### CHARLOTTE DAILY OBSERVER, DECEMBER 2, 1906.

# **GOSSIP OF THE BACKWOOUS**

### BY ALVIN HORTON.

ing

he fence.

gotten moment when he was privi-leged to discard for all time the hate-

he was immune, for Bull would have

A fine hen was captured and her head

aloft to give the death-blow,

that the lad could only cripple

horribly before mamma's ap-

ach convinced him that the worst

incorrigible yelled: "she'll soon be

had been done. He and Bull leaped

Put on the hot water, mammy

hased him till he was compelled to

"He's gone that way," said uncle to

Bull and his companion got their

But if the punishment had littl

Bull, the faithful and tender Jona-

than, was hied off by the executioner

and with a howl that echoed through

14 12 14

headmarks a

heart never healed.

But mamma, hickory in

youth-he

rapscallion whom he loved and

who

were

and

ful feminine attire, he and Bull

Of course the meanest boy on earth traces of tears. The child felt now that he was relegated to the trundle s a mountainneer and lives at Paint Since leaders in juvenile vices bed forever! here in plenty, it is but natural Shortly after the never-to-be-for-

that the worst also should reign hereut. He is now almost ready, is this youthful terror, to glide from the into well established manhood, but his last misdeeds are yet ringing newed their mischief with an industry the ears of the astonished mounas fruitful as that of the immortal Buster and Tige. Their fondness for tain folk. His age, however, is about to prove that the lad has reformed. chicken led to an utter depopulation pite the many predictions of a of the premises. Their political betolent end, he has nearly reached the liefs moreover became extremely anpoint where his neighbors consider it noying to the vicinity. Those afe to hope for a cureer of some usewere antagonistic were chased with fulness at least. Indeed the madcap vastly greater ferocity than bas softened wonderfully, say these chickens, and often the upstart who worthies, and in time may develop tried to pick a quarrel thereby was glad to take to his heels. If the out of a propensity to worry the setmeanest boy on earth struck a com-But if young America is betlement. ginning thus slowly to find favor among those who once swore to keep panion on the head and made it bleed forever unpolluted with the atmosfought until he died for the young ere recking with his horrible conduct, there are still those who remain loved him. Even mamma was oftenundeniably and irrevocably aloof, times unable to inflict the deserved These assert the boy's efforts to live puishment. Once—and it is so well down his ill-repute were not born in remembered by the sincere wish to amount to something Bull decided to feast again on chicken. but in bad intentions which should be apparent to all. Perhaps this talk laid on the block. A dull axe was responsible for the signs of the raised is repsonsible for the signs of sorrow but the hen was so given to flutter on the youthful face; who knows? At any rate, the past of the meanest her boy on earth is recounted so often, even by the few disposed to think well of him, that obviously he can do but little good resolving in the presence of his former self-now a thing to be laughed at, presently the dead. something to cause life long regret.

take refuge in the big barn wherein The youth recalls that he has not for five excessively emotional fock, his parents, uncle and aunt and grandmother. In a wonderfully short uncle was currying his mules. Uncle hid him beneath the trough while he became their despair. Even the infuriated mamma, and the chase while clad in dresses which might was abandoned. have been worn a long time ago by those of opposite sex he was torment gravy and a whipping long remembering to a degree that caused him to view distress thus early, responding to salutary effect upon the meanest boy on earth, there soon fell a blow which his wee efforts to laugh. He fought cats, but loved worthless canines. Very soon he and a large black dog pierced like a knife his whole being named Bull became inseparable com panions, and though the one was so convenienced by his ample costume the sombre woods, he left the young rapscallion whom he loved and who that he couldn't traverse much territory, yet the other was so willing to obev his young master that the devilloved him so devotedly that the young try accomplished was well-nigh in-calculable. Geese and chickens per-ished before the two like game before the pioneers. These were given

