

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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

Vol. 7.

RALEIGH, N. C., JUNE 28, 1892.

No. 20

THE NATIONAL FARMERS' ALLIANCE AND INDUSTRIAL UNION.

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PAPERS.

Progressive Farmer, Raleigh, N. C.
 Centennial, Clinton, N. C.
 The Workingman's Helper, Pinnacle, N. C.
 Watchman, Salisbury, N. C.
 Farmers' Advocate, Tarboro, N. C.
 Country Life, Trinity College, N. C.
 Mercury, Hickory, N. C.
 Farmer, Whitakers, N. C.
 Agricultural Bee, Goldsboro, N. C.
 Alliance Echo, Monroeville, N. C.
 Special Informer, Raleigh, N. C.

Each of the above-named papers are requested to keep the list standing on the first page and add others, provided they are duly elected. Any paper failing to advocate the Ocala platform will be dropped from the list promptly. Our people can now see what papers are published in their interest.

RESOLUTIONS BY MARTIN COUNTY PEOPLE'S PARTY CONVENTION.

Mr. Editor:—We your committee on platform or resolutions beg leave to submit the following report:

This being the first regular reform or People's party convention of Martin county, we assert that of the St. Louis and Ocala demands of organized labor are the true principles of democracy as taught by our forefathers as we understand them. We therefore enter protest against the unequal, unjust condition that seriously threatens to undermine, paralyze and dwarf the industrial energies of the people. There fore be it

Resolved, That we endorse the State platform of the Democratic party, or that part of it borrowed from the Alliance demands, and that we make no party issue against the State ticket nominated at Raleigh on the 18th of May, except we reserve the right as independent citizens to erase such objectionable names and inserting others in their place as we in our wisdom see to be just and proper.

2. That we are fully determined to oppose any man or men who shall oppose our demands in either the county, State or Nation, and we will hold a county convention at some time in the future to either endorse or oppose other nominations made by the two old parties.

3. That we will make party issue against all national candidates who do not fully endorse the demands as put forth Feb. 22-24, 1892, at St. Louis, Mo.

4. That we will oppose the force bill by demanding a free ballot and a fair count, for we realize that a true democracy must rest upon the faith and strength of a majority of its citizens.

5. That while we would hail with joy the co-operation of all labor forces in the restoration of equal rights to all and special favors to none, yet we will strenuously oppose any effort on the part of the Republican or Democratic parties to usurp or take the advantage of this reform movement.

T. E. McCASKEY.

COL. L. L. POLK.

A Brief Sketch of His Life and Work in the Service of His Countrymen.

BY W. J. PEELE.

Leonidas LaFayette Polk was born in Anson county, North Carolina, on the 24th of April, 1837.

His family is of Irish extraction and several of its members were honorably distinguished in the early history of this country. One of them was Thomas Polk, a signer of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence and a colonel in the subsequent struggle for freedom. Another, a distant relative, James K. Polk, at a later period became President of the United States.

He was the son of Andrew Polk, a farmer of Mecklenburg county, and was himself trained for the same pursuit. His early boyhood was spent upon the farm and at school in his native county. At the age of fourteen he lost both father and mother. In 1855 and 1856 he took a course relating to scientific agriculture at Davidson College, and the next year at the age of twenty, he was married to Sarah P. Gaddy, a daughter of Joel Gaddy, a prosperous farmer of Anson county. About that time he purchased his father's old homestead from the executors and settled down to farming. In 1860 he was elected by the Whigs at the head of his ticket a member of the legislature from his native county. He made the canvass openly as a Union man. In the legislature along with many other Whigs he exerted his utmost power to prevent the calling of the State convention, but President Lincoln's proclamation calling on North Carolina for troops to invade her sister States broke the back bone of the opposition and converted him and the others into open secessionists. When in the fall of 1861 measures were taken to put the State on a war footing, he was detailed under the commission of colonel to organize the militia in his own county. This difficult and delicate task he performed with much credit until May, 1862, when he volunteered as a private in the Twenty-sixth North Carolina regiment then commanded by Colonel (now Senator) Vance. He declined the position of captain offered him by his colonel but did subsequently accept that of sergeant major. He was with his regiment in the battle at Kinston, New Bern, Washington and Plymouth, in North Carolina, and in the seven days' fight around Richmond.

