THE TIMES-VISITOR

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GOV. SWAIN'S FAMOUS ADDRESS ON RALEIGH

One of the Most Valuable Sketches of the Capital City's History

Delivered in this City at the Dedication of Tucker Hall in 1865—History of the Early Meetings of the State's Assembly—The First Locations.

On the occasion of the dedication of Tucker's Hall, which has long since been transformed into classrooms for Messrs. Dobbin and Ferrell, an able and interesting address was delivered on the history and growth of the city of Raleigh, by Governor David L. Swain.

The following is taken from the address of Governor Swain.

There were few more exciting topics in ante-revolutionary times, than the location of the seat of government.

The first General Assembly, in relation to which we have much authentic information, met at the house of Captain Richard Sanderson, on Little River, in the county of Perquimans in 1715, and revised the whole body of the public statute law.

The style of enactment is characteristic of the times and of the Proprietary Government, "Be it enacted by his Excellency the Palatine and the rest of the true and absolute Lords Proprietors of Carolina by and with the advice and consent of this present General Assembly now met at Little River for the North-eastern part of this province."

From Little River, the seat of Legislation was transferred in 1720, to the General Court House at Queen Anne's Creek in Chowan Precinct, and in 1723, to Edenton.

In 1731, the Proprietary was succeeded by the Royal Government, and in 1734, the legislative will assumed a form of expression worthy of eastern despotism.

"We pray that it may be enacted, and be it enacted by his Excellency, Gabriel Johnson, Esquire, Governor by and with the advice and consent of his Majesty's council in the General Assembly of this Province."

In 1741, the General Assembly met at Wilmington but returned the following year to Edenton. From 1745 to 1761 with the exception of a single session at Bath, it convened at New Berne. In 1761, it met again in Wilmington, and from that time been finally was maintained between New Bern and Wilmington for metropolitan distinction, until quieted by the act of 1766, authorizing the construction of Governor Tryon's vice regal palace at New Berne. This edifice completed in 1770, dedicated to Sir William Draper, and the subject of his muse in an attempt at Roman versification, was pronounced on good authority, in 1773, superior to any structure of the kind in British or South America.

During the revolution, the General Assembly met somewhat in accordance with the exigencies of the times, at Newbern, Kinston, Hagfax, Smithfield, Wake Court House, Hillsboro and Salem.

In 1782, and '83, the Legislature convened at Hillsboro, in 1784 and '85, at New Berne, in 1786 at Fayetteville, in 1787 at Tarboro, and in 1788 returned to Fayetteville.

In 1787, the General Assembly had resolved that it "be recommended to the people of the State to authorize and direct their representatives in the Convention called to consider the Federal Constitution, to fix on the place for the unalterable seat of Government."

The Convention met at Hillsborough in August, 1788, and resolved that this Convention "will not fix the seat of Government at one particular point, but that it shall be left to the discretion of the Assembly, to ascertain the exact spot, provided always, that it shall be within ten miles of the plantation whereone Isaac Hunter now resides in the County of Wake."

The following editorial is copied from the Fayetteville Chronicle or North Carolina Gazette of the 29th of November, 1790.

"On Thursday last the bill for carrying into effect the Ordinance of the Convention, held at Hillsborough, in 1788, for holding the future meetings of the General Assembly, etc., came before the House of Commons, when the question was put, shall this bill pass? The House divided, and there appeared fifty-one for it and fifty-one against it, whereupon the Speaker (Mr. Cabarrus) gave his own vote and pronounced the passage of the bill. It was then sent to the Senate, when that House divided, and there appeared and equal number of votes for and against the passage of the bill, whereupon the Speaker (General Lenoir) gave the casting vote against its passage, and the bill was rejected."

In 1791, the General Assembly met at New Bern, and in compliance with the positive constitutional injunction passed an act to carry the Ordinance of 1788 into effect. The act provides that ten persons shall be appointed to lay off and locate the City within ten miles of the plantation of Isaac Hunter, and five persons "to cause to be built and erected a State House sufficiently large to accommodate with convenience both Houses of the General Assembly, at an expense not to exceed ten thousand pounds."

