CALLED.

Pursuant to the call of the Democratic executive committee, held on Monday, Sept. 6, the Democratic primaries are called for Wilkes County to meet at 2 o'clock P. M. Saturday, Sept. 18, at their respective voting precincts and elect delegates to the county convention which will meet at the court house in Wilkesboro on Monday, Sept. 20, 1920, at 1 o'clock, P. M.

All Democrats are urged and requested to attend the primaries and county convention.

The Democratic ladies are especially invited to participate in the primary and convention as the object of this convention will be to select candidates for the various county offices and for such other business as may come before the convention.

F. C. Forester,  
Chairman.  
H. A. Cranor,  
Secretary.

This Sept. 6, 1920.

### FUNERAL OF REV. R. PRESLEY BLEVINS HELD TUESDAY.

The remains of Rev. R. Presley Blevins, who was killed last week near Riverton, Wyo., arrived here on the noon train Monday, and were taken to the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. O. F. Blevins, in Wilkesboro.

A beautiful funeral service was held Tuesday morning at eleven o'clock in the Wilkesboro Baptist church. The service was conducted by Revs. W. E. Linney, W. F. Staley and S. S. Jennings, and was largely attended. Interment followed in the town cemetery.

The floral offerings were beautiful and attested the love in which Rev. Mr. Blevins was held by his many friends. Active pall bearers were Messrs. J. A. Rousseau, J. T. Prevette, J. R. Jones, J. G. Prevette, Archie Horton and J. M. Prevette. Honorary: Messrs F. G. Holman, J. E. Spahnour, C. C. Wright, E. M. Blackburn, J. L. Hemphill and J. H. Johnson.

Rev. Mr. Blevins was killed while on a fishing trip with friends. The party had been fishing on one side of the dam, but as they had poor luck there, they decided to go over to the other side, where the power house was located. Rev. Mr. Blevins started through the power house and stopped to look at some machinery. He was carrying a steel fishing pole in his hand at the time, and as he stooped over, the point of the rod came in contact with a live wire and the entire 3300 volts, carried on the line, passed through his body, causing instant death.

### PROMINENT HIDDENITE MAN DIES IN STATESVILLE.

Mr. J. B. Leach of Hiddenite, died at a local hospital Saturday afternoon after a brief illness. The body was taken to Hiddenite, where the funeral services were held this morning at 10 o'clock from the Baptist church, Rev. L. P. Gwaltney and Rev. R. Lee Davis, officiating. Mr. Leach was 63 years of age, and was a prominent and successful business man, being proprietor of a hardware store at Hiddenite at the time of his death. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Julia Leach and one daughter, Miss Winnie Leach; also two brothers, A. A. Leach, of Iredell county and E. J. Leach, of Moravian Falls, and one sister, Miss Margaret Leach of Moravian Falls.—Statesville Sentinel, Sept. 13.

Connecticut Ratifies 19th Amendment. Hartford, Conn., Sept. 14.—The Connecticut general assembly today ratified the suffrage amendment in defiance of Gov. Marcus H. Holcomb.

Archs no man dare write of a king as a god today. The Kaiser himself did no claim to be the Almighty, but only that he was the next best thing. He made the ancient gesture of the divine kings, however, at his coronation when he would not allow any other hands but his own to place the crown on his head. But, on the whole, it is the people, not the kings, who get most of the flattery in these days. Every nation is flattered by its statesmen and journalists. Demagogy is simply the art of giving a people more flattery than is good for it. Bread and circuses are not enough; people must also have praise. In the same way nations demand praise from each other as a condition of friendship.

The statesmen of England, France, and America praise one another's countries in public, till they must long at times to get into some quiet company when they can say what they really believe. Nations are even more (Continued on page four)

### MR. J. E. FINLEY HAS RESIGNED FROM COMMISSION.

Mr. J. E. Finley, chairman of the Good Roads Commission, has tendered his resignation to the board. While holding this responsible position he gave his best efforts to the cause of better roads in Wilkes county. The following resolution was adopted at a recent meeting of the road commission:

"Resolved by the Good Road Commission of Wilkes County, that in accepting the resignation of our chairman, Mr. J. E. Finley we do so with very great reluctance, because we realize that the loss of his valuable services and council will mean to us."

"We desire to testify to his unselfish devotion to the cause of road building in the county and we feel that his retirement from this commission is a great loss to the entire county. In order that the public may know the esteem we hold for Mr. Finley both as a public officer and a private citizen we ask that this resolution be spread on our minutes and a copy be given to our press for publication."

