

A Trip to Tennessee.

We made a flying trip to Johnson county, Tenn., last week and visited the old place where we were brought up and saw our kindred and friends and enjoyed our few days stay among them. The valley of Roans Creek with its fine wheat fields which were then taking on a golden hue, were very interesting to look upon. Corn and oat crops were rather small for the time of year but fine crops will be made no doubt. Away from this magnificent valley when you strike the hills and mountains, you discover a great contrast in soil and production, it is also very distinguishable in the thrift of the people, a different condition exists in Watauga. Here you see the finest crops of corn and wheat on the steep hills and mountain sides; here the grass grows to perfection; stock looks more healthy and in finer condition, and the citizens are more thrifty. While the face of the country is more uneven, yet all of it is productive and vegetation is of a vigorous growth. However we doubt whether there is a much superior section than the valley of Roans Creek for men to live in. The Beaver Dam section of Watauga has improved in many ways, most of the people show thrift and many of them live in nice dwellings and when you see a good farm house nestled on the hills you will find a commodious barn also. The public roads of Beaver Dams are not neglected. It is a real pleasure to pass over the smooth roads and see the pretty farms and everything growing in luxury. We were pleasantly entertained over night at J. J. T. Dece's the prince of good fellows. A magnificent home a good wife and bright children ought to make any man happy in this life. Cove Creek always has good crops and lots to eat and if a hungry Editor could not enjoy himself at J. H. Mast's Dock Adams' or in fact almost any where on the Creek, he would be hard to suit. Genuine friendship accompanied with bounteous supplies for man and beast is what you get on Cove Creek.

The Morganton Herald gives encouraging news about an electric railroad being built from Morganton to Blowing Rock at an early day. It is stated that a good part of the stock is subscribed already. We certainly think that this would be a paying investment and will feel very greatly interested in its completion as Watauga county would be very great benefited as well as other sections. We hope that this important enterprise will be successful.

Reports of great and destructive hail storms, winds and rains, have come to us from all over the United States in the last few days. More people have been killed by lightning than usual. Much damage to property is reported. Earthquakes in Mexico and other parts of the world is reported, some towns have been demolished and many lives lost. It is distressing to read of so much devastation to property and human life.

Should we vote down the extra school tax? This is the question that confronts every voter just now, and it is reasonable to say that there are arguments on either side. It is certain to raise every one's tax, and of course the man that has no children will not get any direct benefit therefrom. We might argue again that the children would not get the benefit of the schools because they are not compelled to attend, and that the poor children would not receive the intended benefit and that the well-to-do can and ought to pay their own way. So there are two arguments against it: 1st. It will not reach those for whom it is intended; 2nd. It is not right to tax all to aid those that are capable of helping themselves. But some one might answer these arguments by saying: 1st. That the last free school system did not reach all "for whom" it was intended, and that no system could reach them except the compulsory system which we are not ready for. 2nd. That no tax has ever benefited all the people to exactly the same extent. The entire State is taxed for the University. Comparatively few get the benefit of it. The whole State might be taxed to build a light house on the ocean, which would not benefit the mountain countries in the least, or, the whole State might be taxed to make a geological survey of the mountains, not aiding in the least the countries on the ocean. But upon the whole, all men receive about the same benefit from taxes, some more one way, others more another. And then it might be added that it would make our schools longer and better, which would encourage many to attend that heretofore have not, that the tax would be very small especially on the poor, that no one would object to the prolongation of the free schools, were it not for the extra tax, that it is the only opportunity we ever had to raise a dollar for ourselves and have the State give us another. Now, Mr. Editor, I have tried to present both sides of the question, and while I have my own personal views, let the voters decide the issue. I trust that every one will investigate for himself, and vote honestly for the best interest of his township.

A YOUNG TEACHER.
Boone, N. C.

Poor Blood
is starved blood. It shows itself in pale cheeks, white lips, weak digestion, no appetite, exhaustion, lack of nerve force, soft muscles, and, chief of all, weak muscles. Your doctor calls it Anaemia. He will tell you that the weakening weather of summer often brings it on.

Scott's Emulsion
of Cod-liver Oil with Hypophosphites, will make poor blood rich. It is a food for over-taxed and weak digestion, so prepared that it can easily be taken in summer when Cod-liver Oil or even ordinary foods might repel.

SCOTT & BOWNE, New York
For sale at 50c. and \$1.00 by all druggists.

Subscribe for this paper.

Our great country is the pride of the world especially the Republicans of it. In all the conventions, both State and National the G. O. P. paraded before men and Kings that they were in great sympathy with the oppressed Cubans, and denounced Cleveland and his policy toward Cuba, and that if McKinley was elected the Cuban matter would be settled at once—immediately if not sooner. The great high sounding speeches of the Republican Senators were heard throughout the land, but their voice is now as silent as the grave. McKinley has done nothing but send the man Calhoun over there to report. Weyler still murders women and children.