In the following year (1792) a majority of the Commissioners to-wit: Frederick Hargett, Willie Jones, Joseph McDowell, Thomas Blount, William Johnson Dawson and James Martin met on the 4th of April, and on the following day purchased of Col. Joel Lane 1,000 acres of land, and laid off the plan of a City, containing 640 acres, arranged in five squares of 4 acres, and 276 lots of one acre each. Caswell square the site of the Institute for the Deaf, Dumb and Blind the North-western, Burke the site of the Raleigh Academy the North-eastern, Nash and South-western, Moore the South-eastern, and Union, on which the State House stands, the central square.

The names of the towns in the direction towards which the principal streets ran, gave them their designation, and the names of the Commissioners and other prominent citizens were applied to the others. New Berne, Hillsboro, Halifax and Fayetteville streets were 99 and all the others 66 feet in width.

In December, 1794, the General Assembly met in the new State House for the first time.

In 1802, an act was passed requiring the Governor to reside at the seat of Government, and a plain two story framed building painted white, and an office on the corner, were provided on lot No. 131. The first gubernatorial mansion was subsequently the residence of the late James Coman. The first National Bank of North Carolina now occupies the site from which the first Executive office and Mr. Coman's brick store, were successively removed.

In 1813, the General Assembly appointed Henry Potter, Henry Seawell, William Hinton and William Peace commissioners to erect on the public lands, near the city of Raleigh, a convenient and commodious dwelling house for the Governor, at a cost not to exceed five thousand pounds, to be derived from the sale of lots which they were authorized to lay off, and from the sale of lot No. 131, referred to the residence at successive periods of Governors Turner, Alexander, Williams, Stone, Smith and Hawkins.

The site selected for the new gubernatorial residence, in common parlance, the palace, was near the terminus of Fayetteville street, directly South of and fronting the Capitol, and just beyond the Southern boundry of the city. The edifice was copleted during Governor Miller's administration from 1813 to 1816, and he was the first occupant.

In 1819, Duncan Cameron, John Winslow, Joseph Gales, William Robards and Henry Potter were authorized to sell all or any part of the lands purchased of Joel Lane, with the exception of the Stone Quarry, in lots to suit purchasers.

The Governor was authorized from the proceeds of the sale to improve the State House under the direction of the State Architect, and in conformity with a plan which he had prepared and submitted to the General Assembly.

The old State House, which is believed to have been constructed from the net proceeds of the sales of city lots in 1792, was described by a writer of the time as a huge misshapen pile.

In form it was substantially, so far as the body of the building was concerned, though on a smaller scale, very similar to the present edifice. It was divided by the broad passages on the ground floor, from North to South and from East to West, intersecting in the centre at right angles. The offices of the Secretary, Public Treasurer and Comptroller were on the lower floor. The Senate Chamber and Hall of the House of Commons, with the offices apputenant, above as at present. The Executive office as has been stated was contiguous to the palatial residence.

The passages and halls of the first State House supplied all, and more than all, the accommodation to the public worship on the Sabbath, balls on festive more finely finished edifice. Divine less extensive, but better furnished, and contemplated by the founders of this occasions, theatrical representations, sleight of hand performances, and last but not least, Fourth of July Orations and Fourth of July dinners, all found their places, and their votaries for a time. These passages and these halls were supplied by the public Treasury of the State. The Tucker Hall emolutes from the private exchequer of two brothers, sons of a worthy father, who within the range of my remembrance was a merchant of very limited capital, but with a character for sobriety, morality, industry, economy and enterprise worth more than the wealth of Crœsus to disciplined and undoubtedly hands.

The construction of the dome, the excellence of the hard and West Point, the architectural exhibition and excesses of stucco given to the dome outside walls, the improvement to the interior, and especially the erection of the statue of Washington from the chisel of Canova, a noble specimen of a noble art, embemonstrative of the noblest of men in the national at the point of intersection of the passages entirely under the agent of the dome, converted the rear and Capitol into a stately and attractive edifice.

