

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

THE INDUSTRIAL AND EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF OUR PEOPLE PARAMOUNT TO ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS OF STATE POLICY.

RALEIGH, N. C., FEBRUARY 24, 1891.

No 1

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

In a private note from President Polk to the editor comes the welcome news that the two farmers' organizations of Arkansas were consolidated, as a result of the visit of the National President to that State. The proclamation of President Polk has been issued for the organization of the State Alliance of Iowa. So the good work goes bravely on. Let it proceed; and in 1892 we will show the ancient oppressors of the patient sons of toil a thing or two—certain.

If thinking men will sit down and ask themselves the question, Who are the men that oppose the free coinage of silver? they will find that they are without exception the men who have stolen the wealth of the country in the name of the public credit, and a few men and newspapers whom they own soul and body. The motive which moves them to express a most rancorous and bitter hatred of silver money is the fear that any increase of the circulation will lessen the value of their stolen swag, and so loosen in some degree their bandit grasp upon the financial windpipes of the people. Some causes should perish by the very meanness of those who uphold them; and this gold standard cause is one such cause. Any one knows that these men are not to be trusted upon any questions of financial reform. For no measure will suit them that compels them to be honest men and earn their livings by useful labor, as other men do.

GENERAL WILLIAM TECUMSEH SHERMAN died at his residence in New York City on Saturday, the 14th inst., at 1:50 o'clock p. m. General Sherman was born at Lancaster, Ohio, February 8th, 1820. He was educated at West Point, graduating in 1840. He was commissioned Second Lieutenant in the Third Infantry. He continued in the army until 1853 winning distinction for meritorious services to his country.

After his resignation from the army he went into the business of banking and the breaking out of the war between the States, in 1861. He then resumed his services to the authorities in Washington, and was appointed colonel of the 13th Infantry. His military career is unhappily but well known to the people of the South. He needed any recapitulation at this time. As a military man General Sherman was entitled to take high rank. He continued to indulge a very strong feeling against the people of the

South; and only a few years ago he took occasion to give expression to this bitterness in one or more articles in the *North American Review*. While our Southern people have no special reason to regard General Sherman with feelings of affection, it is hoped and believed that they will do justice to his great talents as a military commander.

LET no one be deceived by the proposition now before Congress to replace the bonds now about to fall due by new issues to bear the low rate of 2½ per centum. There is nothing in this proposition but a wish upon the part of the sharpest of finance to perpetuate the national debt as a basis for the continuance of the unjust features of the present banking system, and thus give to them and their friends a lengthening of opportunity to manipulate the public money for their own private gain. Let the bonds now falling due be retired as fast as the Treasury shall find it possible to pay them off and cancel them. There is no one, not desirous of having an opportunity to steal something from the people, who believes that a national debt is anything but a national curse. Let the debt be wiped out as soon as possible, and let an end be put to the opportunity these sharks and ghouls now have of juggling with the public credit to the undoing of the people. Let no one be deceived by this Judas-like seeming of affection for the financial health of the country.

The first page of a recent number of the *Rural New-Yorker* is taken up with a set of wood cuts, which that paper calls "ACTUAL SCENES IN FREE NEGRO FARMING AT THE SOUTH." In one of these pictures some negro children are set out in absolute nakedness, plus the remains of what Robbie Burns would have called cutty sarks. This page of wood cuts shocks and pains us beyond our power to express it. Who would have thought that a paper, printed in the virtuous and loyal city of New York, would be so lost to all the tender feelings of brotherhood between the white and the negro races as to print wood cuts of negro children dressed only in fractional shirts? And then, what could the editor of the *New-Yorker* have been thinking of when he wrote the words "FREE NEGRO FARMING?" Did he not know that men of all colors, and of no particular colors, in this country, were as free as the air we breathe? The very mules in the pictures we refer to, seem to us to wear airs of sadness and dejection at the thought that a man on the other side of Mason and Dixon's line could be so thoughtless as to associate their toiling and uncomplaining respectability with partially—very partially—clothed children of Ham. We assure the *New-Yorker* that negroes in the South have established a reputation for industry, and have shown capacities of manhood that entitle them to something better than caricaturing wood-cuts. Isn't it funny that an old rebel should be calling a New York editor to task for making disrespectful pictures of, and writing disrespectful head lines about, the colored people of the South? That the *New-Yorker* should have done this is simply too bad! too bad!

