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A FOX CHASE.

How Old Tricker's Ruse Failed Him in the Time of Need.

(Essay by D. H. Whitley in the contest for Essayist's Medal at the recent commencement at Tur-lington Institute.)

Did you ever sit in the saddle upon the back of a fiery horse on a cool, clear, bright winter night, lit by the full moon and listen to the wild, triumphant music of the hounds? This is the sweetest of all music to an old fox hunter. There are but few things among the pleasures of a young man that have the power to keep him by the fire when the sound of the hunting horn and the glad answering howl of the pack floats over his sense on a bright winter night.

We boys claimed to have the best pack of hounds in the whole county. Twenty thoroughbred fox hounds of the black-and-tan and speckled breed, the ears of any one of which would lap in front of his nose made the pack. Fifteen of these were five years old and had already run for four seasons, while the other five were only seventeen months old, and until this season had run only hares and a fox skin dragged through the field by some of the boys in order to teach them the scent of a fox.

Mr. Ben. Aycock who lived in the centre of an old fox range, and who for five years had chased this old gray fox without success, invited us to come and try a race with the pack about which we had bragged so much, and he promised that in case we were successful we should be awarded the palm. Our pack was in excellent condition, having already caught three swift runners, so that the hounds might be well hardened when the test came. After dinner on Saturday evening, after a light rain, we saddled our horses and rode down to Mr. Aycock's home. Twenty hounds, eight horses and as many men were there for supper and entertainment. But Mr. Aycock didn't mind that little crowd. He had often fed forty dogs and a dozen men whom he had never seen before and would have been insulted if they had even mentioned their bill. About 9 o'clock, when the moon had risen so that we can see well, we are all in the saddle, and the blowing of the horn and the baying of the pack announces that old Tricker is to have another race for his life. He was known to the hunters as Tricker, because he had played so many tricks on the dogs. Mr. Aycock is with us on his fine black mare. Now and then you can hear the bark of a dog and the yell of a man; in a few minutes the woods begin to ring with the yells of men and the yelps of dogs. All begin to feel the excitement. The hounds have got together and are beginning to warm up to the race. The snorting horses dash away, carrying their riders in different directions so that one may be sure to get the course of the fox. The crying of the hounds and the halloo of the hunters wake the sleeping air and send it in rolling, living vibrations through the woods and hills. "Ranger" is leading and his deep bugle voice sounds now like the wailing of the March wind, and now like the exultant yell of a savage. The young hounds are almost wild and rush on in the mad chase trying to outstrip the leader; but his body and his legs are too long, his muscles are too well trained, and he understands the trail too well, and with his head in the air and his nostrils alert, he keeps several paces ahead of his ambitious followers. Tricker sees that no common pack is after his life, and after trying in vain to throw them off by sharp turns into briars and through the thick undergrowth of pines, he lies the country for a long run. On, on, on, he runs keeping just at a prudent distance in front of his pursuers, whose cruel voices ring a terror to his heart. No what he will he can only gain a few seconds on that wonderful leader. Finally by a dodge into a pine top lying on the ground he gains a

few moments as the hounds rush past.

He had already run six miles since he quit circling and doubling and it is telling on his wind. He realizes his peril, he knows that some trick must be played to give him a breathing spell and at the same time keep those pesky hounds at work. He had gained some time by the pine top ruse, and he hears the well known "lost cry"—a long cry, followed by several short cries in succession. But the leader is circling for his trail, as he knows by his eager snuffing and whining, so he watches his chance and when the hounds have completed over half the circle, the sharp fellow crosses that part already tried by the hounds and makes straight away almost at a right angle to the way he came. He makes good of his time and is a quarter of a mile away before old "Dan" strikes his trail. As his first cry reaches him he comes to a fence on Mr. Yelverton's farm; he jumps upon it, pauses to listen. Yes, they are coming and he must throw them off. He rises, balances himself on the fence and runs along the rails for about fifty or seventy-five yards; then jumping upon a leaning white oak tree and climbing to the top he hides behind a large limb. In ordinary cases you would be safe, but alas! old Tricker, no ordinary hound is leading this pack. The chiding draws nearer and "Ranger," with red, dripping tongue hanging from his mouth, dashes straight ahead over the fence; but the scent no longer fills his nostrils, and he zig-zags in order to strike it, but nothing smells like fox. He circles, but no new scent. He circles again, with the same luck as before. He tries the old track back for a distance, but it does not warm up. He takes it carefully back to the fence. He rears upon his hind feet and smells the top rail. Yes, he came that far. He now tries each side of the fence in both directions but no fox scent on that ground and still he seems to get a faint whiff from somewhere. He now tries the top of the fence again and now lower, then he cries with the exultation of a man. He is too large to walk the fence as easily as the fox, but he works that scent out and traces it to the tree and tries eagerly to climb it. He is too heavy and the tree is too straight. The pack have full confidence in him, and they all make the welkin ring about the tree although they cannot see the fox. We soon come up and fool the pack a short distance from the tree. We then scare the fox out of the tree. Tricker strikes the ground and starts for his home under a big rock on Contentnea Creek. His den is too far away for his straining muscles and short breath, and the wiley old thief, who had led so many long and fruitless chases had at last met his fate. He sees the end has come and as he gives the last despairing cry the strong jaws of the old leader tighten upon his throat and the famous old raider is gone from his haunt forever.