There were but few of the better class of travellers, who did not pause on their passage through Raleigh, to behold and admire it.

The improvements were designed by, and executed under the supervision of Capt. William Nichols recently appointed State Architect, and completed early in the summer of 1822. He was a skilful and experienced artist, and made the public greatly his debtor after decided impulse given to architectural improvements throughout the State, in private as well as in public edifices.

The white framed cottage, planned and constructed for the late Moses Mordecai, just beyond the Northern boundary of the city, was copied again and again in remote sections of the State, and various Court Houses and other public structures were designed, and in some instances erected under his immediate supervision, as in Guilford and Davidson.

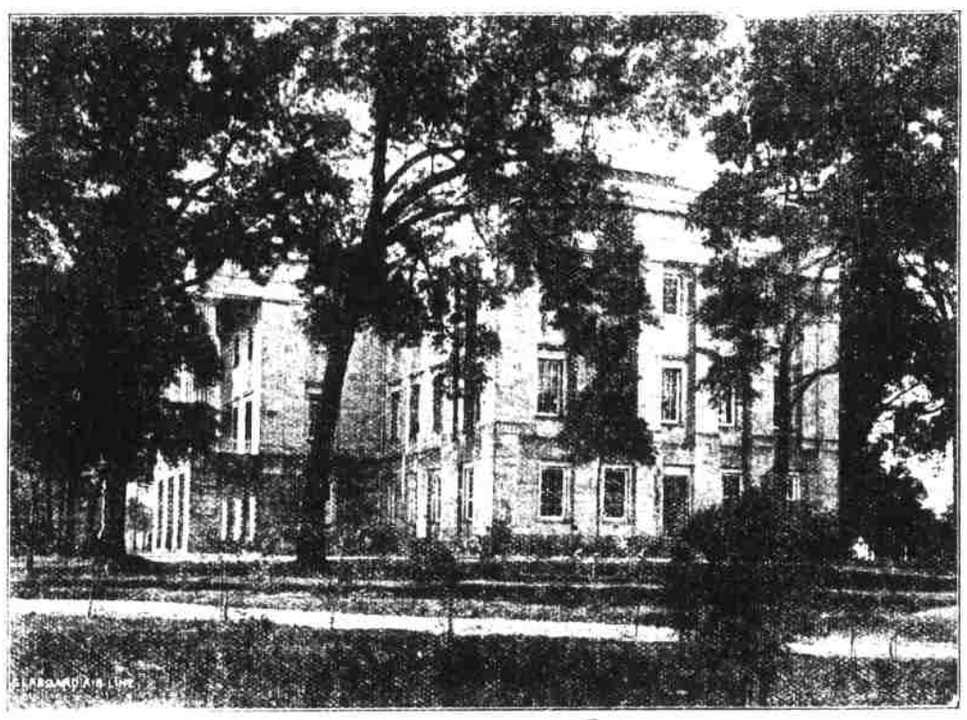
It was my lot on the 21st of June, 1831, to stand a helpless spectator, when that noble edifice adorned with the Statue of the father of his country, was a sheet of blinding, hissing flame, and to hear amidst the almost breathless silence of the stupified multitude around it, the piteous exclamation of a child, "poor State House, poor Statue, I so sorry." There were thousands of adults present as sorroful and as powerless as that child.

It was my lot as Chief Magistrate of the commonwealth, on the fourth day of July, 1833, to lay the corner stone of the present magnificent structure of the present Capitol, supposed on its completion to be the most magnificent structure of the kind in the Union.

