

IT is with profound sorrow that we have to chronicle the death of our beloved and esteemed citizen, Hon. Thos. W. Blount, who died on Wednesday morning, Oct. 4, in his fifty-fifth year of age, after a lingering sickness, in his home at Roper, N. C.

In early youth Mr. Blount was in the mercantile business, and did a large and extensive business, but on account of his liberality he became financially embarrassed and wound up his business, paying all of his debts, and entered into the business of farming and milling, out of which he made a good success and pursued this course up to his death.

In 1894 he was elected Chairman of the Democratic Executive Committee of Washington County, and his splendid management done more to redeem this county from fusionism and to gain a signal victory for White Supremacy and the Constitutional Amendment, and for this his people honored him by sending him to the State Legislature two terms. Mr. Blount soon became a prominent member of that body and developed into a strong debater, a sagacious advisor upon all the important committees he was appointed to. During the last session which he served in the Legislature he became one of the recognized leaders and gained a state wide reputation as one of the strongest men in the state, and he has maintained that reputation up until the present day.

Mr. Blount was a hard student of history, and there was few men, if any, within the state that was better posted than he on colonial times and history. He was a ready and clear-cut writer and wrote several articles of great research upon colonial literature. He was fond of agriculture and progressive farming, and was elected a few years ago as President of the N. C. Farmers' Association, being the first president of that organization. He was a friend to advanced education, and did more for the people of his native county in that direction than any man of the county, living or dead.

He was undoubtedly the most progressive man in this county in the cause of good roads, and the equalization of taxation, which is placing this county in the front rank of her sister counties. In this respect his loss is irrefragable, for there is no one to take his place, and in the language of the poet;

"He has gone from our struggles away;

But yesterday lending a people new life;

Cold, mute in his coffin today."

In that breast that grew many noble qualities is cold and mute as the clod that now covers it. During all of his long years of public service in this age of graft and corruption, "there was no stain upon his shield, and no flaw in his armor." But his crowning virtue was his charity to the poor. No needy man, no matter how humble he was, was ever turned from his door. He was a christian man and a prominent lay member of the East Carolina Diocese of the Episcopal Church.

The large concourse of people that attended his funeral attested the love and esteem of the whole community.

Mr. Blount at the time of his death was Chairman of the present Board of County Commissioners, over which body he presided ably and gave wise counsel in the affairs of the county. He is gone; those bright eyes are dim and lusterless, and we will see his image no more amongst men, but his memory will linger with us and his good deeds will never wither and, "the name that he won for himself is best, for that he can call his own"

"Leaving the still shore for the troubled wave,

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