We feel a little tinge of sadness for a moment, but it is only for a moment, and it passes. We then shoulder the old raider, turn and make our way homeward, rejoicing over our success.

St. John's Day at Oxford Orphan Asylum.

St. John's Day, which is usually celebrated at the Oxford Orphan Asylum on June 24th, will be observed this year on Saturday, June 22nd. The railroads of the State have been asked for reduced rates and we hope to have a large number of visitors present. About the usual programme will be observed. The address of welcome will be made by Dr. B. K. Hayes, with a response by Senior Grand Warden W. S. Liddell. Dr. Geo. T. Winston, President of the A. & M. College at Raleigh, will be speaker of the day. Concert by the children.

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GENERAL NEWS.

A Partial List of the Week's Happenings Throughout the Country.

The wheat crops of 400 farmers in Oklahoma were destroyed by Saturday's storm.

The University of Chicago is trying to establish Preparatory schools in Europe.

The Cuban constitutional convention has accepted the Platt Amendment by a vote of 16 to 11.

Sir Walter Besant, a well-known English novelist, died in London Tuesday. He was born in 1836.

The transport Hancock arrived Sunday from the Philippines, bringing 1073 men of the Thirty-first Volunteer Infantry.

Lieutenant General Nelson A. Miles was one of the Principal speakers at the Brown University commencement dinner at Providence, R. I., Wednesday.

Miss Ruth Hanna, daughter of Senator Hanna, has accepted an invitation to christen the cruiser Cleveland now being built at Bath, Me. The cruiser, it is said, will be launched within a short time.

Hon. W. J. Samford, Governor of Alabama, died Tuesday, aged about 56 years. He was inaugurated Governor last December. He will be succeeded by Hon. W. D. Jelks, President of the State Senate.

A party of six persons, three men and three girls, while sailing on the Delaware river, Sunday afternoon, off North Essington, a few miles below Philadelphia, were thrown into the water by the swamping of their skiff during a squall, and all three girls were drowned.

A destructive rain and hail storm visited Blackwell, Oklahoma, Friday night, killing three persons and doing much damage to property. J. H. Crawford, a prominent contractor, was killed by lightning. Eddy, a town 12 miles southwest was blown away. At that place several persons were killed and others injured.

A fly wheel at the powerhouse of the Charleston (S. C.) Consolidated Railway, Gas and Electric Light Company, 16 feet in diameter and weighing 18 tons, broke into fragments Friday night. One piece, weighing about a ton, struck a shanty 350 feet from the powerhouse and killed Lydia Bonneau, a negro woman. Her husband, in the same bed, was untouched.

The American Tobacco Company and the Continental Tobacco Company have consolidated and the new concern is to be known as the Consolidated Tobacco Company. The new company will also control the American Cigar Company, 70 per cent. of the capital of that corporation being held by the American and Continental Companies. Jas. B. Duke is the president of the new concern.

The worst storm in years swept over Oklahoma Territory Friday night. It was particularly severe in Noble and Kay counties. The gale commenced at 10 p. m. and by 1 a. m. was blowing at tornado speed, carrying everything before it. At Billings, Noble county, much damage was done. Seven people were killed and many severely injured. A cloud burst occurred near Hennessy, Kingfisher county, and Kingfisher City suffered severely.

A Remarkable Wedding.