It was my lot on the morning of the 13th of April, 1865, as the friend and representative of Governor Vance, to find, on approaching the Southern front of the Capitol, the doors and windows closed, and a deeper, more dreadful silence shrouding the city, than during the sad catastrophe to which I have referred. I met at the South front of the Capitol, however, a negro servant, who waited on the executive department, the only human being who had dared to venture beyond the door. He delivered me the keys and assisted me in opening the doors and windows of the executive office, and I took my station at the entrance, with a safe conduct from General Sherman in my hand, prepared to surrender the Capitol at the demand of his approaching forces. At that moment a band of marauders, straggling from Wheeler's retiring cavalry, dismounted at the head of Fayetteville street, and began to sack the stores directly contigious to and South of Dr. Haywood's residence. I apprised them immediately, the Sherman's army was just at hand, that any show of resistance might result in the destruction of the city, and urged them to follow their retreating comrades. A citizen, the first I saw beyond his threshold that morning, came up at the moment, and united his remonstrances to mine, but all in vain, until I perceived and announced that the head of Kilpatrick's column was in sight. In a moment every member of the band, with the exception of their chivalric leader, was in the saddle and his horse spurred to his utmost speed. He drew his bridle rein, but [illegible] his speed, and [illegible] his revolver until his stock of ammunition was expended on the retreating foe, and in carrying dismay to the city, when the [illegible] in vain. He had [illegible] a very brief interval.

The remains of this bold man rest in the cemetery covered with garlands and bewept by beautiful maidens, little aware how nearly the city may have been on the verge of devastation, and how narrowly the fairest of their number may have escaped insult and death, from this rash act of lawless warfare.

(To be Continued Next Saturday.)



BOERS WERE FAR-SEEING

Joubert Tells How They Fooled the British Spies.

In his Title 3, General Joubert, the [illegible] of the Boer forces, is not [illegible] a prophet nor the son of a prophet, but he is a soldier. But in a [illegible] of Lydia, written Oct. [illegible] days after hostilities began, [illegible] some prophecies [illegible] of every day writer.

[illegible] "We may [illegible] improvement [illegible] the British in the [illegible] Wish [illegible] we gave their [illegible] more in ominous unquiet [illegible] Boers were very careful to [illegible] from them our modern artillery. Our [illegible] proved [illegible] these [illegible] prophecies.

"The [illegible] 'Pretoria' is on a level of [illegible] with the Latin city of 1800 'Ad Berlin.'

"The scene of the war will cover Natal and Cape Colony, an area of, say, 700 miles. Our own camp is protected by three mountain ranges, and 500 men are amply sufficient to protect it. Our methods of communication are excellent. The outposts have command of and facilities for destroying provisions in case the position becomes untenable.

"We are at home in the highlands of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State. The British will have to contest every step under unconceivable difficulties, and must be prepared at every moment to fight on two or three fronts.

"This will begin a guerrilla war, which the British will not be able to endure."

REMOVING A MISAPPREHENSION

Minneapolis Times.

Senator Cullom is not the greatest man in the world.

GOD LOVES A MAN THAT MAKES US LAUGH.

The morbid man who wears a face
Long as a mule's—his beastly brother—
Who acts one cunning clown give place,
But only to present another;
Who always is content to grope
Along the path of care and bother
And discontent, can never hope
To win the good will of the Father.
God has no use for solemn chaff,
But loves the man that makes us laugh.

The sunshine of a merry smile,
The music born of ringing laughter,
Are sent by heaven to beguile
The tedious march to the hereafter.
Their rays will pierce the darkest clouds
And light them with a silver lining,
Dispel the gloom that oft enshrouds
The dreary lives of the repining.
Fun's golden cup is here to quaff—
God loves the man that makes us laugh.

We were not placed upon the earth
To grovel in the dust of sorrow;
Today should always ring with mirth
Without a thought of the tomorrow,
And heaven has sent us every man
To start and lead the merry chorus,
To pierce with voice and pointed pen
The earthy clouds that gather o'er us;
To stab the gloom wih humor's gaff—
God loves the man that makes us laugh.

We stronger grow upon our feet
When foes of changing care enrage us
If in our daily toil we meet
A man with smile that is contagious.
His face lights up the darkened soul,
As sun-rays pierce the veil of sadness,
Adds sweetness to the bitter bowl
And makes the heartstrings thrill with gladness;
Shows us the grain hid in the chaff—
God loves the man that makes us laugh.

