

The Western Democrat.

WM. J. YATES, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.
Terms of Subscription—Three Dollars, in advance.

CHARLOTTE, N. C., TUESDAY, JULY 14, 1868.

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THE Western Democrat
PUBLISHED BY
WILLIAM J. YATES, Editor and Proprietor.
TERMS—Three Dollars per annum in advance.
Advertisements will be inserted at reasonable rates, or in accordance with contract.
Obituary notices of over five lines in length will be charged for at advertising rates.

CHARLOTTE HOTEL,
CHARLOTTE, N. C.
This first class and well known house, formerly kept by Maj. J. B. KEHR, having been recently repaired and refurnished in every department, is now open and ready to receive guests.
The Table is unsurpassed, and in point of convenience and comfort the House is not excelled by any in the City.
W. W. HARR,
Proprietor.
February 17, 1868.

Robert Gibbon, M. D.,
PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON,
Tryon Street, Charlotte, N. C.,
Office and Residence, one door south old State Bank, (formerly Wm. Johnston's residence).
Jan 1, 1868.

J. P. McCombs, M. D.,
Offers his professional services to the citizens of Charlotte and surrounding country. All calls, both night and day, promptly attended to.
Office No. 9 Granite Row, up stairs, opposite the Mansion House.
January 27, 1868.

DENTISTRY.
Dr. B. S. Traywick,
(Office in Brick Building west of Charlotte Hotel.)
Is prepared to do all work in the line of his Profession. He guarantees satisfaction in every respect. He has had thirteen years practice.
May 4, 1868.

A. W. ALEXANDER,
Surgeon Dentist,
CHARLOTTE, N. C.
(Office in the Brewery Building, opposite the Charlotte Hotel.)
Can be consulted on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.
March 25, 1868.

Dr. JOHN H. McADEN,
Wholesale and Retail Druggist,
CHARLOTTE, N. C.,
Has on hand a large and well selected stock of PURE DRUGS, Chemicals, Patent Medicines, Family Medicines, Paints, Oils, Varnishes, Dye Stuffs, Fancy and Toilet Articles, which he is determined to sell at the very lowest prices.
May 20, 1867.

JOHN T. BUTLER,
PRACTICAL
Watch and Clock Maker,
AND DEALER IN
JEWELRY, FINE WATCHES, CLOCKS,
Watch Materials, Spectacles, &c.
Aug. 19, 1867. CHARLOTTE, N. C.

ANOTHER NEW STORE.
McMURRAY, DAVIS & CO.,
Have opened a new Grocery Store in Bryce's Building, and invite attention to their
Stock of Groceries.
They keep a supply of everything usually found in a Grocery Store and wanted by farmers, such as Sugar, Coffee, Salt and Iron, Cotton Yarn, Molasses, Tea, Spices, Spades, Forks, &c., Crockery and Wooden Ware, Irish Potatoes, Meal and Corn.
Purchasers are requested to call and examine this stock and prices.
Produce will be bought or taken in exchange for Groceries, or received on consignment for sale. Particular attention will be paid to the receipt of Cotton, Corn, Flour, &c., that may be sent to our care.
J. W. McMURRAY,
March 16, 1868. J. N. DAVIS & CO.

A. HALES,
Watchmaker and Jeweler,
Next Door to the Mansion House, CHARLOTTE, N. C.
If your Watch needs Repairing, Don't get mad and go to swearing; Just take it into HALES'S shop. He will fix it so it will not stop. He warrants his work all for a year. When it is used with proper care, He will do it as low as it can be done, And do it so well it's sure to run.
January 1, 1868.

NEW ARRIVALS
At J. Kuck & Co's Grocery Store.
5,000 POUNDS OF MOUNTAIN BACON.
1,000 Pounds Baltimore Bacon,
25 Sacks of Rio Coffee,
50 Sacks Salt, common to fine,
50 Boxes of superior Star Candles,
5 Tierces of Sugar Cured Hams,
25 Barrels of Sugar, all grades,
10 Hog-heads of Molasses,
10 Barrels of Syrup.
At J. KUCK & CO'S.
March 30, 1868.