N. E. Parlier,  
W. V. Caudill,  
C. C. Gambill."

### HON. J. J. PARKER WILL SPEAK HERE THURSDAY.

Hon. J. J. Parker, Republican candidate for governor, will speak at the courthouse in Wilkesboro, Thursday, September 23, 1920, at 1.00 p. m. Mr. Parker is an able speaker and has a message of interest to people of this section. The public is invited to hear Mr. Parker.

### A FEW WORDS IN BEHALF OF MR. W. C. HAMMER.

The resignation of W. C. Hammer as U. S. district attorney, which was effective the 15th of this month, was an occurrence of more than passing interest. Not since the days of Judge Armfield has a public official appeared in the court room with more popularity.

While forcible as a prosecutor, he was affective, though, without violence in his request for conviction. I desire to express as my opinion that the United States has had no superior to Mr. Hammer as district attorney for the Western District of North Carolina. Mr. Hammer, as all are familiar with, is the nominee on the Democratic ticket for Congress from this district. There is no doubt in the minds of well-informed people that he will be elected. With his breadth of vision in public matters, the individuality of his personal appearance, coupled with his wonderful ability, he will easily be one of the leading members of that august assembly.

A Democratic Voter.

### Y. M. C. A. EDUCATIONAL CAR ON TRIP THROUGH WILKES.

The Educational Service Unit sent out by the Y. M. C. A. is spending two weeks in this county.

Programs consisting of moving pictures and lectures on the subjects of social hygiene, sanitation, agriculture, and community cooperation are being given in the following communities.

Mountain View, Sept. 16, 17, 18; Millers Creek, Sept. 20, 21, 22; Boomer, Sept. 23, 24.

These meetings begin at eight o'clock and are absolutely free to all the people.

Scholarship to go to school or take a correspondence course may be had free by all ex-service men by writing to Mr. C. D. Snell N. Wilkesboro, N. C., Gen'l Del.

### SWEEPING VICTORY FOR REPUBLICAN PARTY IN MAINE.

Portland, Me., Sept. 13.—Returns from 478 precincts out of 632 in the state give for governor: Parkhurst (R) 102,156; McIntyre (D) 53,100.

### SCHOOL NOTICE.

No pupils will be enrolled in the first grade after Friday, September 24th. All who have children over six years of age whom they desire to start to school before April 1st, must enroll them before the 24th.

Because there is not room in the auditorium to assemble all of the schools at one time there will hereafter be two assembly periods each week. The one every Wednesday morning, as usual for the high school and the grammar grades only; and one every Thursday morning for the primary grades. You are welcome at either or both of these exercises.

J. H. Hurst, Supt.

### WILKESBORO SCHOOL OPENED WITH BRIGHT PROSPECTS.

The opening exercises of the Wilkesboro High School were held last Monday morning in the school auditorium. Quite a number of patrons of the school were in attendance. Rev. J. M. Barber had charge of devotional exercises. He read a portion of Paul's Writings to the Romans, after which he led in prayer. Miss Margaret Wright, county community service director, Solicitor J. J. Hayes, and Attorney F. B. Hendren made instructive and interesting talks. The school opens this year with bright prospects for a splendid year. The attendance is large, and a number of pupils from a distance will form a part of the student body again this year. In connection with the school Mrs. R. E. Prevette will conduct a music department.

### REGISTRATION BOOKS FOR NOVEMBER ELECTION OPEN 30th.

Raleigh, Sept. 15.—Chairman of all county boards of elections are being written a letter of instructions by the State Board of Elections with reference to the registration of voters in the November election.

"The law requires that electors not previously registered who expect to vote" in the 1920 general election "must present themselves in person before the register for registration during the period provided by law for the registration of voters," the letter reads. The registration books covering the election of November 2, 1920, will open on September 30 and close on October 23.

It is made plain that voters cannot be registered by mail.

"The woman voter is subject to the same conditions and qualifications as apply to the male voter with the exception that the female voter is not required to pay poll tax or exhibit a poll tax receipt in order to vote in or register for the coming election. They are required to make a statement under oath if necessary, that they are of legal age and otherwise qualified to vote or to register. This does not necessarily mean that the female voters must give their exact ages but must state that they are over 21 years of age."

### IMPORTANT LETTER FROM MR. W. T. SHIPP.

The following letter will be of interest to people of this section of the State:

Newton, N. C., Sept. 13, 1920.  
Mr. H. C. Landon, Secretary, Wilkes Commercial Club, North Wilkesboro, N. C.

