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BUILDING MONUMENTS.

Through life we build our monuments
Of honor and, perhaps, of fame;
The little and the great events
Are blocks of glory or of shame.

The modest, humble, and obscure,
Living unnoticed and unknown,
May raise a shaft that will endure
Longer than pyramids of stone.

The carved statue turns to dust,
And marble obelisks decay;
But deeds of pity, faith, and trust
No storms of fate can sweep away.

Their base stands on the rock of right,
Their apex reaches to the skies;
They glow with the increasing light
Of all the circling centuries.

Our building must be good or bad;
In words we speak, in deeds we do;
On sand or granite must be laid
The shaft that shows us false or true.

How do we build—what can we show
For hours and days and years of toil?
Is the foundation firm below?
Is it on rock or sandy soil?

The hand that lifts the fallen up,
That heals a heart or binds a wound,
That gives the needed crust and cup,
Is building upon solid ground.

Is there a block of stainless white
Within the monumental wall,
On which the sculptured skill can write
"He builded well; so should we all!"

—Christian Intelligencer.

OUR HALIFAX LETTER

POLITICS—CANDIDATES—SCHOOLS—CONGRESS
PRESIDENT—GOVERNOR—THE CROPS.

HALIFAX, N. C. July 11.—The County Board of Education met here the 4th, of July and attended to its business and adjourned to meet the first Monday in August. The Board ordered that the schools commence on the 15th of July. The Board of County Commissioners met and on the first day we are informed there is between \$4,000 and 5,000 worth of license to sell liquor by the retail and wholesale. The picnic which came off here on the 6th, inst. was a grand success, everything went off nicely, every body seem to enjoy themselves. There were upwards of 250 people present and after the guest all had eaten there was enough over for six more barbecues. A large number of colored people were present. They were invited to take dinner also. Haywood's band of Raleigh, made music for the occasion. The match game of base ball that was to take place on the fourth of July between the Pea Hill and Halifax base ball clubs did not come off on account of the rain. Halifax is the greatest place to its size in the State, for fun, pleasure and amusement.

The crops in this section of the County are in a better condition than they have been for sometime, unless something comes to destroy the crops, every farmer in this section of the County will reap an abundant harvest this fall. Your correspondent was into see Rev. A. J. Jackson to-day and found him well. Mr. Jackson says he will make he thinks 10 or 11 bales of cotton with one mule and 75 or 80 barrels of corn, he says that the prospects were never better for a good crop. John T. Reynolds was in town Monday looking after school matters. The commencement exercises of the select Normal and Grad ed schools of this place which took place on the 23rd and 24th and of June were fine. The children, and young ladies acted their parts well, which reflected credit upon their faithful, earnest and efficient teacher.

J. C. Stevens, Messrs. J. E. Collins, Simon Wilkins, A. L. Wood and R. H. Spiry, went out fishing last week and I am informed that they played havoc with the "finny tribe"; they caught 500 of them and were back home by 5 o'clock in the evening. Your correspondent has talked with a good many leading men in different counties and finds that the majority of them are in favor of Hon. John Sherman of Ohio for President, though they stand ready to support any one, who may be the nominee of the Republican party. We think he would come nearer uniting the discordant elements of the party than any prominent man we know of and we hope that Sherman, Blaine or some prominent man will be nominated. With Sherman for President and John A. Moore of Halifax for Governor, we think that North Carolina will go Republican by 40,000 majority. We are opposed to any dark horse for the presidency. The Hon. Geo. H. White of New Bern delivered the annual address for the Normal school, here on the 24th of June, and sufficient is to say that it was a fine address. Mr. White is destined we think to make one of the ablest orators in the State of the colored race.