Blacksmithing and Wood Work.
The undersigned are carrying on the Blacksmithing business at the old stand of Charles Wilson near the Grave Yard.
Horse-Shoeing and all kinds of Iron Work done in the best manner at short notice, on reasonable terms.
CHARLES WILSON,
WM. ROSS.
I will attend to any Wood Work that may be desired.
May 11, 1868.

Just Received at S. Grose & Co's,
10 BARRELS EXTRA C SUGAR,
5 " C Sugar,
5 " Yellow coffee Sugar,
5 " Soda Crackers,
2 " Butter
2 " Cream
100 Pounds Turkish Prunes,
5 Dozen Brooms,
5 Painted Buckets,
10 Sacks Rio Coffee,
100 " Family Flour,
10 Boxes Cheshire Cheese,
10 " Best State
April 20, 1868

A WORTHY ACT ON THE PART OF A COLORED MAN.—A colored man in Richmond, Va. John Dabney by name, purchased his freedom from his mistress just before the war for \$2,000, agreeing to pay the amount by installments. During the pendency of the struggle he paid about one half of it in Confederate currency, which was at last so depreciated in value that his late mistress requested him to discontinue the payments until the close of the conflict. When slavery was abolished the debt was of course, no longer due; but, notwithstanding he was advised against such a course, Dabney lately transmitted to his old mistress, now in indigent circumstances, \$600 in greenbacks, being the balance of the \$2,000 he had contracted to pay.

WHEAT!
Wheat Wanted.
The highest cash price will be paid for good Wheat, in any quantity, by
MAY 18, 1868. J. Y. BRYCE & CO.

TAX NOTICE.
I have received the Tax Lists for the year 1868. All persons are requested to inform me of any property that has not been returned. Those owing taxes for the past years will please call and settle them at once.
R. M. WHITE, Sheriff.
June 29, 1868.

PRESERVING POWDERS.
The "American Fruit-Preserving Powders" are for sale at the Drug Store of Kilgore & Cureton. These Powders are perfect antiseptics, are warranted healthful, and will effectually prevent fermentation and subsequent decay in all kinds of Fruits, Juices and Syrups of Fruits, Tomatoes, Vegetables (such as Corn, Beans, Peas, Asparagus, Cider, Milk Cream, Butter, Lard, etc.) and preserve them in as good and healthful condition as the best "canned or preserved" fruits, etc., without the trouble and expense of hermetically sealing or air-tightening the jars or cans, and with or without the use of sugar in fruits. They are at least fifty per cent. cheaper than any other known method for preserving Fruits, Vegetables, etc.
For sale at the City Drug Store opposite the Mansion House.
KILGORE & CURETON.
June 22, 1868.

NEW STOCK.
JUST RECEIVED AT NISBET & MAXWELL'S.
A choice lot of Tobacco, Cigars and Snuff, Sugar, Coffee and Molasses—all grades, Choice Green and Black Tea, Brandy Peaches, Pickles, Preserves, Jellies, Canned Fruit, Salmon, Lobsters and Oysters, Toilet Soaps, Perfumery, Flavoring Extracts, &c. A fresh supply of Egg and Soda Biscuits.
At NISBET & MAXWELL'S
June 1, 1868.

Concord Mills.
Post Office, for the sale of our own manufactured goods, we invite the attention of merchants and others to our YARNS, SHEETINGS, SHIRTINGS, OSABRIGS, CARPET CHAIN, STOCKING YARNS, &c., &c.
Egg-Cotton taken in exchange for Goods. We sell low for Cash.
J. McDONALD & SONS,
August 12, 1867. Concord, N. C.

SPRING AND SUMMER GOODS.
H. M. PHELPS,
(Next door to Stenhouse, Mowatt & Co.)
Is now receiving a general assortment of
Dry Goods,
Selected at the North expressly for this market, which will be sold at as fair prices as can be obtained anywhere.
Ladies' Dress Goods
Comprise many new styles and patterns. The ladies are respectfully invited to call and examine the new fashions.
Gentlemen's Furnishing Goods,
Of every description and quality, at low prices.
Ready-made Clothing
For Summer wear at reduced figures.
Give me a call and I will give satisfaction in goods and prices.
H. M. PHELPS,
May 11, 1868.