A Valuable Prescription.
Editor Morrison of Worthington, Ind., "Sun," writes: "You have a valuable prescription in Electric Bitters, and I can cheerfully recommend it for consumption and sick headache, and as a general system tonic it has no equal." Mrs. Annie Stelle, 2625 Cottage Grove Ave., Chicago, was all run down, could not eat nor digest food, had a backache which never left her and felt tired and weary, but six bottles of Electric Bitters restored her health and renewed her strength. Prices 50c. and \$1.00. Get a bottle at Holsclaw's and Blackburn's.

Doctors are disagreeing. R. G. Dun sees improvements in the business outlook of the country but Bradstreet don't see it which will we believe? Both of these doctors are experts in the business of the country. We don't know anything of the politics of either but suppose they view matters from a political standpoint according to each others ideas. We trust Dun is the best guesser, and that he will see, with all the rest of us, his predictions, realized. We certainly want to see and realize that times are getting better. When we do see and realize this fact we will cheerfully announce it.

Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption.
This is the best medicine in the world for all forms of coughs and colds and for consumption. Every bottle is guaranteed. It will cure and not disappoint. It has no equal for whooping cough, asthma, hay fever, pneumonia, bronchitis, La grippe, cold in the head and for consumption. It is safe for all ages, pleasant to take, and, above all, a sure cure. It is always well to take Dr. King's New Life Pills in connection with Dr. King's New Discovery, as they regulate and tone the stomach and bowels. We guarantee perfect satisfaction or return money. Free trial bottles at Holsclaw's and Blackburn's.

According to our reports the reunion of the old confederate soldiers at Nashville was the grandest display that has ever been had at any previous meeting 10,000 of these old war veterans march together. All these old confederates are now up in 50 years and over, they will soon pass away, as many have done. Nearly all the generals and other officers are now dead, so also with regard to the federal soldiers, all will soon be gone and the great struggle of these heroes on both sides will be forgotten after the men who engaged in it pass away.

The high tariff known as the Dingley bill will pass the Senate by the 15th of July so say the known ones, then look for the wave of prosperity to come upon us like an avalanche. Blessing will flow so freely that we will soon forget the panic. Remember that after the 15th of July this wave is to come and not before.

Our fusion State printer is a reformer from Reformersville. He has already run up the expenses to \$12,000 above the Democratic printer. The item of \$12,000 in excess of former cost of the State, is considerable. No wonder that the State Treasurer, old Daddy Worth, says he can't pay for the want of funds all these extras, and will fall short the little sum of \$200,000. Our last Legislature was expecting the McKinley boom to start in sooner than it has.

After serious illness Hood's Sarsaparilla has wonderful building up power. It purifies the blood and restores perfect health.

Ohio politics are in much of a muddle just now. Hanna and Foraker are at daggers points. Hanna has the boodle and carried the convention Hannaward. Gov. Bushnell was nominated for re-election. Hanna wants a Republican Legislature elected so he can buy his seat in the United States Senate and he will do it if money counts, and it does count now adays very much.

CASTORIA.
The finest family medicine in the world.
Signature of *Chas. H. Fletcher* is on every wrapper.

The Iowa populists, silver Republicans, and Democrats all have come together on the money issue and have put out a ticket as one party. The silver is the only issue. However they call it a Democratic ticket. Of course they will elect their men this fall and will win a Bryan victory. Bryan was declared to be their man for the presidency in 1900.

Notice! I wish to sell one of my farms on New River.
A. J. CRITCHER.

NOTICE! NOTICE!
Something new for Watauga county. We have decided to open up a Baltimore Rack at store at Vilas, N. C., in the way of Stoves, Tin-ware, Hard-ware, Sewing Machines and Groceries. We are now receiving a large line of Stoves, Tin-ware, and Sewing Machines, all of which we will sell cheap for cash or barter, or exchange the same for good fat sheep, cattle, horses or mules. Very Truly,
F. P. Long & Son.

AN OPEN LETTER TO OUR FRIENDS

AND FORMER CUSTOMERS
AND TRADE GENERALLY.
We are pleased to announce to you that we have opened up a nice line of GENERAL MERCHANDISE at our old stand, and here are a few of our cash prices: Standard Sheetng 6 oz. 6 cts
" Plaids, 6 "
White Extra C. Sugar 18 lb 1.00
Granulated " 16 " 1.00
Arbuckles roasted Coffee 6 " 1.00
Good green " 7 " 1.00
We have a good stock of shoes of all kinds also Leather.

HARDWARE
such as:
NAILS,
HORSE AND MULE SHOES,
AXES,
MATTOCKS,
HOES,
HARROW TEETE
IRON STANDS
& LASTS.

We will offer no inducements to anyone to buy on a credit. We buy and sell strictly on a pay down system and will not be undersold by any one. Call and see us.
Very Resp't.
W. F. Sheerwood & Co.,
Amantha, N. C.

