

THE ZEBULON RECORD

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THE BAPTIST DANCE

There seem to be ways and a way to have a thing that is denied. Many recall the furor stirred among the Baptist folk not so many moons ago over the Wake Forest Trustees' act allowing dancing in the college under certain restrictions. The denomination, or certain leaders, put the whole crowd "on the spot," including some professors who had previously been considered very orthodox.

In a late edition of the summer school paper, The Wake Forest Herald, we are told that the students and certain members of the faculty assembled on a hot July night in the gymnasium and had a regular good time. The dance, so the paper stated, was that good old time dance, the Virginia Reel, and Dean D. B. Bryan was master of ceremonies. Well, there could be worse things at Wake Forest. But we are told that comparisons are odious and probably are unless compared with better things. Any way, they've gone and done it! Had a dance within the college under direction, sponsorship, or something of the sort by faculty members.

"KILL" AND "EXECUTE."

The Biblical Recorder takes exception to a reporter's use of the word "kill" in connection with the execution of a criminal by the state of North Carolina. But the state does exactly what the executed man has done. He killed someone and the state in turn kills him. In both cases a life is taken, something neither man nor the state can restore.

Now we are emphatically opposed to the killing of human beings by any one under any circumstances. The state has a right to punish, but executing a man is not punishment. It is death. It is the end of sensation, of reason, of life, every thing goes with the physical man which the state destroys. The state does kill a man when it takes its life. It may sound awful to say it. It may look bad in print. But we approve of the use of the word, of every word, that will help to stop the state's executing, or killing, if you please, its citizens. Let the great state of North Carolina punish in any way that will profit and protect society, but God speed the day when it stops killing people for any reason. Human lives should be as sacred to the state as to society. The Jews killed Christ legally by crucifying him according to God's foreordained purpose, but no man will argue that it was right. "Thou," man or state, "shalt not kill."

"IF" WITH AN APOLOGY ALL 'ROUND

In the Record of July 2, there appeared an editorial relative to public officials, mentioning particularly Executive Sessions and guarded records from the public. We referred to a late meeting of the Wake County Board of Commissioners. Our information came through a leading daily. There was no intention on our part to reflect on the character of any person on said Board or anyone in any way associated with it.

We understand that the Register of Deeds of Wake County who is also clerk to the Commissioners resented a statement in the editorial. He believed it reflected on the integrity of his character. This gentleman is a friend to the edi-

tor and is a good officer. In our statement we did not even think of him in connection with the matter. We are sorry that he felt personally aggrieved as the statement was not intended at all in criticism of his act or character. Our "if" made no mention of him nor called names of any one. Perhaps we ought to apologize to all concerned and so do all 'round for any thing we said that might be construed as an attack on their character.

STATE COMPETITION WITH NEWSPAPER

In our mail lately came a bulletin from North Carolina state department. Only yesterday two of these state published papers came our desk. One was published by a farm department and the other published by the same department and a department of the federal government jointly. And so all along through the month come various leaflets, tabloids and mimeographed publications from both state and federal departments. They give publicity to what the health, insurance, labor, agriculture and other departments are doing. Many of the departments have the most expensive mimeographing equipment and keep someone busy typewriting and drawing pictures to be reproduced and sent out over the state, mostly, we presume, to newspapers. In some instances an editor with a good fat salary (as editor's pay goes) is giving his time to the preparation of this publicity.

Perhaps it is all right to spend so much of the people's money in this way. We have no means of knowing, but we have good reason to believe that thousands of dollars are spent each year in giving out information that might be obtained through the press of the state without a cent of cost to anybody. With a score of dailies and hundreds of weekly newspapers in North Carolina open to give free publicity to all matters of public concern, we see no reason whatever for all this waste of the people's money. We do not believe there is a newspaper in the state that would not publish any matter of interest about the state's business without charge and do it gladly. So when there is already established a competent medium of publicity, why spend this money unnecessarily in this way? Why spend so much money in a horn to blow the big and importance of some department's opinion itself when the press of the state will tell it even in Gath if it is important enough?

For several years the government, or some of its alphabetical setups, has swamped the newspapers with a type of news sent out to be their "much ado about nothing." And in a small measure the state departments are following suit. We believe advertising still pays it pays best and saves most when established agencies are used. No successful business enterprise has established its own independent publicity bureau instead of using the press. The newspapers of North Carolina are open to the praises or publish the facts of the good or greatness of its officials without cost. We do not believe the state should go into the printing or publishing business, and there is no reason why it should establish all these tabloid sheets when there are hundreds of newspapers published weekly and daily to every department of the state without money and without price.

THE ROW THE EDITOR HOES

I am confident that all newspaper editors will go to heaven. No matter how eloquent an editor may boost for the development of the community, no matter how diligently he may labor to build up his home county, no matter how loyally he supports a friend in politics, or how the virtues of a famous native son, stretch the truth to praise a local prima-donna-to-be, or how truly lays a metaphorical wreath on the grave of a departed, he seldom hears a "Thank you." Usually does anyone say, "Well done." Almost never does he hear, "We appreciated that." But let him make a slip.—W. Earle Hye in the Rotarian Magazine.