When Vance was elected Governor of North Carolina, Colonel Polk, though a mere youth, was chosen by the officers to present him with a sword on his taking leave of the regiment. He subsequently joined the Forty-third North Carolina regiment under Colonel Kenan and was with it in the battle of Gettysburg where he received a wound. He recovered in August and rejoined his regiment which was then with Lee's army. Early in 1864 he fought under Hoke at Plymouth and later at Drury's Bluff under Beauregard. His regiment then again joined Lee's army as it was falling back from Spotsylvania and he was in the battles at North Anna Bridge, Hanover Junction, Bethesda Church and other points.

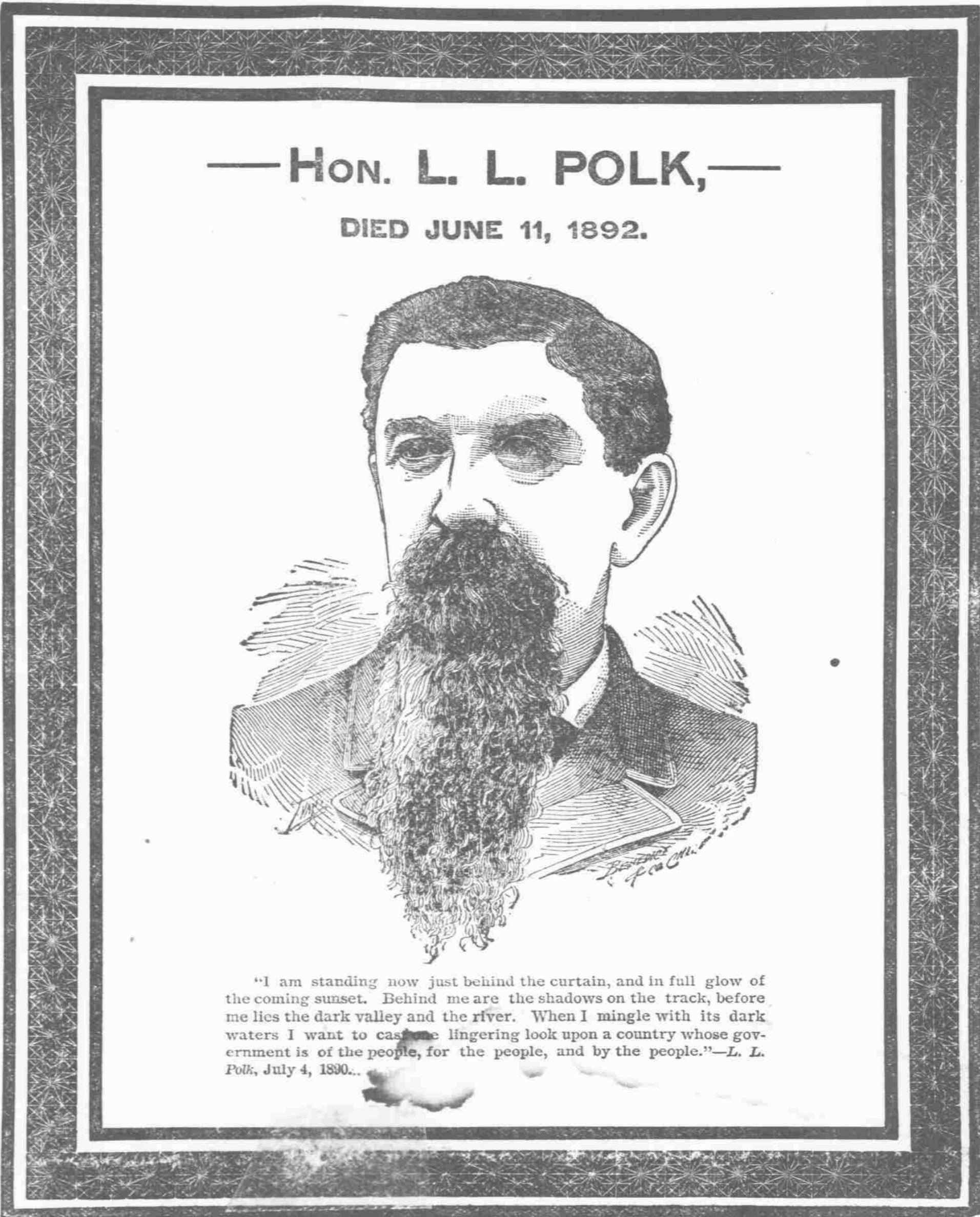
He also took part with his regiment in the battles of Washington City, Semceker's Ferry, Bunker Hill, Berryville and Kerns Town, being under fire forty-one times in the course of that summer. While serving in the army of Virginia in 1864 he was elected by his people at home to the legislature.