mposing funerals-for the couple had ong since learned that secret mischief the more enjoyable-so that the elders were kept wondering as to the self. Mastering these casily, he won kind of vermin that invaded the poul- praise as the coming man. When it praise as the coming man. try yard. The lad was really petted much, even after these depreda-To please him and incidenttions. ally to prevent other meanness the thither with great hope; but in a feminine portion of the few concern-week he bucked with the assertion feminine portion of the few concernabout him fed him and Bull on that he was tired of the schoolmischicken and pies until their appetites tress and everything pertaining school. Mamma marched him off to were incapable of being satisfied by ordinary diet Consequently when one the tune of a hickory, which now and morning he was held up to view a then made him dance. new arrival called sister and sleep- at the creek and watche at the creek and watched him enter. ing on manma's arm, the mischley-ous tot was so overcome with his after he could boast of an occasionemotions that he called Bull and went forth after a certain yellow hen which time in a cabin on a hill-manounced the figured would make detectable that at the end of two months he An hour later his would give to the pupil aunt found them, the lad lying asleep greatest number of

and his tiny checks covered with the there were four teachers in his by Burwell-Dunn Retail Store.

He was allowed at once to WHERE KISSING IS COMPULSORY read Scott and all the rest of them with such assiduity that it was alto-gether unsafe to let him take s book to lighten his task of "minding the

With bow and arrows he fought the battles of his heroes, much to the terror of his people. Tom Brown —the worry of Rugby—persuaded the boy to try a bearding school away off, an institution more famous for work imposed upon the students than for instructions given them. After a week's stay, he ran away before breakfast, and, carrying a load that would have staggered a mule, he climbed mountains and waded streams till he got home, the tiredest, hungriest, as well as the meanest boy Thereupon he was willing on earth. to return to the cabin on the hill.

After several such years had gone by, the lad suddenly found that he faced the one serious problem of life —how one can get along in kingly style within the bounds of poverty. Looking ahead, he saw grim neces-sity with her lips parted to say "Work or starve." Involuntarily he shudderthe vision answered not a single dream Once when he had tried to see himself afar off, he described a man who, rifle in hand, walked over mountain and prairie and lived in the puerile glory which the child him-self had started; later, he saw a youth winning laurels where none had won before—a youth stirring the whole world with genius that knew no master! Now of course he saw only an ordinary laborer chopping for the wealthy or offering for sale balsam gathered in the Black. But suddenly he heard a voice calling from the blue distance, and, anxious to catch the words, he stood under the trees until the stars were peeping down.

and the moon was throwing its glow over a peak far away. Presntly the ad heard what the voice was saving: 'No man with hope and a strong arm need despair; adversity is made only of ambition unattended to." With bare head he stood still under the tree, as if he were upon holy ground.

The night sped on, but he was unfateful as that in which Margrave participated amid the strange conourse and in still stranger lands, the

lad was not concerned about so lit-tle a thing as bed time. When pres-ently he awoke, there was a sweet smell in his nostrils. He was a conqueror; the future contained no terors for him! When he went into the nodest, home, he felt that after all only equipped oneself with the necessary weapons, and that, if a stout means anything, there was yet heart cause for rejoicing even by the mean-

Long before time for the beginning est boy on earth of school life, the lad had been taught the alphabet by his aunt, who inter-THOUGH LOST TO SIGHT TO MEMested him with boxes, the letters on ORY DEAR.

which were almost as large as him-Chomas Moore. Thomas Moore. Sweetheart, goodbye! That flut'ring sall is spread to waft me far from thee; And soon, before the forth'ring gale My ship shall bound upon the sea. Perchance all desiate and forlorn. was finally decided that his five years entitled him to instruction in the cabin beside the creek, he was sent

eyes shall miss thee many a These venr. unforgolten every charm-Hur Though lost to sight to memory dear Swietheart, goobye! one last embrace! on' cruel fate, two souls to sever! et in this heart's most sacred place She stopped

thou alone shall dwell forever; I shall recollection trace, In fancy's mirror, ever near scotle, each tear, that form, that Texts 10

wh last to sight to memory dear. T1.44 1417 erte positively cured with Dr. Sho

## Odd Customs of English Village Grateful Austrian Maldens, London Answers.

The charming country town of Hungerford, in Kerkshire, has an annual kissing day each April, when it celebrates its Hocktide festival. Then certain duly appointed officials hold a court, colect the tithes and claim a kiss from the woman of each house they have to visit during the ceremony. The two fortunate officials thus appointed are known as "tutty men." or tithe men, and usually there is no small competition for the honor among the eligibles of Hungerford. The custom is hundreds of years old,

and neither husband nor wife, as a rule objects to the advent of the tutty men, with the inevitable result. Once every five years the good town of Newcastle on Tyne has

in the habit of holding a festival known as "barge day," on which day the mayor and corporation go down barge to to the river in a fine state claim the rights of the town to certain dues at an appointed spot. Then the procession returns up the river to a well-known stone where the mayor selects any woman he likes from the large crowd there and kisses her before the assembled company and—let it be said softly—before the good mayoress herself. His worship then gives the favored woman a sovereign as a present, while the mayoress, to as a present, while the the mayoress adds that there is no ill feeling, adds a gft of her own, such as a satchel, purse or other appropriate article.