The Hon. James E. O'Hara was into town Monday looking well, he has been sick for a week or so, we are glad to see that he is well again. We interviewed the honorable gentleman on the political situation both State and National and we are proud to say that he is undoubtedly of the opinion that the State will go Republican next year if there is unity among the Republicans in the different localities of the State. He thinks that local quarrels have done more to keep the Republican party out of power than anything else. Mr. O'Hara is a member of the National Union Republican League of the United States. He says the League has determined to make a fight to capture North Carolina, West Virginia, Tennessee and Virginia next year, he thinks that if the Republicans in these States will be united, that they all will go Republican. He is very well satisfied that Mr. Cleveland will be the nominee of the Democratic party and also that who ever is the nominee of the Republican party will be elected.

It pains us to have to write the death of Miss N. G. Williams of this place. Miss Williams was a young lady that bid fair to make a bright and shining light in the social and literary world in the near future. She leaves a devoted father and mother, and a brother, two sisters and a host of friends to mourn her loss. Miss Williams was a faithful teacher and member of the First Missionary Baptist Sunday School of this place, she was liked

by all who knew her, Miss Williams funeral was preached in the First Baptist Church on Monday the 11th inst. The church was tastefully draped in mourning in honor of the deceased. The Sunday school, church and a large concourse of people followed the remains to its final resting place. The ladies Union Society of which she was a member, also turned out with them.

Your correspondent has been sick for a week, but is better now and will start out in search of subscribers to-day. He will visit Henderson, Franklinton and Warrenton this week and other towns next week on the Raleigh and Gaston railroad.

Your correspondent was in to see Mr. J. J. Wood, the jailer today Mr. Wood is well at present, and is a Stalwart Republican and has done much for the Republican party in this County. Mr. Wood informs me that there are but four prisoners in the County jail, three of whom are insane and would be sent to the Asylum, but for the fact that there is not room in the Asylum for them. Your correspondent hears that the Hon. J. H. Hannon will be a candidate for Congress; while we are not pledged to any one for Congress, but we have to say of Mr. Hannon that we think he would make an able Representative of the colored race, we know that he is and thoroughly identified with, and interest in the race. Mr. Hannon is well qualified educationally for most any position, he graduated from Howard University, Washington City in 1872.

We hear that Mr. Plummer Cheatham of Vance County will be a candidate. We can say that we have known Mr. Cheatham from boyhood and can say that he too is a man of unquestioned ability, a high-toned christian gentleman, a member of the Baptist church and is thoroughly interested in the welfare of the colored people. Mr. Cheatham was once principal of the "Plymouth State Normal" from which position, he was called to fill the position which he now holds that of Register of Deeds of Vance County.

HALIFAX.

SOME RIVER ROMANCES

REMINISCENCES OF THE GLORIES OF MISSISSIPPI STEAMBOATS.

The curious pranks of the great river that sweeps past this city have always been viewed with suspicion and alarm by the government engineers and municipal authorities. When St. Louis was a small town the river made a bold and almost successful attempt to cut a new channel three miles east of its present course. The effect of this would have been to leave the city "high and dry," and it is to the active intelligence and engineering skill of Lieut. R. E. Lee that the city owes its present harbor.

The Mississippi forms a semi-circle about St. Louis, and the territory thus enclosed has a water frontage of fourteen miles, says a St. Louis correspondent in the Nashville Union. The levee extends from Carondelet on the south to the water works on the north along the entire water front of the city. Only about five miles of it is improved, and this portion is directly in front of the business part of the city. The site of St. Louis was originally a succession of natural terraces, reaching back two miles from the river. Then the ground sloped downward and was cut up by deep ravines and covered with numerous ponds. The river front in the vicinity of the present bridge was originally a high bluff, and the early inhabitants had nothing to fear from high water. This bluff has been cut down for miles and its base transformed into a levee. The street directly facing the water was called Front street, but now, since its glory has departed, it is known as the Levee. The improved portion of the St. Louis levee is an inclined plane, paved with stone, extending from the street level to the water. The distance from the apex to the water depends on the mood of the river. The plane is paved fully 300 feet, and the water is in a very low stage when the bed below the paving is exposed. As stated, this inclined plane extends for nearly five miles in front of the business portion, and the improvements cost \$3,000,000.