NEW GROCERIES.
Hammond & McLaughlin
Have received a new Stock of Groceries of every description, among which are the following:
15,000 Pounds Bacon,
1,000 " Lard,
1,000 Gallons Molasses,
2,000 Sacks Salt,
150 Sacks best Family Flour;
500 Bushels Corn,
10 Barrels best Mess Pork,
50 Sacks Coffee,
40 Barrels Sugar,
300 Cane Sugar,
1,000 Pounds best Soda,
25 Boxes Layer Raisins,
60 Kegs Nails,
5 Half Barrels White Fish,
A large lot No. 1 Mackerel.
Cheese, best Carolina Rice, a large lot of Green Tea, large lot of Candles and Candy, Chewing and Smoking Tobacco, Buckets, Pails, Chains and Tubs.
HAMMOND & McLAUGHLIN.
April 27, 1868.

Fresh Arrivals
AT THE ELEPHANT STORE.
Just received a full and complete assortment of
Groceries,
embracing every article in that line, together with an assortment of
THOMASVILLE MADE SHOES
For Men, Boys, Women and Misses. Also, Plow Moulds, superior Iron and a splendid lot of
Wilson's Family Flour,
And the whitest Meal in the City.
I deliver all articles purchased from me free of charge at any place within the corporate limits.
March 30, 1868. B. M. PRESSON.

Catawba English and Classical HIGH SCHOOL,
NEWTON, N. C.
The next Session will commence the 1st Monday in JULY next. No pains are spared in fitting pupils thoroughly for the best Colleges in the country, and in giving them a thorough business education. Tuition per Session of 20 Weeks from \$9 to \$22.50 in currency.
Board in families from \$8 to \$12 per month; in clubs about half these prices.
For Circulars and particulars, address J. C. Clapp, Newton, N. C.
J. C. CLAPP, A. B.
S. M. FINGER, A. B.
June 8, 1868.

Miscellaneous Items.
The trial of Col. Henry M. Ashby, late a Confederate officer, on a charge of treason, was concluded in the Circuit Court of Knox county, Tennessee, on the 17th ult. The indictment was in the name of the State of Tennessee. Judge Hall charged the jury that the act of the Legislature of 1861, repealing certain sections of the law of the State against treason, was a valid act, and the jury brought in a verdict of not guilty. This is one of the several attempts made in East Tennessee to convict Confederates of treason to the State, and all of them have failed.

IMMENSE ICEBERGS.—The ship Adolphine, at New York from Bremen, reports passing on the 5th of June immense fields of ice, some of them being at least 200 feet high. She had to go many miles out of her course to avoid contact with them.
A discarded lover in Wisconsin asked his obdurate sweetheart out to ride with him, and when in a convenient place cut her throat and tumbled her body out by the side of the road, when she had bled to death.

At West Point the art of telegraphing has been introduced as a part of the course, in which the cadets are as regularly drilled as at firing cannon.

A woman in Albany soothed her husband when in a fit of jealousy by pouring boiling water down his back.
Tax-payers, nearly the half of whose substance is wrung from you in the shape of oppressive burdens, what think you of the continuance of the Freedmen's Bureau bill by which twelve millions more will be filched from you next year? This is the work of retrenchment which the Radicals promised you should be begun. A pretty beginning truly!

FIRE AT CHERAW.—We regret to learn that a destructive fire occurred at Cheraw, Friday, 26th ult., causing the destruction of four store houses with nearly all their contents, and the marble yard. The sufferers are Messrs. Kendall & Dockery, W. L. J. Read, — Drake, and one other whose name we have not named, and J. H. Villeneuve, marble yard.—Wadesboro Argus.

The crops are suffering in some sections of the District for the want of rain. In this immediate neighborhood the prospects, so far, are promising.—Lancaster Ledger.
A company of gentlemen in Petersburg have determined to put a line of boats on the Roanoke river, to run between Gaston and Clarksville.

CITY BOOK STORE.
3 doors above T. W. Devey & Co's Bank.
BOOKS! BOOKS!! BOOKS!!!
We are daily receiving additions to our stock of Books of the latest publications, to which we invite the attention of the public.
NOVELS.
We keep the latest and most interesting.
School Books,
Of all kinds, and as cheap as the cheapest.
PHOTOGRAPH ALBUMS,
A new assortment—beautiful and cheap.
Hymn Books and Bibles,
A good assortment—all kinds and prices.

