

# Watauga Democrat.

VOL. XI.

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, N. C. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY, 23, 1899.

NO. 8.

The Progressive Farmer says the new Democratic Board of Directors met in Raleigh Friday and demanded that Capt. Day, the new Superintendent, deliver them the convicts and property of the State's prison. Capt. Day refused, stating that he considered the act unconstitutional, but was prepared to fight the matter out in the courts.

Mr. Alfred Stough, aged 90 and Mr. Robt. Knox, aged 80, both well known citizens of Davidson College, died Tuesday morning of last week almost simultaneously.—Ex.

## A Letter from Havana, Cuba. Editor Democrat.

After two and one half months encampment near Savannah, Ga., we received orders Sunday Jan. 1st, to commence loading on the transport Mobile early next morning. By 2 o'clock Monday afternoon all our camp equipage was loaded and shortly afterwards our regiment was marched aboard where we remained and awaited the loading of the 4th Illinois. A few minutes past 11 o'clock Tuesday morning everything was in readiness, the gang planks were in, the whistle sounded and in a few minutes we were gliding down the Savannah river bound for Havana, Cuba. Thousands of people had gathered on the wharf and along the river to bid us good-bye and wish us a safe journey. The deck of the vessel was covered with the boys in blue and our band played, "There will be a hot time in the old town." The scene was one to be long remembered.

We passed Tybe at the mouth of the Savannah river about 1 o'clock. Here is an old fort, also a new one equipped with modern disappearing guns. About the time we reach the ocean the dinner bell rang and the mess call sounded and every one ate a good square meal. But in a few hours most all of us were casting our bread, soup and beans upon the waters. I think most of us remained sick all the way over. After leaving Tybe we soon passed out of sight of land and did not see it again until about noon the next day.

Wednesday morning we were up bright and early to see the sun rise, but to our disappointment it was quite cloudy. However, we saw hundreds of sea porpoise this morning that swam near the boat and followed us for miles. They are a dark brown with light spots and look to be four or five feet in length. They would swim along on top of the water with almost the entire body showing. About noon we came in sight of land along the Florida coast and followed it all day from 2 to 6 miles distant. We passed Palm Bend at 2 p. m. This looked to be a very pretty place. It has some large modern hotels and is a great united resort. Wednesday night about midnight we passed the last lighthouse off the Florida coast and entered the Gulf streams. Here we noticed quite a change in the temperature, it being so warm that we had to throw open our windows and doors and many went out on the deck to cool off.

The sea was very rough all the way after we entered the Gulf stream. Thursday morning we saw many flying fish. They would get on the crest of a wave and sail from 20 to 80 yards before striking the water again. About 10 o'clock we could see the outline of the Cuban coast. Soon the hills came into plain view and everybody came on deck. We followed the coast almost due West for some time be-

fore we could see Morro Castle at the entrance of the harbor. As we entered the harbor our bands played and all on board and hundreds along the shore cheered wildly. As we passed the ruins of the battleship Maine the 4th Illinois band played "taps" and everybody took off his hat. We remained on board the vessel until all our equipage was unloaded, when we marched to our camp about seven miles from Havana Saturday morning.

After a voyage of more than two days and nights where one has seen but little except sky and water, the harbor and the city of Havana, surrounded by high hills, covered with green foliage, is one of the most beautiful sights I ever saw. One must see it to appreciate its grandeur, as words will not do it justice.

All the country surrounding Havana for 10 or 12 miles is one grand panorama of fertile valleys, plateaus and hills with mountains in the interior. The mountains are probably 30 miles distant but they do not look to be that far. The country is well supplied with many swift running streams of water as clear as crystal. The land is very productive, being a dark loam in the valleys and of a red color on the up-lands. It is a limestone country.

I have seen corn, sugar cane, potatoes, tobacco, cabbage, oranges, coconuts, bananas and pine apples, growing in abundance. They plant every day in the year and grow a crop therefrom. In Havana the streets are narrow and dirty. Everywhere you are met with a sickening disagreeable odor. The buzzards are very numerous and very gentle. It is not an uncommon sight to see them sitting on dwellings and business houses down in the city. I understand that the sanitary conditions are much better now than a month ago.