—Denver Evening Post.

POTATO PATCH RECRUIT.

Minneapolis Times.

Tanner will be on the wrong side of the breastworks with Pingree before the campaign is over.

RALEIGH CHINAMEN

This Week Engaged in Celebration

THE CHINESE NEW YEAR

Began on Tuesday and the Celebration Ends With Tonight—Raleigh Chinaman Member of Presbyterian Church.

In Raleigh there are only two Chinese residents, and though they are engaged in that characteristic enterprise of laundry, they are above the average in intelligence. John Sing, who does the talking with the two men, speaks English almost without the slightest suspicion of Chinese accent, and talks intelligently and interestingly of the ways so dear to all the natives of his country.

"We had a splendid time," he said this morning, as he closed his bright eyes, as [illegible] oriental smile.

"Originally, Chinese New Year comes on the 23d of January, you know," he said, "but the Chinese ambassador at Washington found it out that the Chinaman in crossing the ocean lost a day, so [illegible] on the morning of the 30th of January.

[illegible] is the most celebrated of all Chinese holidays, although here in America [illegible] widely observed.

"In New York and San Francisco, Chinatown is fairly alive with celebrators. They meet at the 'joss houses,' smoke, drink good wines, chat and have a good time. At night fireworks are discharged. I received a telegram today that $12,000 went up in the smoke of beautiful fireworks in San Francisco last night.

"THE PROGRAM IN ATLANTA.

"The program last night began at one o'clock by worshipping Gods with sacrificial prayer. At 2 o'clock we scattered 500 pounds of peanuts out of the joss house with the wish that every [illegible] a $50 lip when the dawn of next year arrives. We will keep up the celebration in Atlanta about a week, though in China, and even in the large cities north and west, the festivities are enjoyed for a month, sometimes longer.

"The streets in what is known as Chinatown in the large cities are profusely decorated. Down one side will be stalls, or what you people call booths, full of fruits, candies etc. The other side will be decorated altogether with either flowers, fancy work, or curiosities of some kind.

"I have been in San Francisco during these celebrations and know how they are carried on. There are above 30,000 Chinese in that city. Last night the streets there were crowded with white people inspecting the curiosities of Chinatown which lined both sides of the streets. Many articles are offered for sale, and they are in any size or shape.

"Today there will be feasting, drinking the best of wines, toasting, etc., in the big cities, and of course that will be the programme carried on here, only in a smaller degree.

"The Chinese bands will keep up a tremendous racket in San Francisco today, and even if there are no bands or theatres in Atlanta the Chinese will have a good and glorious time here, and will get all that's coming to them."

Many of the Chinese laundries in the city will be closed for a part of the time during the coming week, though most of them will attend to their "washee" during the day and do thir "smokee" and "drinkee" at night.

GENERAL WOOD'S INNOVATIONS

Washington Post.

General Wood is a great stickler for innovations. He proposes to make the Cubans work for their official salaries.

LEAST OF TWO EVILS.

Omaha World-Herald.

Oom Paul may receive young Mr. Bay through fear that if he does not Brother Abner may be forced upon him.

NAMES AND PATENTS

Subject and Inventors Singularly Named

RECORD OF COINCIDENCES

Men who Patented Weather Devices Bore Suggestive Names—Same Is True in List of Other Inventors and Inventions.

A veteran clerk of the Patent Office shows by a ten-years' collection of memoranda slips strange coincidences occurring between the names of inventors and their inventions. From a bundle of several thousand records giving the dates of patents and in [illegible], he shows that a [illegible] patents granted [illegible] during the past [illegible] strictly related to the [illegible] of the inventor. This [illegible] patents.

The last [illegible] Messrs. Uncle, Uncle, Elizabeth, Thumscrew, and Rack [illegible] patents for [illegible] years [illegible] called [illegible] to the mind of the [illegible] Mr. Snow was [illegible] other men, and in 18[illegible] that the Snow sled [illegible] the market. The [illegible] year brought forth a [illegible] from Mr. Carter to [illegible] Mr. Snow's sleigh, and a patent for a sleigh runner was granted him. A patent was then applied for by A. Brack for a brack shoe now sold by numerous shoe dealers. This grant was hardly cold when Mr. Buck was given the desired papers for his buckle, and Mr. P. Jack patented a new boot-jack.