Wholesale buyers and Teachers buying Books, &c., and all persons needing anything in our line, will do well to give us a call before purchasing elsewhere, as we are determined to sell as cheap as the cheapest.
STATIONERY.
We invite special attention to our stock of Paper (Writing, Printing, Drawing and Tissue), Envelopes, Pens, Inks, &c.
CARDS,
Printing and Visiting Cards—all prices.
Sewing Machines.
We are the Agents for the sale of Wilcox & Gibbs' Sewing Machine—the best in use. Call early and examine it.

Music.
Remember our Catalogue of Music; any piece selected will be ordered and sold at Catalogue prices.
JOHNSTON & ELLIOTT.
RAGS WANTED.
1,000,000 pounds of RAGS wanted by
June 29, 1868. JOHNSTON & ELLIOTT.

Great Inducement to Farmers.
We have made arrangements by which we can furnish Loose Lime by the Ton at \$11. Certainly every Farmer will not fail to use it at this low price.
HUTCHISON, BURROUGHS & CO.,
April 20, 1868. Agents.

Blasting Powder.
100 KEGS BLASTING POWDER, for sale by
MILLER & BLACK.
May 25, 1868.

NOTICE.
The partnership heretofore existing between J. Buxbaum, S. Anathan and J. Roessler, known as the firm of "J. BUXBAUM & CO." was dissolved by mutual consent on the 23d inst.—J. Roessler withdrawing from the said firm.
Claims due to and by the late firm at Charlotte will be settled by J. Buxbaum.
J. BUXBAUM,
S. ANATHAN,
J. ROESSLER.
June 29, 1868.

R. H. COWAN & CO.,
General Commission and Shipping Merchants,
AND
Wholesale Grocers.
Agents for M. Davis & Son's (Liberty, Va.) celebrated Virginia Chewing Tobacco.
Agents for Lister Bros' Superphosphate of Lime.
Agents for Vulcan Iron Works, Richmond, Va.
WILMINGTON, N. C.,
No. 32 North Water Street.
R. H. COWAN, JNO. W. CANEBOES, JAS. B. HILL,
June 29, 1868.

CONCORD FEMALE COLLEGE,
At Statesville.
The exercises of this Institution will be resumed on the first Monday of September next. A corps of Teachers will be provided equal to those of the best Colleges in the country. The rates of Board, Tuition, &c., will be given to the public in due time.
E. F. ROCKWELL, President.
June 29, 1868. 1mpd

A NORTH CAROLINA OUTLAW.
Truth Stranger than Fiction.
Many of the older citizens of Mecklenburg county will remember the character mentioned in the following interesting sketch, which we copy from an Iowa paper. Nixon Curry was once confined in the Jail at Charlotte, charged with the murder of Benjamin Wilson. We learn that Curry and a man named Cowan escaped from the Jail in this place sometime previous to 1830. Cowan was recaptured, but Curry escaped. Curry was a native of this county, and we are informed that the sketch does not correctly represent his parentage and marriage, but in other particulars is nearly correct.—ED. CHARLOTTE DEMOCRAT.

In the year 18— there lived in Iredell county, North Carolina, a Presbyterian minister by the name of Curry. He was a man in comfortable circumstances, of most excellent reputation, with a large family of sons and daughters. Among these was a boy by the name of Nixon, noted for his sprightliness, his activity and courage.

Many are the incidents recorded of his early days, wherein he displayed his bravery and won the respect and admiration of his schoolmates. He seemed impulsive, generous, and the possessor of many noble qualities.
From childhood Nixon Curry was in love. His fair one was a girl somewhat younger than himself, attending the same school with him. She returned his affection, and so ardently were they attached to one another, that what is most rare in childhood, no rival was ever suffered to come between them.

Thus they grew up in a delicious dream of the future, and as their years increased, so, apparently, did their passion for each other. At fifteen this was so evident that their parents positively forbade all interviews between them. Her parents were the very F. F.'s of North Carolina, and they had and could very easily secure more brilliant prospects for her.

The natural consequences followed. The lovers met by stealth and renewed their pledges to each other. Lucy promised that whatever should occur she would never wed any one else, and Nixon vowed to stand by her so long as a breath of life remained in his body.
At length, at the age of eighteen, when Lucy's relatives were doing their utmost to force her into the arms of another, she fled with her true and devoted love. They were immediately pursued and overtaken, when the enraged Nixon Curry, brought to bay, turned and shot his rival and one of the others, and renewed his flight.