The Independence Belge says that a curious marriage was recently celebrated at Grocholetz, in Poland, where a peasant at the age of 88 led to the altar a maiden of 18 summers. Among the two hundred guests invited to the wedding were 11 sons of the bridegroom by former marriages, the eldest being 60 years old and the youngest 41. There were also 63 grandchildren, 39 great grandchildren, 21 children of the fourth generation and four of the fifth.

WANIS N) THIRD TERM.

President McKinley Makes This Announcement—He Regrets the Suggestion.

Washington, June 11.—President McKinley has announced that he will not accept the candidacy for a third term. In making this announcement it is believed he follows his own instincts, as well as the advice of his wisest friends.

The opinion is expressed by some politicians here that Senator Depew's advocacy of a third term for President McKinley was made with the purpose of testing public sentiment and that the comment it has provoked has established the unpopularity of the suggestion. Friends of the President insist, however, that he never sanctioned the idea.

That Mr. Depew himself expects to be a candidate is believed here. His closely identifying himself with the Administration as an advocate of its policies might give him prominence as a candidate, and in this a motive for bringing himself into public notice in this way is suggested by some who criticize his course.

President McKinley's announcement to-day follows:

I regret that the suggestion of a third term has been made. I doubt whether I am called upon to give it notice. But there are now questions of the gravest importance before the Administration and the country, and their just consideration should not be prejudiced in the public mind by even the suspicion of the thought of a third term. In view therefore of the reiteration of the suggestion of it, I will say now, once for all, expressing a long-settled conviction, that I not only am not and will not be a candidate for a third term, but would not accept a nomination for it if it were tendered me.

My only ambition is to serve through my second term to the acceptance of my countrymen, whose generous confidence I so deeply appreciate, and then, with them, do my duty in the ranks of private citizenship.

WILLIAM MCKINLEY,
Executive Mansion,
Washington, June 10, 1901.

The President's announcement is received here with expressions of approval from all who publicly comment upon it.

To Hang for Burglary.

Asheville, N. C., June 11.—In the Superior Court today Rush Gates and Frank Johnson, white, and Benjamin Foster and Harry Mills, colored, were found guilty of burglary of the first degree. Under North Carolina law the penalty for burglary is death. All four men will be sentenced to be hanged before the term of court ends.

February 8 these men entered the store and postoffice at Emma, two miles from Asheville, and pointing pistols at Samuel Alexander, opened a safe and began to rifle it. Alexander watched for an opportunity and when the burglars' attention was diverted he grabbed a pistol and opened fire, seriously wounding two of the men and receiving almost fatal wounds himself. Postmaster-General Smith wrote Alexander a personal letter commending his bravery.

Wanted It Straightened Out.

Willie—Say, Pa, my Sunday School teacher says if I'm good I'll go to heaven.
Pa—Well?
Willie—Well, you said if I was good I'd go to the circus. Now, I want to know who's lyin', you or her?—Philadelphia Press.

The bilious, tired, nervous man cannot successfully compete with his healthy rival. DeWitt's Little Early Risers the famous pills for constipation will remove the cause of your troubles. Hood Bros., Hare & Son, J. R. Ledbetter.

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STATE NEWS.

Short Items of Interest Culled From our State Exchanges.

Governor Aycock has invited the National Editorial Association to meet in North Carolina next year.

James Voorhees Pomeroy, of North Carolina, got the medal at the Philadelphia Textile School for the highest average.

Mrs. L. L. Polk, owner of the Progressive Farmer, died at her home in Raleigh, Wednesday, June 12th. Her husband, Col. L. L. Polk died just nine years ago.

Concord has voted to issue \$150,000 of bonds—\$25,000 for graded school buildings and the remainder for water works, sewerage and street improvements.

Charlotte aldermen have passed an ordinance requiring bars to close at 9 o'clock p. m. and all screens, blinds, etc., intended to hide from public view those who take a whet, must be removed. The ordinance takes effect January 1st.

Jesse Garmon, a young white man, was killed by a Southern Railway train at Concord Sunday night. He was drinking and started to walk across the track in front of the engine. Garmon lived in Concord and had a wife and children.

The supreme court handed down an opinion in the Coley case from Wake county Friday, affirming the verdict of the lower court awarding Coley \$12,500 damages for injuries received while operating a switch engine belonging to the Southern Railway. Justices Cook and Montgomery dissented from the majority opinion.

