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"THE FATHER OF THE HOUSE." NORTH CAROLINA REMINISCENCES.

While This State Has Furnished but one Presiding Officer of the House of Representatives, It Has Also Furnished "The Father of the House" in Richard Stanford, of Person County—A Contemporary of Macon, Murfee, Gaston, Yancey and Others—Some Includents in His Career.

Some time ago there appeared in your paper and others in the State a list of Speakers of the House of United States Representatives; and comment was made upon the fact that North Carolina, one of the largest and most important of the original thirteen States, had furnished but one presiding officer of that great deliberative body since the foundation of the republic. Your readers will readily recall that the only Carolinian who has enjoyed this great honor was Nathaniel Macon, certainly one of the ablest and purest statesmen North Carolina has produced.

In addition to this, however, the Old North State furnished in the person of one of its members of Congress, "the father of the House"—which honorary position is now accorded to Hon. Galusha Grow, of Pennsylvania—and his name was Richard Stanford, of Person County, who was a contemporary of Nathaniel Macon, William H. Murfee, William Gaston, Bartlett Yancey and other talented men who served in Congress 80 years ago.

Richard Stanford of Person; Nathaniel Macon, of Warren; and John Randolph, the brilliant, though eccentric statesmen from Virginia, were intimate friends during their long term of service in Congress, and on pages 947-8 of the annuals of the first session of the Fourteenth Congress is given minutes of an interesting debate on the following resolution offered by Mr. Randolph:

"Resolved: That a committee be appointed to inquire whether the acceptance, by the Hon. Peter Porter, late a member of the House from New York, of the office of commissioner under the late treaty of Ghent, is in contravention of the sixth section of the first article in the constitution of the United States."

There was considerable sparring between Mr. Randolph and Robert Wright, a member from Maryland, the debate closing as follows:

"Mr. Randolph then proceeded to reply to Mr. Wright's argument and appealed to the elder members of the House—to the fathers in point of age—and practically to the honorable Gentleman from North Carolina, (Mr. Stanford), who, he said, was the father of the House, as being the oldest member—he appealed to them for the doctrines laid down in 1793, and particularly by Mr. Gallatin, then a member from Pennsylvania, in respect to powers and discretion residing in the President and Senate as to the appointment of ministers, etc., and stated more amply his argument in favor of the inquiry in this particular case.

Mr. Grosvenor and Mr. Forsyth discussed the matter.

Mr. Stanford advocated the in-

quiry and quoted the record to show that the House had decided a violation of the spirit of the constitution to be a sufficient ground for them to protest against the case in which it occurred. If he were, indeed, the father of the House according to the figure used by Mr. Randolph, he says he "would advise its members to avoid the crumbs of office from the executive to look to the people only, to whom they owed their appointments, as the source of honor, etc."

The resolution of enquiry would be laughed at by the present members of Congress, and a debate which occurred some weeks later will appear more amusing.

On page 1127 of the House Journal Mr. Johnson a member from Kentucky, introduced a proposition to change the salary of members of congress from six dollars per day to \$1,500 per annum. This was none other than Colonel R. M. Jonson of "Tecumseh" fame. The proposition caused a lively debate, in which John Randolph, of Virginia, Richard Stanford, of North Carolina, and Daniel Webster of New Hampshire, participated. The latter was serving his first term in Congress.

The following is recorded.

"Mr. Stanford rose to enter his protest against any increase of the compensation of members of Congress; against offering such emoluments as would induce men of abilities to prefer offices and stations under the general government, to those under the State governments. He would diminish rather than increase the compensation of the members of this House. He was willing to change the mode of compensation, but not in any way so as to increase it. The depreciation of money was, he said, a great and just complaint; but any change contemplating an increase essentially to the mischief of principle. He was willing to change the mode of compensation; because in such a change their might be both economy and advantage.

Mr. Randolph again rose. He said that whenever he differed from the gentlemen last up, he doubted the correctness of his own judgment, so great reliance had he on that of that honorable gentleman. The resolution before the House did not speak of increase at all, but of a change in the mode of compensation. And he asked ought it not to be changed? Was it not an allegation every day presented to their in the public prints that the session of Congress was protracted for the convenience of some members who save four dollars a day out of six.

Mr. Webster says the resolution presented no questions but that of inquiry in that view he should concur in it. There was, he said, something radically defective in the present system of legislation. No legislation in the world, he believed, however various its concerns or extensive its sphere, sat as long as this, notwithstanding that its sphere of operation was so greatly contracted by the intervention of eighteen distinct Legislatures.

The system does not compel, on the part of members, that attention which the nature of their public business requires. He referred

to the letters and papers on the desks of the members every day. They ought to have none of them. When a man came into this House he ought to leave on the threshold every feeling and thought but what was connected with the public service. Private letters and private conversation ought not to be permitted to encroach on the unity of his object. If, in any way, the attention of the House could be fixed on the speaker, Mr. Webster said there would be an end to long speeches: for he defied any man to address any assembly of this sort, and address them long if that attention was fixed on him.

Mr. Stanford said he had no idea of opposing this motion for inquiry when up before, but had merely risen to protest against an increase of compensation. The inquiry he thought proper. He believed such a change might be devised as would economize both the time and funds of the nation.

If the great New England statesman would look in upon Congress some day now when in session, and see the evils he complained of increased and aggravated as they are, he would be shocked beyond measure.

The high esteem in which Randolph held Stanford continued until the latter's death, and it was the only lifelong friendship between the eccentric statesmen and any of his colleagues, for as highly as he regarded Macon, who appointed him chairman of the committee of ways and means, while speaker, he—Randolph—became estranged from Macon and roundly denounced him on several occasions. A combination was formed to beat Randolph in his district which was successful, but during his temporary retirement from Congress he wrote regularly to Stanford, but not to any other member.