Here really begins the extraordinary career of Nixon Curry. Under the plea of necessity, he took up the profession of robber, and speedily rendered his name famous by the number and character of his exploits. Without attempting to give any of the minor incidents, it should be stated that the young robber never took a life for the sake of plunder, although he did it again and again to avoid arrest.

The Governor of North Carolina offered five thousand dollars for his apprehension, and many parties, tempted by the offer, engaged in the pursuit. They frequently gained sight of the notorious bandit; more than once the crack of his death-dealing rifle was heard from some adjoining rock; but never were they able to discover his retreat or bring him to bay.

Suddenly all rumors of his daring conduct ceased, and although the search was continued, he was seen no more in North Carolina. It was judged that his quarters were becoming too hot for safety, and he had, therefore, prudently removed while the opportunity remained to him.
During the first settlement of the fertile delta bordering on the St. Francis, now in the State of Arkansas, an emigrant man by the name of Hill, called himself John Hill. He rapidly became the most popular man in the settlement. Although of moderate means, he was sober, industrious, of moderate means, and of extended hospitality, and such continued to be his character in the country which he had adopted for a period extending over a dozen years.

During all this time not a word occurred between him and any of his neighbors; and yet all knew that it was from no lack of courage on the part of Hill, for of all the hunters that pierced the jungles of one in the "Great Swamp," or descended by torchlight into the bowels of the Ozark Mountains, he had the reputation of being the most fearless. He was overwhelmingly elected again and again to the Territorial Legislature, and distinguished himself by his powerful and impassioned eloquence, and speedily became a leader in the ranks of his own party.

He was a member of the Convention which framed the State Constitution, and was elected the ensuing year to represent his county in the Senate of Arkansas.
And now began his second series of misadventures. Hill's most intimate neighbors were the Strongs, four brothers of considerable wealth, a great deal of ambition, and, in the phrase of the country, "famous fighters." A close and cordial intimacy grew up between them and Hill, and the latter, most unfortunately and unguardedly, made George, the elder, a confidant to his previous history. It so happened that George had a most ambitious desire for political distinction, and made a request of Hill that he should resign his seat in the Senate in his favor. He refused, and the brothers conspired for revenge.

Sending to North Carolina, they procured a copy of the reward offered for Nixon Curry, the notorious robber. The four, powerful and determined men were, dared not attempt his capture alone, but secured the assistance of a dozen men and made the attempt to capture Hill in his own house. The latter never forgot his daily peril. He always carried an enormous double-barrelled shot gun, two long rifle-pistols, and a formidable knife. Arkansas has never been noted as a peacefully inclined State, and in those days its population numbered a greater per cent of desperadoes and lawless men than it does now.

The attack of the Strongs proved a dreadful one for themselves. Two of the brothers were shot dead, while six of the others were badly wounded, several of them mortally, when the rest of them were glad to withdraw for the time

This affair caused the most unbounded excitement throughout Arkansas. The thought that the chivalrous and highly popular John Hill could be identical with the notorious robber, Nixon Curry, was staggering to hundreds. Many for a time refused to believe it.
Perhaps the state of public feeling can best be shown by the two following extracts from the Little Rock Gazette. The first appeared when Hill became so popular during the days of the Convention:

"Among the truest friends of the people of all in the present convention, may be named John Hill, of St. Francis. His energy, eloquence and courage fully entitle him to the proud place he holds, and, as we trust, will long retain—that of the leader of the Arkansas Democracy."
The second extract is taken from the same paper for May, 1840:

BLOODY AFFRAY.—A desperate rencounter occurred last week in St. Francis. Two distinguished citizens were killed, and three deaths resulted from an attempt to arrest John Hill, a member of the last Legislature, and formerly of the State Convention, who, as it is alleged, is the notorious robber, Nixon Curry, who committed such atrocities fifteen years ago in the mountains of North Carolina.

A requisition was sent by the Governor of North Carolina demanding the surrender of Nixon Curry. The Governor of Arkansas published an additional reward for the arrest of John Hill; and thus between the two it seemed as if it was all up with the victim.
Hill packed up hastily and set out with his wife and children for Upper Arkansas, where he knew of the existence of a band of desperadoes that he had reason to believe would protect him. He was pursued by over a hundred of the citizens, many of them unarmed, and attending only for the purpose of witnessing the sport and securing a part of the magnificent reward that was offered for the man's apprehension. Hill was overtaken at Conway Court House by these men, and halting his wagon and admonishing his wife and children to keep their places, he marched boldly forth with his death-dealing gun to meet them.

