

The Watauga Democrat.

D. B. DOUGHERTY, EDITOR.
R. C. RIVERS, PUBLISHER.

The Georgia legislature has made General Lee's birthday (January 19) a legal holiday.

Three million dollars have been paid by a New York syndicate for several tobacco manufactories in Salem, N. C.

The Blackwell Durham Bull Smoking Tobacco Co. have sold out their plant to an English syndicate for \$3,000,000.

Boyle, the Catholic priest who was convicted in Raleigh last fall for rape on one of his church members, has been granted a new trial by the supreme court.

The negro, Trotter, who President Cleveland appointed recorder of deeds for the District of Columbia, has been required by President Harrison to resign.

Judge John A. Gilmer, of the 5th district, has resigned his judgeship. The governor immediately appointed Thos. B. Womack, Esq., of Chatham county, judge of that district.

C. S. Brice was elected U. S. senator by the democratic legislature of Ohio. Brice and Quay are both senators now, and both are the bosses of their respective parties. Let the fight proceed.

Syndicates are now moving things in a hurry—spending lots of money in North Carolina. W. Duke, Sons & Co., the great tobacco men of Durham, have sold their plant for over six million dollars.

The Curtice big iron mine on the Yadkin, in Caldwell county, not far from Patterson, has been leased to a Pennsylvania company at \$1 a carload, binding themselves to move thirty carloads per day for forty-nine years. They are to build a railroad to the mine. Things are happening all around us.

Rev. J. Wm. Jones, author of "Christ in the Camp," is preparing a "Memorial Volume" of Jefferson Davis. Mr. Jones is a gentleman of decided scholarship, and wields a ready facile pen, and is eminently fitted for the task he has undertaken. He has long been intimate with the family of Mr. Davis.

Mrs. Davis is furnishing much material for the work. We learn that a part of the proceeds of the book, are to go to the family of Mr. Davis.

We predict for this book a ready sale and wide circulation, as it should have, with such an illustrious subject, handled by so gifted an author.

The Outlook for Watauga County.

The high mountains and ice-cold water of Watauga, with its beautiful landscapes valleys and streams, and above all, its extraordinary summer atmosphere, will for all time to come make it the most delightful and healthy summer resort in the South. The fertility of its soil for grain of all kinds and fruits of every variety adapted to this country, its fine grass wits its unsurpassed vegetable yield make it one of the most charming sections to live in. Man and beast can

live easily here. Of course we have disadvantages, but all this can, and will be overcome by railroad facilities which we are bound to have and will have before a great while. We are greatly in need of enterprising capitalists. We need men who will pilot us out of our 100 years groove that we have all slid up and down in so long, we need men who can show us how to utilize the best country in the world and to grow rich on what we throw away and tread over as of no value. Suppose we had first class roads over which men could drive wagons hacks and buggies 40, 50, or 60 miles a day. Suppose on Beech mountain, on Timbered Ridge of the Stone Mountain and on the Rich Mountain, and many other places, and had good boarding houses, and pleasant summer resorts, and fill them every summer with tourists visitors and boarders. Fogies will cry out "nonsense," but energy can and will accomplish this, and much more before all the old fogies die. Suppose some of our citizens who own thousands of acres of rich lands would turn themselves about and stock the lands with thousands of sheep. Old fogies will say "you talk foolishly." Just hold a few years and some Yankee will come along and act the fool in this way.

Suppose some one or two of your neighbors propose for you to put in your money to help build a woolen factory? And you reply, "It would never pay us." Well if you live a few years longer you will see a business of this kind go up, but by some more enterprising fellow than you, he will probably come from the frozen climes of the North and will flourish here as "a green bay tree" and he will indirectly make you help him too. Suppose some enterprising fellow of your county asks your assistance to put up a handle factory, or a broom factory or some manufactory to make articles consumed in the immediate county, and you discourage him and tell him he is a fool and that no such business would pay here. Bide your time in patience, for in a few years some foreign corporation will occupy the country and its opportunities and you will be playing second fiddle to the foreigners as you have done all your life.

The South is fast asleep as usual prosperity is looming up all around, but who are the prosperous ones? It is those who have snuffed the fine opportunities a far off. The old Southern and his sons, and sons in law, and all his nephews are still sleeping and dreaming of better times.

In a very few years half of Watauga will be owned by foreigners. Then the opportunities will be here, but who has wind in his nostrils then? Cooperate with capital but do not give everything up to capitalist and retire to the cellar.

F. J. McMillion and Son of the Mouth of Wilson Va., are Manufacturers of all kinds of woolen goods, which they will send to your door in exchange for wool. They also keep a fulling of their goods on hand at Southerlands, Ashe Co., N. C. They pay the highest price for wool. Sept. 11th. 1889.

A SUMMER SUN-SET.