It is on this levee that the remnant of the great river business that made the city is now transacted. River traffic has now dwindled to about 10 per cent. of its ante-bellum volume. The gold and glory in steamboating has vanished, and now old river men spend most of their time describing the Augustan age of the steamboat on Western waters, the period from 1845 to 1860. The first steamboat that arrived in St. Louis was the Z-bulen M. Pike, in 1817. In 1848 the river trade had grown to such huge proportions that 3,468 boats arrived in the harbor. In 1859 more steamboats arrived in St. Louis than in New Orleans, Cincinnati and Pittsburg combined. The Missouri river trade was then an item of vast importance, and there was a half a dozen well equipped lines on that river. To-day there is one line. Railroads killed the river business, and by building up the Western cities almost throttled the trade of St. Louis.

The Missouri bank of the Mississippi, is almost the entire length of the State, is a chain of bluffs. The Illinois side, from Alton to Cairo, is flat and low, and between these two towns lies the famous American bottom. The bottoms vary from three to six miles in width, from the low bank of the river to the eastern bluffs, and are 200 miles long, containing 16,000,000 acres of the most fertile soil in the world. The river, especially in the vicinity of St. Louis, is inclined to sweep over these areas, and to protect them great dikes and levees have been constructed on the eastern bank. Directly in front of this city was once a famous island, called "Bloody Island" on account of the many fatal duels fought there. It was there Senator Thomas H. Benton killed Charles D. Lucas, and ex Governor Thomas Reynolds, who recently committed suicide, shot B.

Gratz Brown. This island was in the center of the river, and as the current flowed toward the Illinois side the people of the city arose one morning in 1837 and found a sand bar extending from the Missouri side to the island, and almost the whole volume of water flowing between "Bloody Island" and Illinois. The government was appealed to, and Lieut. Robert E. Lee was sent out here in charge of the works. He constructed dikes on the Illinois shore and at the head of "Bloody Island," and gradually turned the water back toward the St. Louis side until the sand bar was washed away, and afterward the entire river was thrown over against the city. "Bloody Island" is now a portion of the main land, and the greatest part of East St. Louis is located on it. Balked at this point the river cut into Illinois below the city. In 1756 Fort Chartres was one mile and a quarter directly east from the river bank. To-day the river runs over the spot where the old fort stood.

The most exciting event in the history of the river was the famous race between the R. E. Lee and the Natchez, in July, 1870. River racing was then popular with captains and owners of fast boats, but subsequently, owing to the number of terrible casualties it precipitated, racing lost its attractiveness and is now almost unheard of. The Lee and Natchez were recognized as the fastest boats on the river, and the speed of each had long been a subject of dispute. The admirers of the Natchez asserted that she could beat the Lee in a race of any distance under equal conditions. The partisans of the magnificent Lee were equally certain that their boat was the swiftest, and although no formal challenge between the captains passed, it was understood that a trial of speed would take place on the 1st of July, on which date both boats were advertised to leave New Orleans for St. Louis. The Lee had perfected every arrangement to win, and instead of stopping to "wood up" as usual, was met by a tender and the pine knots and wood tossed to the boiler deck while the boats were running at full speed.

The whistle of the Lee signaled the start on the morning of July 1, and a few minutes later the Natchez shrieked back a defiance and swung out into the stream. Both crews were made up of picked men and just enough freight was carried to ballast the boats properly. The papers had been filled with references to the great race for weeks, and the banks of the river from New Orleans to St. Louis were lined with people. After passing Vicksburg the Natchez was compelled to stop a number of times to take on wood, and in this manner lost considerable time. On the afternoon of July 4, 300,000 people gathered on the St. Louis levee from St. Louis to Carondelet and witnessed the triumphant entry of the R. E. Lee. The Lee's time was 1,200 miles was 3 days, 8 hours and 14 minutes. The Natchez arrived some hours later, and her time was 3 days, 21 hours and 58 minutes.

