

Jesse Hare came here from Baltimore, and earned a large fortune in the manufacture of plug tobacco. He was the discoverer of the process for sweetening tobacco with licorice, a process that rendered it extremely popular and very salable.

From a little hamlet that stood on the banks of the James more than a century and a quarter ago, with the euphonious name of Lynch's Ferry, Lynchburg, through its tobacco trade, has risen to high rank among modern and progressive cities, and this has been accomplished through the safest and most conservative methods in business, a character for which the active business men of the city have always been proverbial. So interwoven has the trade become in the life of the city that it may be said to have formed the very warp and woof of its existence, and to warrant the conclusion that it is here to stay as long as the fragrant weed is grown.

Lynchburg is pardonably proud of the record which it made during the Civil War. Besides a large number of soldiers scattered throughout the various Confederate organizations, the city sent to war the following companies: Rifle Grays, Home Guard, Latham's Battery, Beauregard Rifles, Wise Troop, Lynchburg Rifles, Jeff Davis Rifles, Lee Battery, Davidson's Battery, Kirkpatrick's Battery, Lee's Body Guard and the Heavy Artillery. Soon after the year 1861 was ushered in, meetings were held in Lynchburg to discuss the political situation. On January 22nd a meeting was held in Holcombe Hall, and a resolution was there adopted that the convention that was to meet in Richmond on February 14th "ought promptly to pass the ordinance by which Virginia shall resume all the authority which she has ever delegated to the Government of the United States, and by which she shall declare her present relation to that government dissolved, unless an adjustment of the controversy which now divides the States of this Confederacy, satisfactory to a majority of the Southern States, shall be presented and accepted by them before that time." On this platform Thomas J. Kirkpatrick and John O. L. Goggin were nominated to represent Lynchburg in the convention. Two days afterwards, at a meeting of conservative citizens, resolutions were adopted declaring in favor of "the preservation of the Union if consistent with the honor of the State." On this platform John M. Speed and Charles R. Slaughter were nominated, and they were elected over Kirkpatrick and Goggin by overwhelming majorities, which showed very conclusively that Lynchburg was in favor of preserving the Union, if it were possible to do so without the sacrifice of what its people regarded as right. When Virginia seceded, Lynchburg responded most nobly, and gave as much to the Confederacy as any other city in the South. It was on April 15th, 1861, that a Confederate flag was raised on Main street. The ceremony was marked by immense enthusiasm, and addresses were made by Thomas J. Kirkpatrick, D. P. Halsey, E. D. Christian and G. W. Latham. The Home Guard, Captain Samuel Garland commanding; the Rifle Grays, Captain N. S. Langhorne, and the Artillery, Captain H. G. Latham, left Lynch-