

SOUTHERN ILLUSTRATED AGE

Entered according to the Act of Congress in the year 1875, by R. T. FULTON, in the Office of the Librarian of Congress, at Washington.

VOL. I.—NO. 2.

RALEIGH, N. C., AUGUST 21, 1875.

PRICE 10 CENTS.

EX-GOVERNOR Z. B. VANCE.

The subject of this sketch was born in the county of Buncombe, near the seat of justice, Asheville, in the mountains of North Carolina, on the 13th of May, 1830. His father was a most respectable merchant. His mother's father, Zebulon Baird, was one of the trusted citizens of Buncombe, for many years chosen as their representative in the General Assembly.

His father died when he was quite young. His mother devoted herself to his training with the loving and intelligent care which so often distinguish and reward the women of our land.

Her slender means, however, prevented her giving him other education in his boyhood than was afforded by the country schools, in which Pike's Arithmetic and Webster's Elementary Spelling Book were the chief text books. But young Zeb. had an inquiring mind. He read with avidity every volume within his reach, and being gifted with great quickness and a strong memory, in his boyhood began the accumulation of the stores of illustrations and strong apposite diction which have made him conspicuous in his manhood. He had access to few books, but these were good ones. A gentleman, fresh from the senior class of the University, traveling in Buncombe, was amazed at finding the superior acquaintance and aptness of quotations from the Bible, Shakspeare and Scott's novels, displayed by our half-grown and half-educated mountain boy, and twenty-five years ago predicted

In 1852 young Vance went to the University of North Carolina, where he spent a year. He stood among the first in the branches to which he devoted himself. He here began the study of law and soon afterwards was admitted to the bar. He made Asheville his home and soon commanded a fair share of practice. He early became influential with the jury, humor and ready eloquence telling well on the mind of the average mountaineer. He tells on himself, with much glee, the first compliment he received for his forensic efforts: "Zeb, if you can only get apast the Judge, I'd as lief have you as any old lawyer." It was not long before his "getting past the Judge" was not the subject of doubt.

Like most young men of active and ambitious minds, Mr. Vance went early into politics. He was elected to the Legislature in 1854, where he was one of the most prominent among the young men, being an enthusiastic Henry Clay Whig. His peculiar powers were not fully developed, however, until 1858, when he took the stump in opposition to the late W. W. Avery as a candidate for the National House of Representatives in the mountain district.

This district had once been Whig. The people, however, were devotedly attached to Thomas L. Clingman, who for many years represented them in Congress. When Mr. Clingman swung around to the Democratic side, he retained his ascendancy, notwithstanding his change of base, carrying the district in 1857 by 2,000 majority over his Whig opponent. When in consequence of being promoted to the Senate, he resigned his seat, it was generally thought Mr. Avery, a man in strong debate and of influential family, would easily fill the vacancy. When Mr. Vance announced his intention to oppose him, he was applauded for his gallantry, but laughed at for his supposed folly. In this campaign Mr. Vance, then only 28 years old, dis-

played those qualities of a stump orator and leader of men for which he is now so conspicuous and unequalled. Quick at repartee, teaming with anecdotes, which he tells with happy humor, able to pass at will from mirth-moving fun to invective, eloquence and pathos, by his power of presenting arguments and facts in an interesting light, his consummate tact and winning ways, "he stole away the hearts of the people." He was elected by a majority as large as the year before had been given to his Democratic predecessor.

In the following year David Coleman, another distinguished Democrat, measured his strength with the young Whig, but the effort to diminish his majority failed. Coleman met the fate of Avery, and thenceforth Mr. Vance was supreme west of the Blue Ridge.

In Congress he was an active and watchful member. He took sides strongly and labored earnestly against secession, at the same

time warning the country against coercion of the Southern States by force of arms. His appeals for the Union in Congress and before the people, were earnest and powerful, but when Sumpter was fired upon, like nearly all the leading Union men of North Carolina, Badger, Graham, Ruffin, Gilmer and others believing in the right of revolution, he cast his lot with his native State, and took up arms against the Union.

Whatever Mr. Vance does he does with all his might. He was one of the earliest volunteers, marching to the seat of war in Virginia as a captain in May, 1861. It was not long before his promotion came, he having been elected Colonel of the Twenty-sixth Regiment of North Carolina troops in August 1861. He was among the brave fighters who drove McClellan to his ships in the James, and he brought his regiment off safely, when Branch's little army was overwhelmed by Burnside at Newbern. He cheerfully shared all the hardships and dangers of his men.