Not only is it the duty of the mayor to do the kissing in this fashion. the appointed sheriff, not willing to be left out in the cold on such a casions, also duly carries out a similar privilege. He chooses another lady, and after saluting her gravely-or otherwise-he also hands to her a useful present. This curious ceremony, which is supposed to take place quinquennially, was last performed, I believe, in the year 1901. But of I believe, in the year 1901. But of course it always rests with the mayor for the time being whether it shall To exhibit their feats of alertness and be performed.

When the pretty Thames town of Maldenhead takes it into its head to have a "beating of the bounds" the steward appointed for that purpose is always accompanied by a large crowd of curious people. These help life is not so great a battle if one has him, or think they do, when he has to climb over houses which stand in his path, or to go through windows under which the bounds pass. Also when the party meets any man by chance during its progress it proceeds gravely to "bump" that individual; but if the person met should be a

hady, she is given the enoice as to whether she will be "bumped" or kissed.

Nor is our own country the only one with such compulsory kissing cer-Halmagen, In Austria, emonies. nas an annual fair on St. Theodore's Day. at which every person present has the right to claim one lady and to kiss her without nor having any right to object. This strange C118a raid which tom is the outcome of was once made on the town by Tur-kish brigands, who carried off all the women as captives. But a band of men traveling in the district chanced to meet the captors and forced them I am a bird; oft startlingly to give up their victims. then kindly escated to their nomes and friends. In grateful rememberance of the day the maidens of Hak-magen annually offer their lips modestly and freely to the strangers who



**TANGLEWOOD** 

When the great drowsy bears lie asleep in their lairs, There is plenty of frolic and fun for the

The end of all these roads may be the same. For some as guide have chosen love, Romance

Some choose the vision of a bright to-When insomnious owls, the most watch-Whiel

When insomnious owns, the ful of fewls. Speak the wisdom that dwells in their sapient nowls. All their hoots and their jeers Bunny certainly and scandal, and cynical

sneers; For of ears, I declare, He does seem to have more than his

This declivity here, where the sheep-

My grandmother is fond of quoting proverbs, and she seldom fails to match any occasion with some old saw. If I am inclined to let a tiny rip in my dress wait for a more convenient time, she remarks sententiously. "A S\*\*\*\*\* I\* T\*\*\* S\*\*\*\* N\*\*\*!" If she gets an impor-tant piece of work well under way, she says comfortably, "W\*\*\* B\*\*\*\* I\* H\*\*\* Dest" All their flock, at a suitable time of the

2—A	PROOF	SHE
	B2C7	
	97 C A	B
A 2	9880 C7A	

Tommy, the office boy, has not fully learned the printers' case, and case, and his

3-PREFIXION.

While the midnight oil I'm burning The slave of the ring are you To answer the bell in the morning. But better than both to rust in aloth. For ho! what a humble station We should occupy, both you and I. If out of a situation. Tom Tangler's Column of Odd and Curious Quizzes WM. WILSON 4-HOMONYMS. 8-REVERSALS/

> My FIRST in falsehood takes delight; False heart and tongue in him unite. Reverse, and find a traffs of steel. Where rolls the locomotive's wheel. TL

The water-lily's FIRST will hold The ripening seed within its fold. Reverse, and Italy presents A franc, or coin worth twenty cents.

7-DELEXTON.

writer's

The slave of the lamp, I get

IIL Into their FIRST the wild beasts creep, When nature calls for rest and sleep. Reverse, an English coin of gold, The old rose-noble, we behold.

And all six words, here let me tell. The very same four letters spell. M. C. S.

9-TANGLER'S PRIZE.