The houses are all made of stone or brick, and the floors are made of tile. The doors and windows are all covered with huge iron bars giving them much the appearance of jails. Every house is a fortress, showing that the people have had no confidence in their government's ability to protect life and property. The vehicles used here are almost all two-wheeled and the ponies are driven tandem, one in front of the other. It is no uncommon thing to see as many as five hitched to a cart in this manner. They use a great many oxen. Instead of putting the yoke on their necks, they have it attached to their horns and foreheads. All of the farming implements are of the most ancient style imaginable. All of the energy of the Spanish seems to have been devoted to preparing for war and to resist an attack. Every hill is surmounted with a fort, every hillside has its rifle pits and every road is guarded by numerous block houses. Had it become necessary for us to take this place by force it would have been accomplished

at the cost of thousands of lives. The natives all claim to be Cubans. In fact I have my first one to meet who will admit that he is a Spaniard. They treat the Americans with great respect. But few of them have any knowledge of our language. The 9th Illinois regiment is camped on a hill about 200 feet above the level of the sea, overlooking and about 2 miles distant from the ocean.

Aside from the measles, of which we have about 40 cases, the health of the regiment is good. The measles is of a very mild type and so far there has been no deaths from their source. The mercury ranges from 65 during the night to 80 and 90 during the day. Should any of you decide to pay us a visit I would advise you to bring your summer clothes along. With best wishes to all.

LEE HENSON.

## Giant Among Locomotives.

A monster mountain climbing locomotive, built to ascend the steep grades of the Lehigh Valley railroad, has just been completed at the Baldwin Locomotive Works, Philadelphia. The engine, which is claimed to be the largest locomotive ever constructed in the United States, is known as a compound consolidation engine, and weighs 115 tons.

It is so long that when it was finished it was discovered that it could not turn the curves of the siding leading from the shops where it was built to the main line of the Reading Railroad, and the workmen were compelled to jack it up several times in order to overcome this unforeseen difficulty. Hundreds of persons watched with great interest this novel work of lifting it over the curves. It has been numbered 681, and is guaranteed to pull a train of 1,000 tons seventeen miles per hour over the steepest grades of the Lehigh Valley. This giant among locomotives will use buckwheat coal for fuel.

Its general dimensions are as follows: The cylinders are eighteen inches in diameter, high pressure, and thirty inches in diameter, low pressure. The boiler is eighty inches in diameter, and contains 511 tubes two inches in diameter. There are four driving wheels on each side, fifty-five inches in diameter. The boiler and firebox are of steel, while the total weight of the engine in pounds is 225,083. This weight, added to that of the tender, amounts to the enormous total of 346,000 pounds. The tender has a tank capacity of 7,000 gallons, and the engine is guaranteed to run for a considerable distance, namely, from Coxton to Fairview, two stations on the Lehigh Valley, without taking water.

When compared with a regulation locomotive, some idea of the monster proportions of this giant locomotive can be obtained. An ordinary shifting engine looks like a child's toy when drawn up alongside.—Ex.

## IN MEMORIAM.

Saturday evening Feb. 5th 1899, the Death Angel again visited our household. This time He bore away the spirit of my sister, Mrs. Emma M. Holsclaw, just in the prime of early womanhood, equipped for the duties of coming life, full of hope, and lit up by dreams of fame and ambition.

Emma M. Holsclaw, daughter of H. H. and S. M. Greene was born Dec. 21st 1874, in Wayne county, W. Va. She was united in marriage in the year 1892, to M. E. Holsclaw. Emma was gifted by nature with bright parts, devotedly affectionate to her husband, parents, sister and little boy; obliging and open hearted and kind to all. She suffered much; bore her suffering with great patience, and died with christian resignation. She was a member of the Seventh Day Adventist church. We, her bereaved family, have the blessed assurance of the Gospel that her present lot is far better than an earthly life could make it. We can meet her in the sweet by and by.

What made it more heart rendering, her husband was absent at the time of her death, and could not get home until three days after her demise.

While we acknowledge the hand of God in this affliction, we feel deeply the absence, forever, of one whose place in our hearts shall forever be vacant. We notice, with grieved hearts, at the fireside there is a vacant place, and at the table there is a vacant chair, and at her home there is an absent wife and mother, while at our home there is an absent daughter and sister, yet we try to be resigned to the will of Him who knoweth and doeth all things well. Emma had been failing in health for some time, but we never realized how very ill she was until a few days before her death. She kept her bed only about nine days, and her death was so sad, not only because of its suddenness, but because Emma was a special favorite with all, and because of her short life—24 years.

Well may the old ask, why are we feeble, withered fruitless branches spared, and they, so young, so fresh, so fruitful taken away? God's ways are not our ways, neither are His thoughts our thoughts.