On leaving the army to accept this honor, the officers of his regiment, in which he then held the position of Lieutenant, passed resolutions of compliment and regret. One of his first acts in the legislature was the introduction of the resolution relieving wounded soldiers from the necessity of long journeys to headquarters to get extensions of furloughs, which had often produced great hardships.

Accepting, after the war, the changed condition of affairs, he with his faithful wife, who had been hitherto unused to toil, set resolutely to work, she to her domestic duties and he to the plough, where he continued for seven years. In 1865 his neighbors sent him to the State Convention. His service ended he returned to the plough. Accumulating a little money he presently opened a store. But his delight was in public service, little or great, for while he was farmer and merchant he was also magistrate and editor, and he never saw the day when he would not drop the most important private concern to serve the people in any capacity.

In 1873 he founded the village of Polkton on his farm, and shortly after sold it off to settlers more exclusively to devote himself more exclusively to the service of his State. As chairman of the committee for the State Grange, he was the moving spirit in the establishment of the Agricultural Department. When in 1877 the act for its establishment was passed, he became its first and most efficient commissioner. He subsequently resigned this office when he felt himself handicapped in the management of the department.

In 1884, 1885, 1886 and 1887 he was the most powerful factor in the establishment of the Agricultural and Mechanical College. When, in 1887, a legislature elected as usual in the interest of "the party" was going to adjourn without forwarding much else but partisan interests, he called together a convention of the people consisting of representatives from forty counties, and helped the passage of the measure by the weight of public opinion so expressed. He has been a constant friend to this institution in spite of much ignorant opposi-



—Hon. L. L. POLK,—
DIED JUNE 11, 1892.

"I am standing now just behind the curtain, and in full glow of the coming sunset. Behind me are the shadows on the track, before me lies the dark valley and the river. When I mingle with its dark waters I want to cast one lingering look upon a country whose government is of the people, for the people, and by the people."—L. L. Polk, July 4, 1890.

PRESIDENT L. L. POLK.

Mourn for the foremost brave,
 Poik, of immortal name,
 Worthiest to lead us on,
 Wielding truth's sword of flame,
 Honored by honest men,
 Hope of the humblest men,
 Millions commanding when
 God called him home.

Tyrants rejoice o'er thee,
 Struck in thy manly prime—
 Working men weep for thee,
 Leader of love sublime,
 Fighting to disenfranchise,
 Brother endeared to all—
 Earth felt a giant fall
 When the blow came.

Philip of Macedon,
 Hero of phalanx fame,
 And his yet greater son,
 Joining the spears became
 Captains invincible—
 Greater thy work we tell,
 Fell in 'the gates of hell'
 Kings to cast down.

Phalanx leader of
 Millions with ballots blest,
 Wise as the Greeks, shall move,
 Spirit of thine impressed,
 Joined against tyranny,
 Fighting till all are free—
 Thou, from thy heights shall see
 Justice enthroned.

—George Howard Gilson,
 Lincoln, Neb., June 11th.

tion among many with whom he was so popular. This convention organized the North Carolina Farmers' Association, adopted a constitution and by-laws, elected Elias Carr its President, endorsed THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER as its organ and put Col. Polk on its executive committee. A convention of the farmers of the cotton States was called which met in the city of Atlanta, Ga., Aug. 16, 1887. This convention of about 600 of the most progressive farmers of all the cotton States, resolved itself, on the third day of its session, into a permanent organization to be known as the Inter-State Farmers' Association. Of this Association Col. Polk was unanimously elected President. At the next annual meeting of this Association which was held in Raleigh, N. C., Aug. 21-23, 1888, Col. Polk was again unanimously elected President.