THE VIRGINIA FIRE AND MARINE INSURANCE CO.

ORGANIZED.....1832.
Paid in losses in last ten years, over.....\$2,000,000.00.
Paid in losses last year over.....\$250,000.00.

Rates on unexposed frame farm houses, with shingle roof, 2 1/2 cents per day, or 75 cents per month, or \$9.00 per year, for \$1,000 insurance payable in easy installments.

The names of a few of our most prominent Watauga County policy holders:

Dr. L. C. Reeves, J. C. Horton, B. J. Council, Jr.
R. F. Vannoy, J. C. Coffey Bros, Mrs. R. L. Council.
Wm. Holsclaw, J. P. Council, Council, Taylor & Co.
J. B. Johnson, J. P. Council, W. B. Norris,
D. F. Baird, J. F. Baird, J. C. Shull,
S. N. Bingham, W. B. Council, L. W. Farthing.
Capt. E. F. Lovill and J. A. Edmisten.
LEE F. MILLER, Agt. J. F. HARDIN, Local Agt
ELIZABETHTON, TENN. BOONE, N. C.

OH! LADIES!
Make your breath Sweet by using
KEY & CO'S.
WHIRGIN DIP
SCOTCH SNUFF.
ASK YOUR DEALER FOR IT, PLEASE.

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TRADE MARKS, DESIGNS, COPYRIGHTS &c.
Anyone sending a sketch and description may quickly ascertain, free, whether an invention is probably patentable. Communications strictly confidential. Oldest agency for securing patents in America. We have a Washington office. Patents taken through Munn & Co. receive special notice in the
SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN,
beautifully illustrated, largest circulation of any scientific journal, weekly, terms \$3.00 a year; \$5.00 six months. Specimen copies and HAND BOOK ON PATENTS sent free. Address
MUNN & CO.,
361 Broadway, New York.

New Year's Greeting to my Friends!

The old year of 1896 was full of hope and promise but the poor old creature could not live long enough to see those hopes realized, so she turned over the job to this bran new youngster, 1897, with the hope that he would push things lively, and faith! he is doing that very thing! Why the little rascal is shoving new goods into my door faster than I can put them on the shelves, and then he fore I can look around the little fellow is gone and I can hear him out in the middle of the street singing out "Oh Yes! J. B. Clarke has now and always keeps

GROCERIES AND NOTIONS.

Such as
COFFEE,
SUGAR,
CHEESE,
CRACKERS,
CAKES,
CANNED-BEEF,
POTTED-HAM,
SALMONS,
SARDINES,
BUTTERNUTS,
English walnuts, soft shelled almonds, peanuts, raisins, figs, canned fruits, shoedressing, inks, plain and fancy card dies, fancy and laundry SOAPS,
TOBACCO,
SNUFF,
CIGARS,
CIGARETTES,
MATCHES,
Horse and Cattle Powders, and many other articles too tedious to mention.

N. B.—My goods are marked at cash prices, and will not, under any circumstances, be sold on time.
VERY RESPECTFULLY,
J. B. CLARKE.
Jan 14th 1897.

WANTED—AN IDEA Who can think thing to patent? Protect your ideas; they may bring you wealth. Write JOHN WEDDELL BURN & CO., Patent Attorneys, Washington, D. C., for their \$1,000 prize offer.

A Walking Advertisement.

"In February, 1862, I had six hemorrhages from the lungs, and for some months was under the care of two doctors, and finally went to Denver, but returned without any benefit to my health. I then read of your treatment, and sent for some from which I felt great relief, and have continued using it steadily up to the present time, with good results."
"I am certain your treatment has been the means of restoring my health. I have added fifteen pounds to my weight and am still gaining, have a good appetite and sleep well. In fact, I can conscientiously say I am a walking advertisement for your treatment."
J. Fallon, 154 South Grand St. Chicago, Ill.

If you will know more of this treatment, and read the testimony of many others, who have been cured by the Compound Oxygen Treatment, not only of consumption, but of various other diseases, send for book of two hundred pages, sent free. Or call and see us, we treat patients at the Office as well as at home.

Drs. Starkey & Palen,
1529 Arch St. Philadelphia, Pa.
Please mention this paper.

Your Face



Will be wreathed with a most engaging smile, after you invest in a
White Sewing Machine

EQUIPPED WITH ITS NEW
PINCH TENSION, TENSION INDICATOR AND AUTOMATIC TENSION RELEASER,
The most complete and useful device ever added to any sewing machine.

The **WHITE** is
Durably and Handsomely Built,
Of Fine Finish and Perfect Adjustment,
Sews ALL Sewable Articles,
And will serve and please you up to the full limit of your expectations.
ACTIVE DEALERS WANTED in unoccupied territory. Liberal terms. Address,
WHITE SEWING MACHINE CO.,
CLEVELAND, O.