It was indeed heart rendering to see the heart-broken husband and motherless boy taking the farewell look at the loved and loving wife and mother.

Dear, dear Emma, the purest, the truest, the best of us all, why was she taken from us? I know if she could speak to us she would say something like this, "Precious husband, father, mother and friends there is no need of tears for me. I had all the happiness earth could give, I had a sweet beautiful life with you all, and will soon be translated to the full possession of the bliss of God's redeemed. Rejoice in my joy." We think she was too good

for earth, and just came down for mortal birth; to claim a resurrected right.

However, then, we lament, we ought not to deplore her or wish her back. The recollection of her esteem and sisterly love will always be dear to me. While her gentle, womanly courtesy, dignified conduct, and christian charity must intensely endear her to all who knew her. For comfort, we can only look to the tender Jesus, who said to His own mother in the extremity "of her sufferings, "weep not" when the Sun of Righteousness shall arise, her virtues will shine more resplendently as gems in that crown which the Righteous Judge shall give to her on that day."

ELLA GREENE.

Silverstone, N. C.

## In Memory of Stephen South.

MR. EDITOR:—Please allow me a little space in the columns of the DEMOCRAT to refer to the life and recent death of Stephen South, Esq., one of the most worthy citizens of Watauga county. He was born January 25th 1824, and died October 26th 1898, aged 74 years 9 months and 1 day.

He lived the greater part of, and probably all his life on head of North Fork of New River, and professed religion and joined the Methodist church more than fifty years ago, and his has been a long life of industry, usefulness and exemplary christian service. For several years before his death he was afflicted and at times suffered intensely, but all was endured with patience and resignation, and when death came he met it without fear or dread, and his last words was a parting injunction to his children to be good to each other, and meet him in Heaven.

He leaves a widow and a large family of children, all of whom are grown up and among the best citizens of that section of the county.

The above facts were obtained from one who knows well the story of his life, sickness and death, and I hope you will publish this slight tribute to the life and worth of Stephen South.

J. C. HORTON.

New York Tribune: The French King Louis XV, was one day complaining to his physician of the cares and labors of state. "But I do not see why you should suffer from them, sire," said the physician. "No?" said Louis "how would you avoid them, pray, if you were King?" "I should do nothing." "Who, then, would govern France?" "Sire, the Law!" That physician was the great Quesnay, who was the great-grandfather of M. Quesnay de Beau-repaire. Alas, for the lack of heredity!

When a man does something mean to you that you had thought of doing to him it warps the golden rule.

CASTORIA.  
The Kind You Have Always Bought  
Bears the  
Signature  
of  
J. C. H. H. H.

**IS YOUR HAIR TURNING GRAY?**

What does your mirror say? Does it tell you of some little streaks of gray? Are you pleased? Do your friends of the same age show this loss of power also?

Just remember that gray hair never becomes darker without help, while dark hair rapidly becomes gray when once the change begins.

**Ayer's Hair Vigor**

will bring back to your hair the color of youth. It never fails. It is just as sure as that heat melts snow, or that water quenches fire.

It cleanses the scalp also and prevents the formation of dandruff. It feeds and nourishes the bulbs of the hair making them produce a luxuriant growth. It stops the hair from falling out and gives a fine soft finish to the hair as well.

We have a book on the Hair and Scalp which you may obtain free upon request. If you do not obtain all the benefits you expected from the use of the Vigor, write the Doctor about it. Address, DR. J. C. AYER, Lowell, Mass.

## PROFESSIONAL.

W. B. COUNCILL, JR.  
ATTORNEY AT LAW.  
Boone, N. C.

W. B. COUNCILL, M. D.  
Boone, N. C.  
Resident Physician Office  
on King Street north of Post  
Office.

E. F. LOVILL, J. C. FLETCHER.  
**LOVILL & FLETCHER.**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW,  
BOONE, N. C.

Special attention given  
to the collection of claims.

WILLIAM R. LOVILL.  
ATTORNEY AT LAW.  
Sutherlands, N. C.  
Practices in the State and  
Federal courts.

DR. J. M. HOGSHEAD,  
**Cancer Specialist,**  
BANNER'S ELK, N. C.  
No Knife, No Burning Out.  
Highest references and endorsements of prominent persons successfully treated in Va., Tenn. and N. C. Remember that there is no time too soon to get rid of a cancerous growth—no matter how small. Examination free, letters answered promptly, and satisfaction guaranteed.