We think the attack made upon Mr. E. C. Beddingfield in the House of Commons the other day was uncalled for and unfair. Where is the harm of Mr. Beddingfield getting from the railroad the lowest rate of fare given to any citizen of his neighborhood? There were some young men—Mr. Beddingfield's neighbors—who had commutation tickets betwixt Mill Brook and Raleigh at reduced rates, and Mr. Beddingfield asked for, and obtained, the same rate for himself that had been accorded to his neighbors. We ask again, where was the harm or dishonor of this transaction. Has not any man the right to secure the lowest rate of travel that a railroad will accord to him? Is it not his duty to himself and to his family to secure the lowest rate of passenger fare that the management of a railroad will give him? Did Mr. Beddingfield conceal any fact, or make any misrepresentation to obtain the reduced fare? Does the exercise of the right to buy railroad fares at the lowest rate at which they are sold disqualify Mr. Beddingfield for the position of Railroad Commissioner? Is there a man before this Legislature for the position of Railroad Commissioner who ever bought railway fares at a higher rate, when he could get them at a lower one? If all these questions must be answered in the negative—as they surely must—then the attack we have referred to is unfair. We are much mistaken in the metal of the men in this legislature, if this attack does not go a long way to secure Mr. Beddingfield the position of Railroad Commissioner. In our opinion Mr. Beddingfield should be loved for the enemies he has made in this matters.

WAKE FOREST COLLEGE.

Its Origin.

Two centuries ago there were Baptists and Baptist churches in North Carolina, but they were weak and without organization. This want of organization was recognized, and attempts were made to remedy the evil, but with only partial success, till in 1830 a few heroic men met in the town of Greenville and organized the Baptist State Convention. Among these men were Samuel Wait, a young New Englander, who had for a few years been pastor of the Baptist church in Newberne. He was appointed agent of the Convention to visit the churches. These travels deepened the impression on his mind that the Baptist greatly needed an institution of learning. Others were considering the same matter, and in 1832 the Convention resolved to establish a Manual Labor School. A location was selected, a farm was bought, and the Trustees began to look for a Principal. All eyes turned to Dr. Wait and he was elected, and in 1834 he opened Wake Forest Manual Labor Institute. The farm of 600 acres, including the present property of the College and adjoining lands, was to be the gymnasium, where each student was to work so many hours each day for purposes of health. He was paid for his labor by the hour, and this to a limited extent diminished his expenses.

ITS STRUGGLES.

Thus, without endowment, without suitable buildings, without equipment, without a prepared constituency, without assistance, this good man laid the foundation of this College. The Trustees applied to the Legislature for a charter, and charter was proposed, allowing the institution to live 20 years, to hold only \$50,000 worth of property and endowment, and requiring taxes on all its real estate. This charter with such meagre privileges passed the House of Commons, but in the Senate such opposition was developed that the vote was a tie, and the charter was given only by the casting vote of the President, Wm. D. Mosely.

The manual labor feature did not work well, and four years later it was abandoned and the charter was amended so as to remove these restrictions, and the institution became Wake Forest College. With varying success the College went on its way for 25 years, making itself felt among the Baptists and in the State. A large brick building was erected, then sufficient for the demands of the patronage, which is now the centre building, used for dormitories and gymnasium. Efforts were made to raise an endowment, and about \$50,000 was secured, and the number of students reached nearly one hundred. Then came the war, and the students went to the battlefield, and the endowment went in the wreck of all our Southern prosperity. Scarcely had the smoke of battle cleared away, when with wonderful faith and heroism, the doors of the College were again opened. Many came who had spent in the army what ought to have been their school life, and with limited preparation and still more limited means they struggled through College. The few Professors then needed toiled on with small salaries promised, whose payment was long deferred, sacrificing for the cause of Christian education.

ITS ENDOWMENT.

Before reconstruction was over, the friends of Wake Forest began to take steps to raise an endowment in place of that which was lost by the war. The one building remained and a few shares of railroad stock, which sold for \$7,000 or \$8,000. With this as a nucleus, various efforts were made to give the College something like the support it needed and deserved. Through the financial straits of those years progress was made, and each year saw the invested fund a little larger than the preceding. Rev. James S. Purefoy, so long the devoted friend of the College, went north at his own expense, and after weeks of toil he brought back \$10,000 for this purpose. With varying success alternating with many discouragements and seeming failures, the closing hours of 1883 saw \$100,000 in the Treasurer's hands for endowment. Not long afterwards Mr. J. A. Bostwick, of New York, added \$50,000, and some smaller amounts have been added since.