The gallantry of the action, and Hill's incredible bravery, operated in his favor. Many were unwilling to hurt so intrepid a character, others were afraid, a panic was created, and Hill pursued his way unmolested.
Subsequent attempts were made to arrest him, but all resulted tragically or ludicrously to those attempting it. It was known that Hill could never be taken alive, and many began to believe that he could not when dead also.

The constant pursuit and chasing of him changed his nature. He became morose and spiteful to his family. He became a drinker, too, and was speedily transformed into a most bitter and quarrelsome opponent.
If Hill had been famous among the mountains of North Carolina, he now became doubly so. Excepting, perhaps, that prince of duelists, James Brown, there never was a man who inspired more terror. Men who had acquired a wide reputation for their deeds of daring, turned pale when they encountered John Hill. Bullies who sought quarrels on the slightest pretext, accepted all manner of insults from him without a word of remonstrance.

One day in September, 1845, while he was seated at the breakfast table, Hill burst into tears.
"What is the matter, dear," inquired his wife.
"I have had a dreadful dream; it is a warning. I know that I shall die before sunset. Together we have encountered perils and hardships; you abandoned wealth and position for my sake, and you have never spoken an unkind word to me. We have loved from childhood, and that love has never known abatement. It is this that troubles me—not regard for self. It is indelible impressions—not my mind that I shall die a horrible death before sundown, and the thought that will distress you, also distresses me."
These were the exact words of Hill, as testified by his wife and children. His wife told him—
"Then, my dear husband, do not go to court to-day."

(The Circuit Court of Pope county, in which Hill resided, it should be remarked, was then in session.)
"Yes, my wife, I must go," he replied. "When a man's time has come he should not seek to avoid death, but meet it bravely." Then turning to his son, William, a bright boy of thirteen, he told him to go and get the Bible, and upon it he made him swear to kill the man who should kill his father.

"Here comes Moses Howard, father, he will protect you," remarked Mary, the eldest daughter, as she descended the young man approaching.
The youth, who was a fine, powerful looking man, clung out in company with Hill, who shaved and dressed himself with particular neatness, and embraced his wife with the warmest affection, and with tears in his eyes, before leaving.

As soon as the two reached town, Hill began drinking deeply, and showed a more quarrelsome disposition than ever. He insulted everybody that crossed his path, and all the entreaties of the young man failed to pacify him. Finally he declared that he would clear the court-house, and dashed into the court-room with fury depicted in his countenance. Judge, lawyers, jury, spectators, all made a rush for the door. One man who lagged behind was seized by Hill and beaten unmercifully.

Young Howard caught hold of the infuriated man and attempted to restrain him, when, glancing like a tiger, he turned upon the youth and struck him to the earth. Before he could rise Hill sprang on him and commenced pounding him.
"For God's sake, stop, Hill! Don't you know me, your friend—Howard?"
Hill seemed to grow more furious each moment and clutched a pistol determined to take his friend's life. Howard, seeing the crisis had come, seized the Bowie knife that protruded from his vest and buried it in his bosom.

"The dream is fulfilled!" exclaimed Hill, with a smile of singular sweetness that lingered on his naturally handsome face after he was a corpse. He then died without a groan.
Howard looked down into his face, as if unable to realize what he had done. Then he burst into tears.
"God knows I would not have done it if I

could have helped it, but it was either your life or mine!"
He turned away with a gloomy air, and upon the instant disappeared. He was never seen in Arkansas again, but several years after a trader brought the news that he was living at San Antonio, Texas.

Were we writing fiction, we should here lay aside the pen; but as we are giving facts simply, which can be substantiated, duty compels us to add another incident before this tragical tale is ended.
It will be remembered that Hill enjoined upon his son to avenge his death. Faithfully did that son obey the command. When he had reached his sixteenth year he left for Texas. He was gone several months. When he returned, he said to his mother:
"It is done, mother! Poor Howard! I pitied him, but I had to do it!"