My Dear Mr. Landon:  
On behalf of the Blue Ridge Development Company, I beg you to accept our sincere thanks for the full and comprehensive list of freight from your section of country. Your committee is certainly to be commended for the manner in which you have presented this, and I assure you I will take pleasure in presenting the same to our Company at the first opportunity I have. I shall long remember the pleasant visit I had with you gentlemen, and sincerely hope the time is not far distant when something tangible may develop. Personally I think you have an ideal proposition for an electric railroad, also from an electric power standpoint and the only thing is just to get enough others thinking the same way, and that can and will be done. Your people have the right kind of mettle in them to do it. I will be pleased to report to you as soon as I can get an expression from our people.

Thanking you for your courtesy, we are,  
Yours very truly,  
Blue Ridge Development Co.  
By W. T. Shipp.

### STRAW VOTE BEING POLLED BY LOCAL REXALL STORE.

Much interest in being centered around the straw vote that is being polled by the North Wilkesboro Drug Store, the Rexall Store. This store is one of the 8,000 Rexall stores in the United States that is active in tabulating the opinion of the voters of the country as to the election of Governor Cox or Senator Harding for the presidency. After October 1st results of voting in the nation, state, and county, will be announced daily in the windows of the store. All qualified voters, both men and women, are urged to go to the Rexall Store and cast their ballots for the candidate of their choice. If you live away from this city, clip the ticket in the ad in this paper and mail it to the Rexall store.

### SEPTEMBER MEETING OF THE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

The first meeting of the Wilkes County Teachers' Association for the present scholastic year was held in the court house on last Friday and Saturday. The meeting was called to order by Superintendent Wright who asked Rev. Milton McNeill to conduct the devotional exercises.

Supt. Wright then briefly reviewed the work of the past year and called attention to the educational charts which were on exhibition. These gave in outline the various townships of the county, showing by colors the rank of each one as based on the enrollment in the public schools. These showed the townships of Edwards and Elk leading in this respect. Another chart gave the educational progress of the county since the year 1900, comparing conditions now and then, and also conditions last year and this. Another chart gave the rank of the various townships as to attendance, local tax, schools, libraries, value school property, etc. These charts created quite an interest among those present and were indeed very complimentary to the corps of teachers who wrought in the county last year.

Mrs. T. E. Johnson, member of the State Board of Examiners, and having charge of the professional work among the teachers of this, the west central district Association of County Superintendents, gave the first lesson for the year in "Freeland," the book which is to be studied this year and next, looking to the renewal of those holding State Elementary Certificates.

Following Mrs. Johnson, Dr. J. H. Highsmith, State High School Inspector, addressed the teachers and gave some very practical and helpful advice. After some announcements and the distribution of pamphlets, blanks, etc., from the State Educational Department, the meeting adjourned to 9 o'clock Saturday morning.

The second day's session opened with a registration of 185 teachers. The devotional exercises were conducted by Mr. A. J. Foster, after which Mrs. W. R. Absher talked to the association on the value of the "Spoken Word," giving the teachers valuable hints, suggestions and advice.

County Superintendent of Public Welfare, Mr. W. M. Sebastian, then spoke of his work, stressing and emphasizing the importance of a strict compliance with the compulsory attendance law.

County Demonstration Agent, A. G. Hendren followed, with an inspiring talk to the teachers, closing with an appeal to the teachers to do everything possible toward bettering agricultural conditions in the rural districts of the county.

This was followed by a talk from Mr. F. B. Hendren, chairman of the local school board at Wilkesboro, telling of the advantages offered by the county and state high school at that place, and incidentally urged the formation of a county historical association.

Miss Margaret Wright, community worker for the county, then spoke of her plans for the work in the county, outlining a plan of campaign for improvement of school houses and grounds, etc.

Mrs. T. E. Johnson gave the second lesson in "Freeland," and stressed the importance of the teachers taking up the study of this text at once.

Then with a talk by Supt. Wright, the benediction was pronounced by Mr. W. M. R. Church. This closed one of the best meetings of the Wilkes County Teachers' Association. The next session will be held on Friday and Saturday, October 8th and 9th.—Reported.

### HON. W. C. HAMMER TO SPEAK HERE.

Hon. W. C. Hammer, candidate for Congress, will address the voters of Wilkes county at the county convention, Monday, Sept. 20th, at Wilkesboro, N. C. Come out and hear him. The ladies are especially invited.

Floyd C. Forester,  
Chairman.  
Hugh A. Cranor,  
Secretary.

### CARD OF THANKS.

We desire to take this means of expressing our sincere gratitude for the kindness and sympathy shown us in the death of our husband and father. May the Lord's richest blessings rest on all.  
Mrs. W. V. Williams and Family.