To add sest to the guessing. Tom Tan-gler expects to offer a prize now and then, and this time will present a fine fountain pen-a handsome and useful prize-for the best list of the proverba needed to fill the bianks in No. 6. The solutions are to be forwarded within five days to E. R. Chadbourn, Melrose, Mass. A tis is possible, and if there should be any doubt, the two or more nearest complete lists will be compared. and the winner will be decided by ori-ginality shown, of the neatness, attrac-tiveness or other points of special suor other points of special sutivene

Answers will be given next week; the name of the prize winner, in due time.

THE DREADFUL DARK.

Christmas Cosmopolitan. When the bonfires burn in the twilight akies, And the clouds are all rimmed with

red. The bold little hunter, with round, brave

The bold in the number, with round, brave eyes, Is tucked in his trundle bed. Then the old crow, Night, from his dusky wings, Shakes the shadowy gloom, and-hark! To the stealthy steps of the wolves and things That prowl through the dreadful dark.

at the first appearance of warm weather she warns we, "O\* g\*\*\*\*\* D\*\*\* N\*\* M\*\*\* A S\*\*\*\*\* " When I use money and ma-The wolves that the little boy meant to slay Whon next he should take the trail, The slippery snakes that would slink terials extravagantly, she tells me, Wesses Wesses Messes Wesses, Wesses 1

away. And the bears that would eringe and

quail. Are back of the bureau, and under the

bed, And orguching behind the chair; Thought the counterpane covers his cur ly head.

The hunter can feel them there Nearer and nearer the creatures creep

Through the shadows along the floor. "Ill they vanish at last in a mist of

sleep-And lo! it is day once more. Oh! little boy hunter, to share those fears

And their shuddery joys with you, d give-but who can turn back

years And drink their delights anew?

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am a beast; I harshly bray As patiently I go my way. Prefix a B; if I escape The angler's visage tells dismay. am a limb; with practiced stroke

who were I host from out some ghostly tree. heir nomes Prefix an H; now long and loud remember- The wounded gray wolf utters me.

tant piece of work well under way, she says comfortably, "Wee Brees IF Hee Dess." If she wants to reprove my im-patience under the small but inevitable anroyances of life, she suggests, "Wee Core & Core Mee Be Estars," I got in three girl friends to help me about the furnishing of my rooms, and togeth-er we made a failure. Grandmother serenely remarked. "I could have told you that "The Mees Core Serve Tes Beese." If I lay aside winter clothing at the first appearance of warm weather grace; And this scene,-it's a dasher, Was observed by a fell named M. C. S.

C 62062BB

attempt to set up a little problem in multiplication yielded this proof. Can you correct it? BENNIE.

I shape the marble, fell the eak Prefix an F; across my lands The oxen strain beneath the yoke.

frequent the town during the fair of A strange adventure may unfold. St. Theodore, L. D. REES.

am a date; when I am told give the years of young and old. Prefix a P; my printed words

said by an acknowledgment. DOROTHEA.

generally run through my allowance by the middle of the month, and have to call on the more provident but rather grudging Maria to help me out. Grand-mother reminds me then that "Te Ressent 1 Start Te Lessen". But

once, when I simply had to borrow or not get home from a visit, I retorted, "Newwww.K. N. L."." She wakas me "Newsons Keese No Les." She wakas me promptly for my early engagements with the quotation. "Tess As Tess Wees For No Mes." She thinks me too diffuse in my talk and letters, and tries to make me realize that "Bessen Is Tes See O Wes." To poor mother, always in a fer-ment over her cares and duties, she says. "Weese Keese Mess Tess Wees" If she

5-ANAGRAMS.

Standing where story-tellers' ways di-

She questioned which the path that leads to Fame; And heard this answer: "With a trusty

some sorrow; mance for some the way to Fame

HER HAND TO WIT. CATHERINE T. BUNNELL.

6-PROVERBS.

My grandmother is fond of quoting

vide

guide

has lit;

knows of my being as foolish and un-profitable company she tells me unflat-teringly. "A D'\* 1\* K\*\*\*\* B\* T\*\* C\*\*\*\*\*\* H\* K\*\*\*\* But then teringly. "A D" I hen dear grandma, He Reseat" But then dear grandma, though she does thus seem to put me in means no harm. "He canine company, means no harm. " would not let me be hitten by any ono else, you may be sure. Still I some-times feel like telling her, when she says unnecessary things to me or oth-ers. "Lessa Neer Is Second Messar," for

has sometimes to mend what she has

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