Mr. Carter, having successfully sold his sleigh improvement device, reappeared at the Patent Office with an ice cutting machine. Mr. G. P. Gun invented a breech-loading gun and a Mr. Candy invented candy tablets.

QUEER JUMBLES OF NAMES.

Among the family of "eatable" names appeared Mr. P. Hogg with his self-waiting table, and Seneca S. Drybread with a new brand of wheat flour. Succeeding these, a Mr. Barrett altered his name to the election booth. Names recalling metals are no exception. It was Brazier who invented a stove fire-pot and stoker, and Mr. R. J. Bolt a combination lock. Singularly enough, politics are not barred out, as Mr. J. McTammany invented a novel voting machine and a patent was granted him. Racing is allowed in the collection, for a Mr. Horse was complimented on a safety fast driving rein lately patented by him. The horse in question was followed by Mr. Larson and a patent sleigh shoe.

Hardware is also represented, as Mr. Padlow entered a [illegible] patent, which has been sleeping [illegible] A man named Gill invented a [illegible], and Mr. Hedlands, who is monarch and [illegible] before the [illegible] patent [illegible]. In railroad patents Mr. [illegible] cleared [illegible] and [illegible] the way for Mr. Gates [illegible] his original [illegible]. A Mr. Short [illegible] obtained the [illegible] for [illegible] a washing machine. The Sandy City in this case is said to have had more [illegible] this thought than the [illegible] name, which was Dandy Jack.

To add [illegible] to the [illegible] Mr. Mustard appears to have [illegible] a hot [illegible] Sauer was probably the intended name of the patentee of a sauerkraut [illegible], but as the gentleman was baptized Sandy, he signed at the Patent Office. Mr. Bag invented a peculiar [illegible] and R. M. Light patented a [illegible]. A wood sleigh was novel presented to the department by Mr. [illegible], and a forward patented. An addition to the food store was made when Mr. [illegible] patent [illegible] then, and at the same time Mr. Dressing invented an incubator.

SOME STRANGE COINCIDENCES.

Music is also represented, as Mr. Leader received a patent saying that his mouth piece for musical instruments had been favorably reported. Pleasure has a strong delegation here, as Mr. Liber patented a pleasure and slide course and a conveyer therefor, while one of the Rockwells invented a swing, and Mr. Dunner patented an apparatus for shaking dice.

Mr. Weatherwax patented the last syllable in his name for a device for sealing punctures in pneumatic tires, and Mr. Turnipseed invented a form of fertilizer.

One of the weather men is again seen with a patent attachment for rubbers. The inventor is F. T. Weather. In order to further enlarge the stationery stock Mr. Penman invented a note-book, and his patent was followed by Mr. Pencil, the originator of an eraser. Mr. Wheelwright's name is associated with a patent wheel, and next is Mr. L. Corn and his corn-husker.

The temperate name of Mr. Sober belongs to a man who invented a barrel tap. He is followed by Mr. Crepette, who patented an apparatus for compressing air. The fire department is also called into service, and fire-like names are no exception to the rule. W. O. Blaze patented a cleaner and smoke detector, and Mr. Goodnight has to his credit a fire-extinguisher. Mr. Split is registered with a device for sealing splits in punctured tires, while Mr. Quick, a leather man, has a patent preparation for polishing the same.

The strangest coincidence, however, observed in the veteran clerk's collection is the case of Mr. J. Stanton. He made application for a patent corpse-cooler, but died before the patent was granted. An administrator for his estate was appointed, who also died before the patent was granted, and a second administrator was appointed by the name of Teller. It seems that there were a number of similar devices under consideration at the same time, and when finally the grant was made to Mr. Tellers, he read in the papers of the same date that the examiner of patents who reported on the case had died—Washington Post.