Macon felt keenly the loss of Randolph's friendship as extracts from the following letter will show. It was written by Macon to Nicholson, formerly a member of Congress from Maryland February 1, 1815; and is found in Henry Adams' biography of Randolph, page 252:

"Jonathan did not love David more than I love Randolph, and I still have that same feeling towards him, but somehow or other I am constrained from saying anything about it to him, unless now and then to defend him against false accusations, or what I believe to be such. There is hardly any evil that afflicts me more than the loss of a friend, especially when not conscious of having given any cause for it. I cannot account for the coldness with which you say he treated you, or his not staying at your house while in Baltimore. Stanford now and then comes to where I sit in the house, and shows me a letter from R. to him, which is all I see from him. He has not wrote to me since he left Congress, nor I but once to him."

Stanford was a member of Congress from 1796 to 1816, having been elected ten terms consecutively, and was unquestionably one of the most influential members of the body the latter part of his long service, for he was appointed chairman of the committee on rules

by Speaker Henry Clay at the beginning of the Fourteenth Congress.

He died April 9, 1816, and was buried in the Congressional Cemetery of Washington, his grave being covered with a granite monument. It is near that of Vice President Elbridge T. Gerry, a son of Henry Clay.

SAMUEL L. ADAMS.

Elon College, N. C., June 22 1901.

Landslide and Flood.

Lacoma, Wash., July 8.—Canton advices by the steamer Braemer give details of the loss of three hundred lives by landslide and flood, occurring at Lung Keng in June. The landslide was caused by a tremendous earthquake. There were many crashes resembling thunder. Native accounts state that a great flood of water poured out of the mountains, carrying everything before it. Two hundred houses were swept away and the fields swept bare of crops. Several great landslides occurred carrying a large portion of Lung Keng into the bay. What appeared like a tidal wave followed, making it impossible for any who were carried into the water to escape.

Robbers in Wang Tung province are kidnapping people to realize money. Dozens of women and children have been abducted. A Buddhist nun convicted of harboring kidnappers is being publicly exhibited in a cage at Canton. Six kidnapped women were found in a convent.

Great Oil Company

Houston, Texas, July 5.—Charters were today filed at Austin for the Houston Oil Company with a capitalization of \$30,000,000 and the Kirby Lumber Company, capitalized at \$10,000,000. The first named has been organized to handle oil produced in the Texas field and is primarily intended as a competitor of the Standard Oil Company, first in Texas and afterward in the domestic export trade. Its articles embrace provisions for owning lands, prospecting for and marketing oil, operating pipe lines and steamships. The lumber company will take over the holdings of John H. Kirby, embracing more than one million acres, comprising the larger part of the standing timber in East Texas.

John L. To Box Mitchell.

New York, July 7.—"A little order, please, gents." John L. Sullivan is going into the ring once more. The greatest warrior that ever hit a punch is going to box four rounds on the level with Charlie Mitchell, boxing champion of England.

John L. told the news last evening to a North American reporter who saw him in his establishment in west Forty-second street. Manager "Bob" Adams, of New London, Conn., made the match. He has gone to Buffalo to hire the biggest hall in the town, and in it the old-time warriors will meet within three weeks.

Congressman Stokes Dead.

Columbia, S. C., July 6.—Dr. J. M. Stokes, Congressman from the Third South Carolina district, died today at his home in Orangeburg, after a long illness.

Rev. Moses Hunt Dies.

Greensboro, N. C., July 6.—Rev. Moses J. Hunt, of Burlington, one of the oldest Methodist preachers in North Carolina, died at the home of his son in Greensboro this afternoon. He will be buried at Burlington tomorrow afternoon. Mr. Hunt was 77 years old. For almost half a century he had been a member of the North Carolina conference. He is survived by a widow and ten children.

Crops Are Poor.

A gentleman who has been travelling over North Carolina for fourteen years says that he has never seen such poor crops in the State. In some sections of the State, where much wheat is raised, the crops are almost a failure. The corn and cotton are very small, and the tobacco was almost ruined by the hail.

400 Barrels of Oil an Hour.

Beaumont, Texas, July 5.—Gusher no. 2 Heywood Oil Company, was turned into a tank this morning and flowed at the rate of 4,000 barrels per hour.

The State charters the Nantahala company, of Highlands, Macon county, capital \$100,000, H. Ravenel and others stockholders. The charter gives extensive privileges of milling, manufacturing and mining.

A Race War.

Knoxville, Tenn., July 5.—A race riot has broken out in the mountains of Campbell county between colored and white miners near La Follette. At a dance the negroes opened fire on the town marshal and his posse.

The officer and his assistants returned the fire.

Twenty persons were killed, most of them negroes, and a large number are reported wounded.

Conquer the Earth.

Boston, July 5.—Captain Richmond P. Hobson told the people in his July 4th oration, that he believed he would live to see the time when Independence Day would be celebrated in every nation on earth.

Speaking of the navy he said: "I claim it should be the immediate aim of the people and their representatives to start upon a program of naval construction that will permit us to realize our inalienable obligation to the people of the world."

The Editor's Marriage.

For the first time we were married Wednesday. Have contemplated this step for a long time but lack of funds has always prevented, until we finally decided to get married and trust to providence for the rest. The subscription rates of the Record will remain at the same price. Only the immediate relatives were present at the ceremony. Our views on the money question will remain the same only we need more of it. Will go to house keeping in the Asquith home, in Second street.—Muscotah Kan. Record.

The Gazette says: A colored woman named Mary Miller, wife of Sam Miller, while under the influence of chloroform died suddenly in Dr. E. F. Glenn's dental chair late Tuesday afternoon. The incident was the immediate occasion of no little commotion among the colored people and excitement among the white.