He was a faithful and gallant officer, and civilians and soldiers united in the demand that he should

be the next Governor of North Carolina. He was chosen by an overwhelming majority in 1862, and two years later by a similar vote over the late Governor, W. W. Holden. As Governor of North Carolina in those troublous times, Mr. Vance displayed talents for which even his most ardent admirers had not given him credit. Blessed with a strong frame and hardy constitution, he was able to go through an incredible amount of hard work, mental and physical. He exhibited administrative and executive powers of the highest order. It became his duty to aid the Confederate Government in securing and maintaining in its armies the military contingent of North Carolina. It was likewise his duty to assist, as commander-in-chief of the militia, in repelling invasion of its territory. It was his province to execute largely the functions of a war minister, and when the full history of the war shall be written it will

be found that he excelled all Southern Governors in vigor and ability in these regards. He kept his State up to the full measure of its obligation under the Constitution of the Confederacy. At the same time he was watchful that there should be no infringement of the rights of the State.

In the midst of the very death struggles of the war he insisted that the military should be subordinate to the civil powers. It should be known and remembered throughout the civilized world that all during the time when the Confederacy was vainly fighting for life, and when one-fourth of the State was overrun by contending armies, the great privilege of the writ of habeas corpus was never suspended. North Carolina had Judges firm enough to issue that great writ, and a Governor brave enough to enforce its mandates in the midst of conscript camps, even in the lines of troops drawn up in order of battle. While Mr. Vance

In 1870 he was elected Senator of the United States, but on account of the disabilities imposed by the 14th amendment to the Constitution was not allowed to take his seat.

In 1872 he has the nominee of the Democratic party of the Legislature for the same high office, but was defeated in the election by a coalition between a few friends of Judge Merrimon and the Republicans. He received his degree of LL. D. from Davidson College in 1867.

Governor Vance is a married man, and has four children. He is exceedingly loveable in private life, has more warm personal friends probably than any man in North Carolina. He is an especial favorite with those excellent judges of a kind heart—ladies and children. He bubbles over with fun and anecdote. His mottos are quoted throughout the State. "Have you heard Vance's last?" is a common mode of commencing a jovial conversation. Still he does not neglect the serious business of life. Although he devotes most of his attention to the study of statecraft and politics in the larger sense, he prepares his law cases well and is a first rate *nisi prius* lawyer. He is distinguished as a lecturer, and is often called on by literary societies and by those desiring to aid charitable institutions by receipts at the door of the lecture hall. His lecture on the "Scattered Nation," delivered in Baltimore, Charleston, Norfolk and other cities outside of North Carolina, have won the high

praise of the public. The Governor has found time to read much on historical, social and political subjects, and has the power of presenting his views in an attractive and interesting manner, and clothed in strong, sturdy English. In his excellent sketches of North Carolina, of late published in the *Norfolk Landmark*, he evinces the power of condensing a great multitude of valuable information and history within a surprisingly small compass. In physique Gov. Vance is a fine specimen of manhood—a vigorous, live statesman, and the country will doubtless see more of him in public life hereafter.

WHO OWNS A LETTER AFTER IT IS PUT IN THE POST OFFICE?

On the 28th ult. the Swiss Postal Department sent a cable telegram to Postmaster General Jewell asking the return (unopened) of two registered letters of the 20th and 27th of July, addressed to Duncan, Sherman & Co., at New York City. The Postmaster General submitted the matter to Judge Spencer, the Assistant Attorney General for the Post Office Department, and finally to Attorney General Pierrepont, and, under the advice of these legal gentlemen, sent a reply declining to return the packages. In a supplementary letter in relation to the matter, he informs the Swiss authorities that the postal laws of the United States government have been uniformly construed to terminate the property in or control over a letter by the writer when the letter leaves the mailing office, and, also, that at the office of delivery the letter becomes the property of and subject to the exclusive control of the party to whom it is addressed, and therefore he could not, in the present case, interfere adversely to the right secured by the law to Duncan, Sherman & Co., the party to whom the registered letters in question are addressed.

Queen of Arts—female graduates.