But the wants of the College had enlarged even faster than the endowment. Twenty years ago \$150,000

would have seemed a magnificent endowment for the struggling College. Now it fails to meet the demands of its enlarged sphere of usefulness. To help the College up to its present position, the endowment must be increased. But the spirit of the times demands constant and steady advancement. To meet this demand there must be enlargement, and the noble friend of the institution has offered to join in the advancement. Mr. Bostwick proposes to give \$25,000 if the friends of the College elsewhere will give \$50,000, or smaller amounts in like proportion. Dr. Taylor is now in the field to raise the \$50,000 by the first of March, when the offer closes. There is good ground for hope that the movement will succeed and the endowment will be brought nearly to a quarter of a million. This will enable the College to enlarge its work and keep abreast of the educational spirit of the times for a few years, that other interests may for a while have the right of way to the benevolence of the Baptist people.

ITS EQUIPMENT.

For many years the one building now used for dormitories, was sufficient. But soon after the war the need of other buildings became imperative. In this crisis two liberal men of Raleigh came to the rescue, and the Library Building was erected in 1878 by Messrs John G. Williams and J. M. Heck. It contains, besides two large recitation rooms, the Library of more than ten thousand volumes, admirably classified and arranged; the Reading Room where the leading newspapers and magazines are found, and where the students may spend a profitable hour every day acquainting themselves with the best periodical literature of the world; the Society Hall, elegantly finished, where are centered many of the fondest memories of every old student of Wake Forest, and where is obtained much of the training which makes Wake Forest men so influential in the pulpit, at the bar, on the hustings, in the editorial chair, as well as in the more quiet walks of life.

About the same time the friends of Dr. W. M. Wingate, so long the President, by thousands of small contributions, erected the Wingate Memorial Building, the upper story of which is occupied by Memorial Hall, and the lower story by a small chapel and recitation rooms. Two or three years ago a fourth building, the Laboratory, was erected. This contains the President's office, Lecture Rooms for the Professors of Chemistry and Natural History, and well arrayed and equipped Laboratories for these two departments. The apparatus and equipments for these Laboratories are modern and extensive and afford facilities for first-class work in Chemistry and Natural History.

The Gymnasium is in the centre building, is furnished in the latest and most approved appliances for physical culture and is open all day, and every student spends a longer or shorter time every day in the use of these appliances for the development of the body.

A fifth building is needed and looked for at an early day. The museum of specimens in the various departments of Natural History has not sufficient room for its proper exhibition, and as other specimens are added every year, the need becomes greater. Additional apparatus for the Department of Physics is also in contemplation.

METHODS OF WORK.

In the early history of the College the old curriculum was adhered to, giving four classes in the course, Freshman, Sophomore, Junior and Senior, and allowing no variations for differences of inclination, aptitude, or plans of future life. Just before the war the Elective System became very popular in the South, introduced by the University of Virginia, and adopted by the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Furman University, and perhaps other schools. Some of the Trustees and Faculty were anxious to see this system introduced at Wake Forest, but before their plans could be carried into execution, the war came and the work of the College was suspended. When work was resumed after the war, the Elective System was adopted and has been in operation

ever since. There is no real division of the students into the classes as under the old curriculum. Sometimes the students who hoped to take a degree at any particular time organize themselves into a class and sometimes they call themselves by the names used under the old system, but this class is never found as a whole in any recitation room.

The course of study is divided into ten "schools," each of which is distinct from the others. Each student takes such of these schools as his preparation, inclination, and plans of life render most appropriate, and he takes them in such order as his circumstances seem to dictate. Some member of the Faculty is constituted the *adviser* of each student, and the student consults with his adviser as to the schools which it will be best for him to take and which he would best take first. Sometimes it happens that in the same class will be found students who are in the last year of the course, and others who are just beginning. Sometimes a student who has special aptitude for mathematics will be finishing that school, when he is just beginning that of Latin or Greek, or vice versa.

In the class-room the methods of instruction are those best approved, rather than those often called most improved. A method is not rejected and disused because it is old, nor is it adopted because it is new. But by selecting that from the old which has been approved by experience, and adopting from the new only what has been similarly approved, it is attempted to give to each student the most thorough mental culture possible for his cast of mind and under his peculiar circumstances. Patient and persistent drill on the details of the subject taught in the text-book, familiar lecture and explanation of the matter of the lesson, more formal lecture on kindred matters not contained in the text-book, parallel reading, illustration, experiment, original investigation and research, all are brought into requisition to aid in securing this training.

REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION.