For the DEMOCRAT:

Our sun-sets are always grand and beautiful among the mountains. Beautiful, when the "king of day" sinks behind the mountains, hiding himself in a cloudless sky kissing with silvery lips the hill tops.

Grand, when he sinks among the heavily laden clouds, and the thunder's low voice is heard in the distance.

But one sun-set, I recall from memory's debris that eclipsed any-thing I have ever beheld, perhaps the grandest panorama, I have ever witnessed.

Grand privilege it was, to behold this grand painting so delicately tinted and executed by Nature's pencil and hung suspended across the western skies for the equal pleasure of all, to drink the beauty of this wonderful scene, that has never been equaled by the hand of Art.

The evening was glorious, the air was redolant with the perfume of flowers, and the mountain forests were made vocal, by myriad songsters. The air was deliciously cool, and bracing, characteristic of Watauga. In the west were piled huge banks of broken snowy clouds. The sun sank among them in his imperial majesty, and regal splendor, and touched them with his magic brush and instantly the western heavens were ablaze with inexpressible beauty. One huge bowlder which a few moments before was an immaculate embankment of purity was lit up by Sol's imperial rays, and lo! a castellated building with domes, turrets and towers, stood in silhouette against the western sky. Cherubs were flitting here and there. Some with folded wings, looked down as if prying into the mysteries of our fallen world, others with outspread wings seemed to be carrying heavenward news of momentous import. Lost for the time in the unrivalled scene, it was easy to find any-thing which the fancy might suggest. Flower gardens, water falls, rivulets, were hastily painted and exhibited to the admiring gaze. I watched enraptured and feeling as if in fairy land. Suddenly the beautiful picture faded and disappeared, like every lovely earthly object, too soon, but it left many pleasant thoughts and feelings in the hearts of those who witnessed it. Why roam among the mountains of Italy, or search through the picture galleries of the world to satisfy that fancy taste of yours? When Nature here paints unrivalled scenes, on hills valleys and mountains.—X

THE ROAD LAW.

For the DEMOCRAT:

We can not express our esteem for the Editor of the Watauga DEMOCRAT. He is a good, progressive, and in most of instances, a wise man. To oppose a new method or plan is by some called "fogism." Esq. Dougherty is a man too liberal and discreet himself to do this, for he asks us for our opinions, and this emboldens us to express our views.

First: To classify and grade the roads of Watauga county according to the proposi-

tion in the DEMOCRAT, of Dec. the 19th, would be a thing impracticable and almost impossible in some sections. If the grade could be obtained, to make said roads over the county, in any short time, would involve enough money to almost bankrupt it. For instance, take the Fork Ridge road, the Lost Ridge road, and George's Gap road. You who are acquainted with them know that after being surveyed on as good a grade as is practicable will average 1 foot in 6 or eight. And so it is all over the county.

Now the townships are to be surveyed to average them in size and tax. We know some townships are more wealthy than others, but to reduce the size would be to shorten the roads in the same. So you see what is gained on the one hand is lost on the other. The good roads are always found in the wealthy townships, along the fertile valleys, where the rich live. The poor are driven back to the sterile hills where the roads are made through bluffs and on rough hillsides. So you see for each township to keep up its own roads would be very unequal—at least there would be nothing gained in favor of the poor man, over the old system.

On a casual reading of the proposed road law I was not unfavorably impressed, but on a more careful reading it occurs to me that a heavy expense will be attached to it. For instance, the road supervisor is to help lay off roads in his township in mile sections—to sell roads—to be treasurer, to give bond. He can not do this without a good deal of pay. Then the section master comes in. He, of course, will have to get up his hands to work out the roads and receipt to tax-payers for work done, which will amount to more trouble than the present overseer. I can not see but one thing in this that savors of good. That is taxing the property-holders to screen the poor. If the roads of the county were reduced to the grade indicated in the article, we would all have to do more work on roads than ever in our lives before. And again, every man is benefitted by good roads to the amount of his labor, for the poor man buys goods, grain, he goes to mill, hauls his wood, goes to market, etc., on roads. If he has no team he can hire 1000 pounds hauled cheaper on a good road than across a mountain on a slide, and he does not often grumble to make equal time with the man of property; for well does he know that the burthen of every other thing rests upon the property-holder. And, again, other states have tried a law similar to this, and to my knowledge it has proved unsatisfactory—a machine too complicated will soon wear out.

The present law, with a few changes, is the best we can get, in my opinion, with due deference to the editor of the DEMOCRAT. May your excellent paper long live, for its influence is felt, and will be, in the county.

J. J. T. REESE.
Sweetwater, N. C., Jan. 10.

Physicians prescribe Dr. J. H. McLean's tar wine jing balm, in it they find no trace of opium or morphia, while its efficacy in curing all throat or lung diseases is wonderful.

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Respectfully,
Jones & Vance.
July 18 '89 1y.