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A. M. Woodall, Editor.

"CAROLINA, CAROLINA, HEAVEN'S BLESSING ATTEND HER!"

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DIRECTORY.

COUNTY OFFICERS. Sheriff—J. T. Ellington, office in Court House. ... TOWNS OFFICERS. Mayor—E. S. Adair. ... SCHOOLS. The Collegiate Institute—Male and female. ... COUNTY FARMERS' ALLIANCE.

sons and daughters on those very hills and vales? God alone knows. What has brought about all this? I know the answer, it has been brought on by class-legislation. ... A whole country of tenants who hold possession only at the will of the land-lord who can say at any time "vote as I say or leave."

Land monopoly is infinitely the worst in the whole category of evils and every system of class legislation; every law that favors are at the expenses of many and every measure that tends to centralize the wealth of the country is a step towards the consummation of Land monopoly. ... To encourage progress, to induce invention, to reward genius, it may be said that inventors should reap for a time the benefits of their skill and industry.

Revolution, said in his famous speech: "We must judge the future by the past." Judging the future by the past, I must affirm that we will develop, higher and higher, and become a brighter jewel in the crown of nations. ... Let your minds revert a century, and see how we have advanced in education, wealth and in christianity.

more careless about attending church, and when there were but few churches to attend. These, except in towns and cities, were built of logs. In the early days of the Republic, it was not uncommon for men to go out hunting on Sunday morning and shoot game till church time. ... It has not been long since we had very poor managements in educational matters. A few little huts were built for school houses, and furnished with a few half-made benches for seats for the children.

birds with melo lies sweeter than ever before, are heard. The forests are dressed in robes of green, breathing yet more odorous fragrance than ever. This place represents our Republic as it will be. She has gained the top-most round of the ladder of fame—her hard fought battles are over; perfection is presenting her lovely face to every eye. Why do I make these strong assertions? Because I see how fast our country has developed during the last fifty years. I have compared the past conditions with the present, and I see that the present conditions of the country are far better than they have ever been in the past.

ditions half a century ago. There were very few Colleges established and the minds of young men were receiving very little attention. There were but few school houses and children were growing up in ignorance. Five per cent more children can read and write this year than last year. The way things have been running in the past, the day is coming when nearly all the children of this Republic will be educated; when nearly all men will be possessed with honor. It will be a glorious and immortal day; a day even to be remembered in the annals of history when it will come to pass.

SPEECHES DELIVERED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE CLEVELAND LITERARY SOCIETY AT THE CLOSING EXERCISES SMITHFIELD COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE, JUNE 24TH 1891.—OCCURRY: "HAS THE UNITED STATES REACHED ITS ZENITH."

Mr. President Ladies and Gentlemen: The subject for discussion this evening is "Has the United States Government reached its Zenith," and I stand here much agrieved that the truth compels me to say that this our once grand Republic, a perfect type of civilization has long since reached the top round in the ladder of fame. No one who possesses the power of contemplation can for a moment consider the condition of LANDED PROPERTY all over the U. S. at the present time without the gravest apprehension and alarm. The states of the West are universally reported to be covered with mortgages to the full assessed value of their lands. In Pennsylvania and the far South the condition is the same. And here, in the very best section of North Carolina in many localities more than 75 per cent. of our lands are mortgaged and the condition grows no better. Indeed but few of the debtor farmers are able to meet their yearly payments of interest. And who are the mortgage holders? Are they farmers? No they are not farmers, they are the money men of the country. And they are rapidly taking and destroying the homes of the people. The consequences of this may be seen in many localities. Residences that once were happy and comfortable homes of refinement and intelligence and independence are now entirely uninhabited or occupied by only those who can do with the very smallest wages the greatest amount of labor and live with the very least on which human life and animal strength can be supported. People with neither independence nor education and who know nothing better than to be the obedient slaves of those whose lands they occupy. In a few short years such must be the condition of those who inhabit the rural districts. What must become of those who once owned happy homes and reared happy intelligent and patriotic