There was an explosion in the round house of the Seaboard Air Line shops in Raleigh Saturday. Superintendent Turner thought the explosion was caused by outside party in sympathy with the striking machinists. He asked Gov. Aycock for special police protection, which was refused. Gov. Aycock thinking it would tend to precipitate trouble.

The board of trustees of Trinity College have given Dr. Kilgo a leave of absence for a European trip, his expenses to be paid by the college. He will attend the Ecumenical Conference in London as a delegate from North Carolina, and will then go on an extended trip. Prof. Jerome Dowd and Plato Durham, of the faculty, have also been given leave of absence to attend the universities of the Old World. The former will go to Germany and the latter to France.

The board of trustees of the State Normal and Industrial College for women at Greensboro have ordered the erection of a special building for the school of practice and observation, at a cost not to exceed \$15,000. The building now used for this purpose will be converted into a dormitory and this will give room for about seventy-five more students, bringing the number up to nearly 500. If room were provided the number could easily be brought up to 1,000.

Benson Academy Thirteenth Annual Commencement.

Hudson's war-house was filled to overflowing with spectators eager to witness the closing exercises of Benson Academy, June 7th. The program was an interesting one and well arranged, consisting of music, plays, recitations and declamations, all of which was well rendered.

The most sanguine of Prof. Canaday's friends were as surprised as they were delighted, for knowing the difficulties under which he had labored during the recent smallpox scare, the suspension of his school during that time, they had not expected to be entertained as they were; they knew their teacher was an untiring worker, equal to almost

any occasion, but they had not taken his full measure.

At 8:30 he appeared upon the stage and in a few well-chosen remarks welcomed the largest audience that ever attended a commencement here. He said in part: "It is not my custom to make a speech at my own school closing, and I shall not attempt to do so now, but since the speaker whom I had engaged failed to fill his appointment, I want to offer a few remarks that I imagine he would have made."

It means much when all the schools and colleges in North Carolina are so well attended; it means more when so many new institutions are going up; but it means most when the public schools are so much better and so rapidly improving. Higher training in the colleges and technical education are necessary and useful, but the masses of the people can be enlightened only by the public schools. All but fifteen states of the Union have compulsory attendance. In South Carolina, Alabama and Tennessee 18 per cent. of the white population cannot read and write; still worse in North Carolina, 23 per cent. cannot read and write! How will it be in 1908?

"But a little nearer home; the good people of Selma by an overwhelming majority voted to establish graded schools. They voluntarily shouldered the burden of higher taxes, 20 cents on \$100 and 60 cents on the poll. They love their children and their neighbors' children and thus demonstrate their interest in the rising generation and their country's welfare.

"Not near home, now, but at home—at Benson. Our people are enterprising. Your thrift and industry are evidenced by new buildings going up on every street. The business spirit is showing itself in new stores, bank and warehouses, and I am proud to tell you and congratulate you upon the fact that the educational spirit is manifesting itself in the increased attendance upon your public and private schools. When you are called upon to assist the educational institutions of your neighboring counties, no people respond more cheerfully and liberally than you do; the same liberality extended to your own school will insure to your children the benefits of an academic education.

"Let the good work go forward. Speed the day when every citizen who undertakes to enumerate the institutions of which our town and community are especially proud, shall head his list with our high school."

R. E. FORREK.

An Impetus to Education.

The executive committee of the State Literary and Historical Association met in the Supreme Court room yesterday afternoon. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Gen. Toon, met with the committee. The matter of selecting a list of books for the rural school libraries was discussed, and it was decided to hold on June 22nd, at 10 o'clock, a meeting of the executive committee of the association, Gen. Toon and a number of prominent educators to make out the list of books. The library movement will doubtless be given a decided impetus by this meeting.

It was decided that, under the special act of the legislature, the Friday after Thanksgiving Day be set aside as "North Carolina Day," to be observed in the public schools by appropriate exercises and the study of some particular event in State history. A special committee, consisting of Prof. D. H. Hill, Mr. W. J. Peele and Mr. John Wilber Jenkins, was appointed to arrange a program for the observance of the day.—News and Observer, June 9.

An explosion at Passaic, N. J., yesterday of chemicals at the Royal Match factory caused a fire which destroyed the entire plant. The watchman is missing. There were twelve explosions altogether. The plant was a recent purchase of the trust.