

[Oct. 15, 1896 - Cruiser Raleigh]

State of North Carolina,
Executive Department,
Raleigh.

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We of N.C. applauded the policy which the Government initiated some ten or twelve years ago of naming the first new battleships & Cruisers after the original thirteen States or their Capital cities and when the Raleigh was launched our people manifested a lively interest in the event by flocking to the Navy Yard at Portsmouth to take part in the imposing ceremonies. Nor has our interest in the State Ship ever waned from that day to this. We have followed with pardonable pride the magnificent record which the U.S.

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made ever since she has been
in Commission and altho she
has not yet received her
baptism of blood we are
firm in the conviction that
should that unfortunate event
ever occur she will make
as unshaken a record in
war as ~~she~~^{she} has already ~~done~~^{made}
in peace. And now on behalf
of the people of the State the Hon. Saml
A Ashe will now present this
testimonial to the Executive Raleigh
as a slight token of the respect and
admiration for the gallant men into
whose hands the Government has
so wisely elected to place her.