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The Sentiment of Honor.

William Joseph Headen,

Chatham Co.

N. C.

Commencement Oration. June 7th 1860.

That feeling which prompts a man to maintain and preserve his own good name and that of his friends; which makes him jealous of the best interests of his country and nerves the soul to encounter danger and trouble with tranquility and firmness is a ruling principle of action in the life and character of every good and great man. It raises him above revenge, injustice and meanness and impels him to the sacrifice of personal ease and safety for the accomplishment of laudable objects. The most brilliant achievements and the most perfect models of all that can awaken the admiration or gain the affections and the gratitude of man which we find recorded in history, are the manifestations of that delicate sense of honor which constitutes the essential element of greatness, which first suggests in man something more than animate nature, a Promethean spark enkindled from Heaven in his soul. While it is not the growth of experience or of time and cannot be adopted for the sake

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