

Sumner, N.H.

May 27th 1897.

Hon. A. W. Hodgee.

My dear old friend -

Yours of the 18th inst. was received the 22nd inst. I had been thinking for some days that I would send you a letter congratulating you upon your appointment as Consul at Bordeaux. I assure you I was exceedingly glad to get your letter.

The Mrs. Hodgkin whose obituary you saw in the Patriot was the wife of David S. Hodgkin, a distant relative of mine who lives near Centre. I do not know who wrote that obituary, but the writer expressed the feelings of the people regarding her life and character.

She was a noble woman.

My wife, I am glad to say, is still living, and enjoys good health for one who has lived 60 years, and had the care of

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so many children, she, too, has borne 13 children, all of whom are living, except the two ^{that} passed away in early childhood - in 1862.

Only one of them is married. He lives in "Moon Co. He and his wife have two little girls.

Two of our sons, Addison and Samuel, were lately examined under Civil Service regulations - a big humbug - and succeeded, and are of course on the list of "eligibles," but one of them has gone into the hotel business in Greensboro, the other expects to enter Haverford College, in Pa. in Sept. next.

From Aug. 1, 1889 to Nov. 25, 1893, I was Clerk in the office of our old friend, Elisha A. White Collector of the 4th Revenue Dist. "N. C. at Raleigh. While there, I became intimately acquainted with your old "pal" A. W. Shaffer. I am ashamed of myself for having so long neg-

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lected to write to you. I have been closely engaged but could have written oftener. I have read many of your books, but not all. I like "Bricks without Straw" best, because of its appropriate title, and because it shows up so vividly the character of the old ruling class, here.

Your letter awakened many recollections of the eventful period through which we have passed during the last 30 years. Sometimes it seems to me almost like a long, troubled dream. No, no, it is all a sad, stern reality. And it will take generations to wipe out the effects of that blighting curse, slavery, that old proscription spirit still exists. Some of the young men of these days are bigger fools than their fathers were in 1860-61.

It was in 1852 that we voted the written ballots, for Hale & Julian for President and Vice President, we, the anti-slavery men, had ~~no~~ electoral tickets

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in the State in 1856, 1860 & 1864.
I failed to vote in either case.

Of the old men who were living
in this vicinity when you were here
we still have A. C. Murrow, Henry
Macy, Lewis Rejnolds and Thos.
C. Lamb. In Greensboro, there
are Robt. P. Dick, Frank Caldwell,
John Pritchett, & Robt. M. Sloam.

Had I kept out of politics
after ^{the} war closed, I might have had
less intolerance shown me, but I
make no apologies for any thing
done by ~~the~~ me in the politics of
the past. They all understand
that. I have accumulated a
great deal of matter in regard to
those stirring ~~to~~ times which
some future Bancroft, Gibbon,
or Macaulay may have use for.

Many of us would be glad to
see you among us once more.

You have many friends in
old Guilford and Randolph.

Let me hear from you again.

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soon, and when you get fixed in your new home, write me.

You may say this is a scattering, common-place production. So it is, but were we together this afternoon, we would discuss many reminiscences of the past, - talk no doubt of "Kirubar" and "Berry Lawson", "Jayha Brown" and "Nathaniel Hyman" as well as great "matters of State".

My home P.O. is Sumner, Guilford Co.

Sincerely yours,

David Hodgins.