The record of the T. M. White, made in 1844, 3 days, 23 hours and 9 minutes, had been the fastest up to that period. The captain of the Natchez was not satisfied with the result and challenged the Lee to another race. In October, 1870, they raced from New Orleans to Natchez, 300 miles, and the Natchez won in 16 hours 51 minutes. The Lee's time was 16 hours 59 minutes.

WHAT THE PEOPLE SAY.

GOOD WORDS FOR ANDREW JACKSON BY ONE WHO KNEW HIM.

From the New York Star.

Of all the men who have occupied prominent positions in this country no one was better known, and at the same time less understood, than Andrew Jackson. The writer of this had the honor of knowing him well and intimately, and cast his first presidential vote for him on his first nomination, but unsuccessful run, for that office. The opponents of General Jackson attempted to make the people believe that "Old Hickory" was an uncouth and unmannered man. This was far from truthful. He was, in the full sense of the term, a gentleman, chivalrous and to the last degree civil and polite. These characteristics were in a measure illustrated one evening when the writer of this, in company with Speaker Polk, General McNeil, Congressman Hamer, of Ohio, who, as a general, lost his life in the war with Mexico, were by appointment at the White House in friendly converse on the events of the times, when a gentleman and lady were announced. "Show them in," was the response; and in walked the couple, evidently of the class of well-to-do farmers, who said at once: "I know this call is not strictly according to the rules of etiquette; but I am a Democrat, and unfortunately we have no members of Congress to present us of my political (tripe), and I want to see the President. My name is —, and I am from Vermont. This is my wife." The good old man received them with the utmost kindness and cordiality, shook hands and chatted with them as familiarly as if they had been presented by the most distinguished magnate of the land. Of all the public men with whom it has been my fortune to be acquainted, General Jackson was the most frank, honest and decided. Was he obstinate and self-willed? Yes, when satisfied in his own mind that he was right.

It has been charged against General Jackson that he was hasty and discourteous toward those calling upon him on matters pertaining to business. The only instance I ever witnessed of anything even approaching to this was on the occasion of a visit to the White House during the ravages of the Indians in what was termed the "Seminole war." I happened to be present one day when a gentleman was announced to see the Chief Magistrate. He was admitted to the presence of the President, and addressing him in a rude and very abrupt manner, said: "I have just received a letter from my overseer informing me that the India's have burned my house and outhouses, and run off

all my slaves, and it looks to me that the government was doing nothing for our protection." This latter remark aroused the ire of the old General, his hair stood more erect, and, addressing the man, said: "Sir, before leaving home had you any anticipation that such result might happen?" "Well, yes," he replied, and the General rejoined, with great emphasis: "Why in — didn't you stay in Florida, shoulder your musket, arm your slaves, and defend your property, instead of coming here to complain of the government, which is doing all in its power to bring this war to an end!" It is needless to say the man terminated his visit very abruptly.

General Jackson was eminently honest and patriotic, but could not bear with patience to have his motives questioned. His administration of the affairs of the country will long be remembered with gratitude.

F.

A TREASURE TROVE.

From Galignani's Messenger.
A treasure dating back two centuries has been discovered in an old house standing in a garden in the Rue Galande, in Paris. The landlady was having some repairs executed and gas laid on, and the workmen, on tearing down the paper in a room on the ground floor, found, artfully concealed in a recess in the wall, an iron box containing wills and family papers dating from the year 1694, with a quantity of coin, among which were about 160 foreign gold pieces of the size of a double louis. The next day the workmen, in digging in the garden to lay down the gas pipes, came upon another box with 1200 pieces of gold and silver of the same kind.

SOME NOVEL IDEAS.