He began to publish THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, of which at the time of his death he was owner and editor, at Winston, N. C., and the first issue is dated February 10th, 1886. His first editorial in this issue is devoted to stating the policy of his paper, which he said should be carried out "serving no master, ruled by no faction, circumscribed by no narrow or selfish policy." In the same issue I find these significant words in capitals: "The industrial and educational interests of our people paramount to all other considerations of State policy is the motto of the Progressive Farmer, and upon this platform it shall rise or fall." It rose to twenty thousand subscribers and is far more widely read than any newspaper ever published in North Carolina. His second editorial in the first issue was on "Our State Department of Agriculture," and his third was on "Industrial or Practical Education the Great Need of the Times—How it is regarded in North Carolina." These last two take up about six columns of his paper. In another column he notifies his readers of his intention to show in the next issue the necessity of organizing "farmers clubs" and moved his paper to Raleigh, N. C., and for a short while was in its management by P. J. Sherman, who

was also associated with him at Winston, and by John E. Ray.

On July 8th, 1887, he joined Oak Ridge Alliance, No. 24, in Wake county, N. C. July 30th of the same year his paper was made the organ of this County Alliance. In October following it was made the organ of the State Alliance at its first meeting, which it continued to be until this position was resigned just before his death. At this same meeting he was selected delegate to the National Alliance meeting, which met the next week at Shreveport, La., where he was elected first Vice President of that body. In the same month (October) he was made Secretary of the State Alliance, which office he held until December 7th, 1889, when he was elected President of the N. F. A. and I. U., at St. Louis, Mo. He was re-elected at Ocala in December, 1890, and again at Indianapolis in November, 1891, the two last terms unanimously and without opposition. He was unanimously elected permanent chairman of the great conference of confederated labor organizations held at St. Louis, Mo., February 22d, 1892. He served several terms as trustee of Wake Forest College. He was a prime mover in the effort to establish the Baptist University in this State for the education of women, and the first President of its Board of Trustees.

Col. Polk was popular as a writer and still more especially as a man, and also as a public speaker. He never joined any body of men when the people had full sway that he did not immediately begin to rise toward the top. A member of the Baptist Church and active in church work, he was twice chosen President of the Baptist State Convention. A humble member of the Farmers' Alliance, he speedily became its head in the nation. An editor of a newspaper, he made it more influential and widely circulated than any ever in the State before. His enemies said he was a failure in the management of his private concerns, and he did die poor. But it must be remembered that John Sherman, the great rival of Polk, was a man of great ability and successful in his private business and

die enormously rich. And herein lies a startling disclosure of the principal public evil which now afflicts this nation, and against which Col. Polk fought all the days of his life; it is because the people's interests are managed by men who do look mainly after their own, that there is such misgovernment and distress. That man who, with the weight of great public responsibility upon him, can spend too much time in his private affairs, is not only no statesman, but is a scoundrel.

In disposition Col. Polk was kind, in character generous. If there was anything of which he was too vain, it was the good opinion of his fellow-men. It would hurt him to offend the least of the little ones. His culture was not that of the schools, and he was never what men call learned, but he had an easy flowing, graceful style, a wide acquaintance with men and things and a heart full of sympathy with the disgraced and helpless. This combination made him at all times interesting to the human family wherever found; they saw he was genuinely interested in them. As a leader he was a better judge of the end which ought to be accomplished than of the means and men requisite and adequate thereto. His faith in mankind and in the final triumph of right was so great that he did not always make sufficient allowance for the infirmity and cupidity of particular individuals.

He was a natural orator, though this was not universally admitted in his native State until his popularity abroad made further denial ridiculous. His greatest speech, perhaps, was the one delivered at Indianapolis at his last election.

He saw some years ago that the enemies of civil liberty in both sections were getting in their dark work under cover of sectional agitation and inflaming race antagonisms and partisan fury. He saw that every political campaign was more and more a sham fight as far as the sectional leaders were concerned, and that the enemies of American manhood were always victorious, no matter who won. He saw that between certain politicians who divided the people "according to geo-

graphical discrimination" and then made them fight each other, the most perfect understanding existed, and that they would unite openly against the people if ever their game should be discovered. The magnitude and masterly conception of this political mechanism and the fearful consequences of its operations running through thirty years, appalled him. He rushed into the fight with too little concern for himself. He taxed his power more than his strength could bear. He fell at Washington, D. C., in the thickest of the fight June 11th, 1892, at the age of fifty-five.