Now I wish to call your attention to the early existence of our Government when we had no extremes of wealth or poverty, we had neither the millionaire or the pauper. The U. S. Bank had no existence. Trusts were unknown and railroads were built and operated on legitimate business principles. Distinction depended upon merit. There was no aristocracy, no pomp and no ostentatious displays. Now we are cursed with all these evils. We adopted English financial policy. We loaded the people with the burdensome debt as a basis of plutocracy. We established the gold standard and concentrated our currency volume which squeezes billions of wealth out of the property of industry into the coffers of the creditor classes. The financial laws enacted by the American Congress from 1867 to 1877 were the blackest frauds ever perpetrated upon any people. And has succeeded in reducing the masses of the American people to a condition absolutely worse than chattel slavery. So far has this matter gone that they can never again regain their liberty, never! never! There is a combination that is more powerful than the Government because it dictates what the Government shall be. The banks at a single days notice can act together so that no act of Congress can resist their decision. We hold in tangible form a power so terribly strong that with a touch it can paralyze armies. We behold it grandly weaving around us a net from which it is impossible to escape. And changing with a stern accent which brooks no denial A RIGHT OF PROPERTY IN OURSELVES OUR EARNINGS, OUR INDUSTRY AND OUR CHILDREN. To its influence we can track most of the political changes which perplex mankind and baffle explanation. The wisest of our statesmen have tried to check its advances and failed. This is the money power. It has its roots in the National Banking system which dishes out the money as it sees fit. Its branches are the thousands of Corporations and Trusts. This great Upas tree that is breathing out poison on every fabric of our political and social structure. The nation is in the hands of the fund holders, they are our creditors and likewise our masters. They have but to command and their subjects obey. And young or old men who wish to rise, have to do their bidding and hide and screen their hellish plots and methods to despoil the people in order that they may share the glory as well as the spoils of their masters. Thus the highest honors are conferred upon those engaged in the most iniquitous and damnable proceedings. If a man refused to be bought or coaxed or cajoled into supporting the schemes of wickedness or remains passive as to their consummations, he is ridiculed, ostracised, "read out" of the party and followed home and beaten for a re-election.

He who does it sins against God and the nation that permits it will be wiped from the face of the earth. Usury and extortion leads to land monopoly. For the violation of this law God hath destroyed nations and he will continue to destroy all that violate this law. History is repeating itself in our own fair land. Monopoly is eating out the vitals of our existence. Usury and extortion have fastened their iron jaws on every industry of the land. Labor is burdened beyond endurance. Trusts, Syndicates and Combinations demand extortion on every thing we buy, and transportation companies, "pools" and middle men levy tribute on everything we sell. We are traveling the same road to death that the nations that have gone before have traveled. We are told by the politicians that they will save us, so we have ever been told, and so were the people of those fallen countries told. We set our faltering feet in the tracks they have left by the way side and we have followed their trail for more than twenty years. We follow in the road that leads to certain ruin. The history of other nations must surely repeat itself in ours. That which was spoken by the prophet "Death upon the white horse, and hell follow after him" must be verified in the annals of history. Now Ladies and Gentlemen, by way of conclusion, I ask you to compare the condition of the country in 1865 as acknowledged by the Government authorities with the condition at the present time as shown by the Census. Twenty-five years ago the Secretary of Treasury, reported that the people were out of debt and some burdened with money. And this is what the Census Bureau says at the present time: Farming lands are mortgaged for their full assessed value. The farmers cannot produce enough to pay even the interest on their indebtedness and support their families. This is the condition that confronts the American people today.

Every decade that rolls by, we grow to be more moral and more religious. Some of the older men in this audience, doubtless, remember when people were

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[The speeches of E. B. Grantham and J. H. Peeden will appear next week.—Editor.]