THE TWENTY-FIVE YEAR TIN BOX—CUTE LITTLE DOLLIES AND Dainty SORBET DISHES.

I saw a novelty the other day I would commend to brides as something of interest, says Evelyn Hairer. At a recent wedding a tin box was provided in which were placed a sheet of paper containing the autographs of all present, a list of gifts received, photographs of bride and groom, a piece of the wedding cake and the bride's dress, one of her gloves, some of the orange blossoms and anything else of interest. The box to be securely fastened; not to be reopened for twenty-five years. The mother of the bride of whom I speak had a similar box prepared, and found the opening of it twenty-five years after an event of such great interest that she advised her daughter to do the same. What a chapter of history such a casket contains.

Very pretty colored glass shades come for candles now and make effective decorations for a dinner party. It is a pretty device to serve the Roman punch or sorbet in small dishes, each of different design; for instance, a pink porcelain for one, or a white calla lily or a green leaf of porcelain rolled in the form of a cornucopia or a sea shell filled with sorbet. The beauty and daintiness of these individual dishes adds greatly to the pleasure, far more than one could believe.

Very pretty dollies to place under finger bowls are made of a square of linen, hemmed, and a sprig of lilies of the valley embroidered in the center. Hemstitching, while tedious, is easily done, and they make a very pretty present when they are also the work of the giver. I mention these because so many Easter weddings are expected to take place. Every one asks, "What can I give the bride?" Particularly is this the case with young girls who wish to give some thing useful, novel and inexpensive. These dollies can be made inexpensive when they are the giver's own work, and she will have the satisfaction of knowing she has bestowed a gift which would cost considerable if bought from any of the fancy stores. The Fayal lincens are the most beautiful things ever imported for table decoration, but are so costly as to be only obtained by the very rich; still they know they have something no one else has.

THE QUEEN'S MAIDS.

HARD WORK OF THE YOUNG LADIES WHO WAIT ON ENGLAND'S SOVEREIGN.

From the Boston Post.
The maids of honor to the Queen earn every penny of the £300 a year which is their stipend for filling a very difficult position. While on duty they cannot call their souls their own. After breakfast, which they take in their own rooms, they have to hold themselves in instant readiness to obey the Queen's summons, which comes the moment Sir Henry Ponsonby quits her Majesty's presence, with the big red morocco dispatch-box containing his day's work under his arm.

After a brief "Good morning" the Queen suggests a little reading, and the dutiful maid addresses herself to the pile of papers wherein the proper passage for her Majesty's hearing have already been marked by Sir Henry. Through columns and columns of Parliamentary debate, leading article and correspondence has the poor lady to atone her dismal way, often having to repeat passages, for the Queen never leaves a subject till she has thoroughly mastered it, and is not at all sparing in her commands to "Just read that again, please." The maid of honor is so busy minding her steps and trying to modulate her voice that she has little chance of understanding a tithe of what she is reading, and yet the moment the reading is over she has to rush off and get ready for a drive with her royal mistress, during which she will be expected to make lucid remarks on the topics she has just read only.

After luncheon is the only real time the

maids of honor have to themselves, and even that is spoilt for them by the uncertainty as to whether they will be wanted to walk or drive with the Queen later in the afternoon. They must stay in their apartments, for if by chance they should be sent for and were not to be found at that moment, their life for a day or two would not be a happy one, so that a stroll in the grounds on their own account is out of the question, till after 4 o'clock, when, if the Queen has departed on a drive without them, they know they are free till 6 at any rate. On the Queen's return there is more reading aloud, this time of ponderous works on heavy philosophical subjects, or else the arranging of sketches, photographs, or it may be, the charity needle-work is brought out till such time as her Majesty goes to dress for her 9 o'clock dinner, where, to the relief of the maid of honor, she is not expected to be present. But this time she is not unfrequently faint for want of food, for when not at court she would naturally be finishing dinner at the hour when it is the Queen's pleasure to commence it.

