

SCHOOL HISTORY
OF
NORTH CAROLINA,
FROM 1584 TO THE PRESENT TIME.

BY
JOHN W. MOORE.

SECOND EDITION—REVISED AND ENLARGED.

BY STATUTE OF ASSEMBLY, TO BE USED IN ALL THE PUBLIC
SCHOOLS OF THE STATE.

RALEIGH:
ALFRED WILLIAMS & CO., PUBLISHERS.
UZZELL & WILEY, PRINTERS.
1882.

CHAPTER LXIV.

DURHAM AND THE TOBACCO FACTORIES.

A. D. 1874.

Second alone in importance to the State at large, after the cotton factories, are those devoted to the handling and preparation of tobacco for the market. The western powers of Europe had, for many years, realized immense revenues by means of their imports and monopolies of the Virginia weed, before the government of the United States ever realized a dollar from all the vast production of this crop in the different States. So, too, in North Carolina, enterprize and capital had remained almost completely blind to the possibilities of the situation.

2. Though great quantities of tobacco had been grown in many of the counties, and the soil and climate were suited to the production of the finest and costliest grades, yet, the farmers were content to raise such as commanded but humble prices, and but a small proportion of this was prepared for use in the vicinity of its production. In a few villages and on some of the farms, were to be found small factories, which, with the rudest appliances, converted into plugs of chewing tobacco such portions of the crop of the neighborhood as could be probably sold from itinerant wagons.

3. These vehicles were sent to the eastern counties and even to portions of South Carolina and Georgia, to supply the farms and country stores. This traffic continued until the strong arm of the Federal government, by means of "Revenue Laws," was interposed between the pedlers and their ancient

profits. The bulk of the crop was sent, before this, to be manufactured at Richmond, Lynchburg and Danville, in Virginia. The fine brands of plug and all smoking tobacco used in North Carolina were received from these cities.

4. During the late war, one J. R. Green lived at the little hamlet known as Durham, which was a station of the North Carolina Railroad. His employment was the preparation and sale of granulated smoking tobacco. He produced an article which had gained considerable local reputation for its excellence, when, in April, 1865, he lost several thousand pounds, which the soldiers belonging to the armies under Generals Johnston and Sherman appropriated to their own use.

5. Mr. Green bewailed as a loss what turned out to be a great blessing to him. The tobacco seized was smoked by the men of many States, and it at once became famous by the conjoined testimony of so many disinterested witnesses. It was the speediest and most satisfactory advertisement imaginable. From that time there has been no trouble in the sale and disposition of any quantity that the genius and enterprise of Mr. Green's business successors have been able to put upon the market.

6. In 1868 he sold to W. T. Blackwell and J. R. Day, one-half of his interest in the manufacture of what is known as the "Durham Bull" brand of smoking tobacco. Mr. Blackwell had abundant experience in the trade, and soon evinced great judgment and capacity for such a business.

7. A year later, upon Green's death, the survivors purchased his interest, and, in 1870, associated as a third partner, Julian S. Carr, of Chapel Hill. Day soon retired, but, in the financial genius of Carr the firm gained all that was needed for the successful conduct of a gigantic trade. To his fine manage-

ment was committed the difficult duty of financial operations and the opening up of fresh markets. So well has he succeeded that "Blackwell & Co." are now the greatest manufacturers of smoking tobacco in all the world. Mr. Carr was soon to win a high position as a layman in the Methodist Church, and, perhaps, as wide political endorsement as any man of his age has ever had in the State, who made trade and not politics the business of his life.

8. Inspired by such an example, kindred enterprises were speedily seen in Durham, Winston, Hillsboro, Oxford, Henderson, and many other places. Durham, from the two hundred inhabitants of 1865, was soon to reach three thousand. A new industry, employing thousands of people, was thus created and added to the list of the State's resources.

9. Even faster than the growth of the town has been that of the firm that may really be regarded as its founders. Like the fame of Gatlin and his revolving gun, the "Durham Bull" is heard of and has his effigies beyond the seas. From the nominal production of 1870, their sales now exceed four million pounds of tobacco, besides the countless cigarettes, the manufacture of which has been recently added as a branch of their productions. Some estimate of the greatness of their operations may be inferred, when it is known that the amount paid as internal revenue much exceeds the entire taxation, State and county, paid by North Carolina before the year 1848.

10. If he who adds to the number of grass blades is a public benefactor, then the creators of new industries and towns may well claim consideration along with the warrior and statesman. In many towns and vast productions are modern States enabled to sustain the great and costly appli-

ances of our new civilization. With the railroad and factory, come population and those advantages that can never be enjoyed by the people who lack numbers and wealth.

NOTE.—In addition to the cotton, tobacco and other factories mentioned in preceding chapters, there is, in some of the western counties, large capital invested in mills for the manufacture of woolen yarns and cloth. Among the principal factories of this kind are the large establishments at Salem and Bethania, in Forsyth county. This is a growing industry from which satisfactory profits are realized.

QUESTIONS.

1. What other great industry is now considered? What is said of the tobacco markets before this period?
2. What had been the production in North Carolina? What quantities were prepared for sale?
3. What is said of the tobacco pedlers?
4. What is said of Mr. Green and his factory at Durham?
5. How did Mr. Green's losses prove a blessing to him?
6. Who became associated with him in 1868? What is said of the firm?
7. What further change was made in the firm in 1869 and 1870? What is said of the new partner?
8. How did the great success of this tobacco factory affect other communities?
9. What further mention is made of Durham and its factories?
10. Why should the people be well informed of such successful enterprises as those just mentioned?