Treatment of Clay Land.
The treatment of clay soil, reported in the Country Gentleman, page 357, should be heeded by every one possessing such soil, and we all have more or less clay in our land, which may, in its proportion be thus treated.
Clay is a delicate thing to manage. Plowed too wet, it is hurtful; and this extends to all soils, as all tillable soils possess more or less clay. Plowed wet, it will invariably pack and become harder, and the effect will be retained for years—the frost and the elements being necessary to its amelioration. This, long manure, we are persuaded, will aid; it will aid it by its fermentation and change in the soil. If much is applied, the effect is plainly visible. We have thus treated yellow knolls with decided benefit, more than we ever obtained by any other means.

The breaking up in "lumps" shows that the soil was dry, and the action of the elements and the manure are just what was wanted. We have had frequent cases of the kind with similar success. The great heats and occasional rains of summer have a great effect; so have the frosts of winter. We find plaster also an aid on such soil, used almost in any way. Lime probably would act favorably, as well as salt. But manure—long, strong, unfermented manure—in connection with the elements, has the great ameliorating effect; but break up in lumps when dry, or better, when between the dry and the wet, and do work when wet. This is the great hurt that all land more or less receives, and where clay largely prevails, it is killing the land. We have seen so much of this—we have suffered in our own case—that we cannot too much recommend care in the time of plowing. Better let land lie idle, absolutely idle, than to treat it in this way, for the hurt is not for a year but

weeds, will mellow and enrich the land, and give a chance—an excellent one—for working in course manures.
Some farmers go so far as to say land needs rest—needs to recruit a year—not growing any crops whatever, but letting it feed on the healthy fertility of the atmosphere. The effect of summer following is doubtless a confirmation of their view.

When thus properly treated, clay soil is among our best and most lasting soils—imparting quality to fruit and to vegetables. We like a clay soil; we like to manage it—like to exert our ingenuity upon it, and see the good results. A potatoe is better in clay soil; vegetables have a sweeter taste; so grapes are improved—also healthier, beyond doubt.

The distribution of clay so as to equalize the soil, is a laborious task; but in many cases it will pay. It will always pay in a garden. It will pay, where the clay is ready of access, on alluvial soil, in which humus and sand predominate. In meadow, we are convinced, in this respect, on a large scale. We have known a coat of clay, followed by a dusting of plaster, to have an excellent effect—not all years seemingly alike. Sometimes clay, like plaster, seems inert. It is when there is much rain; so at least we have concluded from our observations. A warm season, with occasional rains, seems to be the thing. Clay then is in that condition when it is most (and only) fit to plow. Draining will keep it in this condition more than any one thing. It is in this which it needs more than any other soil, and it is usually an indispensable requisite.

First of all, with clay lands, drainage should be resorted to. This should be the foundation, the commencement. This, especially in the spring, is the great help to the farmer, favoring the commencement and securing the putting in of a crop in due time. Now, clay land, it is notorious, will not be worked properly in the spring. If the season is wet it cannot be put in, and buck-wheat must be resorted to, as was the case last year, more buck-wheat being sown in this section (Southern Herk Co.) than ever before in one year. The soil would not permit itself to be worked owing to the wetness of the season. Drained land, I noticed, was put in quite early. The same is the case now. Land never was more mellow than the drained lots are to-day, and have been all spring. Others—some of them are not yet sown—May 19th. These retain the water still; some are hard—hard at top—wet and packed beneath, not fit to plow or sow.

Clay is not yet understood—not fully at least. We may understand it chemically, yet practically we find different results from what we expected. Is not this the case to some extent? Our experience, therefore, must be our test mainly, as with lime and salt and other things. Enough, however, is known to establish the fact that our clay lands, properly treated, are our best, take it all in all. They are lasting, they are healthy, they are productive of good quality, they afford good water, good pasture (sweet and nutritious), and act well with manure. They are retentive, yet not retaining water, (if properly drained and commuted), and attractive, drawing strength from the atmosphere, and taking it from the manure spread upon them.

All this a clay soil will do, and much more, only it must be worked properly, else it will do none of these—it will be dead. You must show your eye upon the gun constantly with such soil. One violation will be fatal for years—and that violation is in treating it the wrong time, when it is wet. This it cannot bear; and this we must not too much emphasize.—F. G., in Rural Note Yorker.