Young ladies do not, as a rule, jump at the post of maid of honor to the Queen till they have given themselves a fair chance of obtaining an "establishment." It is not till season after season has been drawn blank that disconsolate ladies have recourse to the dignity, very much minus the leisure, of joining the "Household." It follows that, though by no means in the serene and yellow leaf, the majority of the maids of honor are not in the first blush of budding girlhood. The present senior maid is the Hon. Harriet Lepel Phipps, a cousin of the Marquis of Normandy. Miss Phipps will never see her forty-fifth birthday again. The Hon. Frances Drummond, a daughter of Viscount Strathallen, is 39. The Hon. Ethel Cadogan was born in 1853, which puts to her credit thirty-three summers, and the Hon. Mand Okeover, a niece of Lady Waterpark, is only 27.

A PLUCKY TIGER.

From the Times of India.

The tiger turned up at the very end of the beat, and trotted down a branch nullah towards Rawlins, who fired and hit, turning the tiger back into the high grass, amongst which he disappeared. It was impossible to "walk him up," so, having posted markers in trees, we set fire to the grass, which succeeded in burning all round a triangular patch in the fork between two nullahs. Although the markers saw him move he refused to leave this, so Rawlins and Brough being posted in trees, Hebbert and I went round to protect the beaters whilst firing this last remaining cover. In doing so I saw the tiger lying down under a bush, and fired; with several roars and after some delay, during which the tiger appeared to be tumbling about in the grass, he galloped off past Rawlins and Brough, who emptied their rifles without stopping him. We then all joined together and followed up in the direction he had gone, not very sanguine, as the tiger was apparently not very hard hit; the ground was jungly and the grass high. However, Hebbert soon saw him moving slowly through the grass and fired. This was too much for him, and with a roar of warning, he charged straight at our line, the long grass only showing his head as he galloped over the thirty yards of ground between us. Six shots met him enroute, mostly hitting him about the head and neck. Hebbert fired his last shot almost in the brute's face, slightly checking and turning him; but recovering, he, after clearing our flank, turned in on Hebbert (who was backing with empty rifle round the others), and was on the point of springing on him, when I fired the last remaining barrel left among us, and bowled him over. The pluckiest charge on record. Length, eight feet nine inches.

A SEPOY'S ELEVEN MURDERS.

From the Times of India.

A shocking tragedy occurred at Kurrachee on the 20th of last month. A Sepoy of the 26th Native Infantry, having got possession of forty rounds of ammunition, ran amuck through the lines at 1 o'clock in the morning. He first shot two Sepoys who were asleep in the barrack veranda. The alarm was immediately sounded and the regiment turned out, but nothing could be done till daylight, when detachments were sent in various directions to search for him. Meanwhile the murderer had proceeded to the soldiers' bazaar and had shot four shopkeepers who were sleeping outside their houses. He then went to the plain behind the infantry lines and shot five cartmen. When he found that the regiment had turned out he took refuge in a stone inclosure, whence he fired many rounds. The colonel called for volunteers to rush upon him, and two Sepoys responded. When they got within six yards of him he shot himself through the heart. The eleven men whom he had shot were killed on the spot or died in a few hours.

A TRULY HAUGHTY MENIAL.

From the Boston Courier.

A gentleman who has taken a house at the seaside for the summer advertised for a house-keeper, and entertaining enough were some of the answers he received. In one case a woman wrote that she must have two rooms, artistically furnished, and a comfortable stall in the stable for her saddle-horse. The gentleman says he is much impressed by her forbearance in not insisting that he should also provide her with a groom in livery.

A SILVER-THROATED MULE.

From the Savannah News.

A mule with an artificial throat is the latest thing in mules in Macon. A valuable animal was afflicted with a disease similar to laryngitis. A veterinary surgeon finding that it would be impossible for the animal to breathe through his windpipe, a portion of the pipe was removed and a silver tube was inserted, and now the mule breathes freely.