On the sunset side of a hill and the southward slope of a valley which runs through Oakwood Cemetery, is the last resting place of Leonidas L. Polk. The hill overlooks the little brook which runs near by, meandering under the oaks and willows on either bank, and creeping through the tangled mass of honeysuckle vines babbles over the rocks beyond. Up the little valley, which is intersected at right angles by the brook, sleep many of North Carolina's distinguished dead. A few yards above, a tall monument marks the resting place of Chief Justice Smith, and a little further up a massive stone, erected by his admiring law students, tells of the virtues of the famous Chief Justice Pearson. Closer than either of these is a monument, raised by those who love the brave, perpetuating the memory of two young men who were drowned in their efforts to save a young woman. Nearest of all, and close by his side, is the grave of his daughter, Mrs. Browder, marked by a simple slab of white marble. Across the valley and on the hill top beyond, sleep many hundred Confederate dead. About half way up the opposite slope, under a lofty solitary pine, a monument rests on a mound over the remains of Confederate hero, Gen. Geo. B. Anderson. A sturdy white oak, a most to the top of which an ivy vine has climbed, overshadows the grave of Col. Polk. Nature has not left him unmonumented. Perhaps some day a monument as tall as nature's shall be erected by man, and upon the keystone, which shall represent North Carolina, supported by an arch, which shall represent her sister States, shall be inscribed the last words of Col. Polk's last public speech: "Do your duty."

Perhaps he foresaw that he was near life's close, and in his mind's eye he held the valley in which he should soon sink to rest, when at Winfield, Kansas, on the 4th day of July, 1890, he uttered these words: "I am standing now just behind the curtain and in the full glow of the coming sunset. Behind me are the shadows on the track; before me lies the dark valley of the river. When I mingle with its dark waters, I want to cast one lingering look upon a country whose government is of the people, for the people, and by the people."

We are going down the valley, one by one,
 With our faces toward the setting of the sun;
 Down the valley where the mournful cypress grows,
 Where the stream of death in silence onward flows.

We are going down the valley, one by one,
 When the labors of the weary day are done;
 One by one the cares of earth forever past,
 We shall stand upon the river bank at last.

THE REFORM MOVEMENT.

BENSALEM, N. C.

MR. EDITOR:—I have been thinking for a long time I would write a letter for THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, but can render no excuse, only your columns are so full of the great reform sentiment that it seems hardly necessary for any more correspondents.

However, I think it gives much relief to blow off once in awhile, and I will just simply pull the throttle and let go a word of advice to all lovers of reform, and those who love their wives, children, homes, their country and their God.

That advice is: Let none be deceived by the State Democratic platform, and get misled when voting time comes.

Read that platform and you will see it utterly ignores the Sub Treasury plan of the Alliance, in which our greatest hope for relief lies.

Does not any thinking man know that the great burdens we bear cannot be relieved by the enactment of State laws? Then, why vote for any party, though its platform should coincide exactly with our demands, when the national platform of said party is directly opposite?

Any man who says he is in true sympathy with the Alliance demands, and that he stands squarely upon the Ocala and St. Louis platforms, and then goes to the polls and votes his old way for some party whose platform offers him no relief, is not true to his country nor himself.

Now, I do hope and trust that every lover of reform will vote in the ensuing election for the party whose national platform has our demands incorporated in it; then, and not until then, will we get redress for our grievances.

Don't "whip the devil around the stump" any longer, but crucify the old party spirit within and vote according to the dictates of honest conscience.

Oh, come out, brothers! Come out for God and right; and so sure as you do it, so sure will the blessing come. With best wishes,
 Fraternally yours,
 S. P. SEAWELL.

The members of Beargrass Alliance, No. 1,226, Martin county, met recently at the house of a sick brother and planned a part of his crop for him free of charge. Such acts are commendable, and we would like to see more of them.