Only two degrees are now offered to students, Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts. But to one who desires the first of these degrees, there is offered a choice from six different courses. Each course comprehends about four years' study with 15 to 17 recitations per week, making the number about 65 for the whole course. One whose bent of mind and chosen profession lead him to desire extended linguistic study may take 42 of the 65 in the various schools of ancient and modern languages. Or he may take a course which involves only 24 in languages, always including English. He may take the whole course in Pure Mathematics, the relative number of which is 13, or he may take a shorter course amounting to 10. The school of Moral Philosophy is included in every course, and half that of Political Science. In the schools of the Natural Science various combinations may be made, according as one science or another is likely to be practical to the student, and the numbers may range from 12 to 25. Nor is it meant that the student must have simply attended the lectures of the Professors occasionally or regularly in these various schools, but he must be able to show by rigid written examinations that he has obtained reasonable mastery of the subject taught.

The requirements for the degree of Master of Arts involve about one fourth more work in addition to that required for Bachelor of Arts.

ITS ALUMNI.

During the half century of the existence of the College many have taken the full course and are making themselves felt in many ways over a wide territory. Many others have lacked only a year or so of finishing the course, and so have taken no degree, but the training they have received has made them men of influence in the communities in which they live. All over North Carolina are found these men who have gone out from Wake Forest College. Some are lawyers, standing in the very forefront of their profession, useful, honorable men, showing by their lives the mistake of those who say that a lawyer can not be a Christian. Some are filling public offices, at the State Capitol, or in their own counties, everywhere discharging faithfully the duties required of them. Some are physicians, going to the homes of suffering and doing all that

human skill and human learning can do to heal the sick and alleviate suffering. Many are teachers, in college and academy and high school, in town, in village, in hamlet, in remote country neighborhoods, using their mental culture to elevate the standard of education and morality in their native State. Many are in the pulpit, filling the prominent pastorates of the State and growing daily in the affections of the people, serving the country churches and developing them in the graces that go to make up full-grown Christians, occupying the hard mission fields, on meagre salaries, working for their Master, and making sacrifices not surpassed by those of the foreign missionary. And then there are hundreds who had received more or less training at Wake Forest, in the more quiet walks of life, exerting an influence in favor of education and morality that does credit to the institution from which they have gone forth.

Besides those who are at work in North Carolina, there are said to be graduates of Wake Forest in two-thirds of the States of the Union. From certain sections of South Carolina there have been many students at Wake Forest, and these have gone back to their native State and are leaders of thought and work, besides many who have been raised in North Carolina, and after finishing their college course, have gone across the line into our sister State. Not in such large numbers, but everywhere prominent and influential, they are scattered over many other States. Superintendent of an asylum in Texas, of an institution for deaf-mutes in Colorado, professor in a college in Missouri, president of a college in Texas, editor of a denominational paper in Tennessee, teacher in Dakota, pastors in Connecticut, Brooklyn, New York, Baltimore, Virginia, in the Southwest, in the Mississippi valley, in Idaho, in Montana, in California, in Oregon, in Washington, Wake Forest men are occupying no mean place in the work of developing the wonderful resources of our own and other States.

Nor have the beneficent influences of the College and the labor of its Alumni been confined even to America. One of its earliest students was Matthew T. Yates. During his college course he decided to give himself to the work of foreign missions, and for more than 40 years he held up the light of the Gospel on the shores of China, during his later years, pronounced by a competent judge, who had seen most of the missionaries of the present century, the greatest missionary he ever knew, physically, mentally, and spiritually the greatest man in China. Emulating his noble example, others in recent years have gone from these walls to take up the work as he laid it down, and five are now in China and one in Africa, while others are expecting to go at an early day.

THE PRESENT SESSION.

Has witnessed the enrollment of 200 students during the Fall Term. They are a band of young men as earnest, faithful, quiet, and studious as you will find. More than usual they are devoting themselves to the work before them, and large success is crowning their labors.

The Spring Term will open January 15, when several others are expected to enter.

THE OUTLOOK.

The past history of the College gives its friends reason for congratulation and devout thankfulness. The future is bright with promises. All the signs point to advancement. The present movement will add largely to the endowment. Other needed buildings will soon follow. Other schools will be added to the course of study, other professors added to the faculty. The number of students will steadily increase. The opening of the next century may see more than half a dozen buildings, twenty-five professors in the faculty, half a thousand students enrolled, and half a million dollars in the endowment fund. Thus Wake Forest College, the hope of its founders, the pride of its friends in later years, will go on blessing humanity and glorifying God through the years and the centuries till the end of time. G.

This office is under obligations to Secretary Rusk for valuable public documents. Uncle Jerry seems to be a genuine "hayseeder." There is no uncertain ring in anything he says upon the subject of practical agriculture. 68307