mail it into many States, for letters have come to the writer from at least dozen States in regard to eastern eth Carolina, especially referring to the stories of the trip which the writer made last April through the North Carolina sounds, etc., from Wilmington to Norfolk, Va. A gentleman ton to Norfolk, Va. A gentleman from New England, one from the middle States and one from Virginia say they are going to make the same trip a little later in the year. Then, lot of letters, some containing kindly compliments and other wishing some special information about some par-ticular point. The Observer is evidently closely read, as these lettifes

I have but just come again from the coast, which is so charming a place to visit in the summer and which always has a fascination quite beyond the telling. Old Beaufort. not in North Carolina a more beautiful specatcle than is presented on a summer day by Ann street, a mile-long, with its archway of elm foliage, its driveway like a strip of white ribwhich burned a venerable building. the owner, an aged woman, losing her life therein.

oleander trees in the State and some of them almost approach the dimensions of those at Paim Beach and Mjami in Florida. One in the front yard in the home of Representative Lester Davis I am very sure has 10 -600, blossoms and is worth going miles This one is pink and there are more of the same kind and also some very beautiful white ones

get to be a great thing along our coast as two crops are produced each year; in June and August. The earliest figs are generally the largest. Some figs, like the great blue ones, can be eaten skin and all without burning the lips or the mouth. There are or nine kinds along the coast and there are per pa forty varieties which have not yet been introduced in North Carolina. They are eaten here fresh and preserved, but as yet people have not learned to dry them and put them up for sale, as they do California. Italy and southern France, but this industry will come along later. By the way, there is a queer thing about the fig. Tarre is bird in Italy whose food is the fig. this being the becauce, which is most prized by gourmands there and in other countries. Our North Carolina smocking-birds are very fond of figs and will est great numbers of them unless frightened awy. The cat-bird the mocking-bird's cousin, also likes them very well indeed

Mention has been made of the fact that last year about this time a good deal of the beach in front of the life saving station at Old Fort Macon, in front of Beaufort, gave way and was carried away by the rush of the tide there, which sets in streng, the water being very deep near the land. station has been moved back to a safe distance. Almost the same sort of thing has happened at the life the mouth of the Cape Fear river.
One of the surfmen from that station which danced like a shell on the been moved and told ne it had waves, only three had ever before maving station at Baid Head Island, at distance. been moved about half a mile from the point where it was when some twelve years ago Governor Elias Carr and myself had the pleasure of dining there, as the guests of the captain and crew, with us at that time heing a number of visitors, including the late lamented Thomas K. Bruner, secretary of the Board of Agriculture.

A lot of people have asked me what thought about the selection of Beaufort as a place for the presentation of the silver service to the cruis-North Carolina. It had certain merits, certainly to one who loved adwenture like myrelf, for the getting out to the vessel under ordinary com ditions had sufficient spice in it to give it a definite charm. Of course would have been beller from the point of view of the general publi to have the ceremony at Norfolk The officers of the vessel desired it to be at the latter place and they would have had a broad gangway built for the use of the public in visiting the wessel. Lieutenant Governor Winston certainly desired it to be at Norfolk, and said so very frankly. Rut while only a limited number of people saw the cruiser, a much smaller one waw the gift and a smaller one still witnessed the presentation of the lat-I see bur South Carolina friends are poking fun at Beaufort harbor. Let them walt two or three years and they will sing another tune, for in that time the inland waterway will be complete and the bar at Beaufort will be despened. It has now only taenty-two feet at high water. It can be brought up to thirty and vessels drawing that much can go to the wharf of the Norfolk & Southern Railway. In fact the water from the bar to this wharf and the freight depot is at most places at least thirty feet in depth ? The water in front of Beaufort town is much shallower, not over twelve feet thereabouts, but it is deep up Newport river on the west side of the town and it is through this channel the ships will go into the inland wa-

Beaufort must be recknied with as great proposition in a little while d observant people realize this fact The United States engineer corps dees and so does the Norforl & Southern Railway. The bids for the work upon the inland waterway, so far as its southern end is concerned, is to be opened July 27th. Over half a million dollars is avail-able for this work. The Observer able for this work. The Observer with the map very kindly prepared for me by Capt. Earl I. Brown, U. S. A., and a gludy of this man will show what a remarkable cut-off the canal will be for even the class of vessels now using the sound, while as between the outside trip around Cape Hatteras and that inside by this remarkable its, the saving in distance will approximate 120 miles. In these days people realize what such a saving mesas. It means at least ten hours time, even for fast boats.

Of course Beaufort will be a forti-ed harber and old Fort Macon will e razed and a modern work of consand, and steel will replace it. Navy Department and the War partment recognize the importance the Inland waterway.

he forts are now open to the genmarkably few people are aware of

Raleigh, July 10 .- Surely The Ob- , this fact, for a Wilmington man reserver must have a wide circulation marked to me that he had never seen or else subscribers and buyers must Fort Caswell except from a distance and that few Wilmington people knew anything about it, as they did not think they could visit it. He said that not long ago a German training ship which came into that port passed Fort Caswell, of course, and that on her deck a number of officers and cadets were seen making sketches. They continued to make these along the river. Uncle Sam's navy people do the same sort of thing when they

travel a broad. To go back to the cruiser North Carolina, it may be said that Captain Marshall and her other officers will be very glad to get as many North Carolina sailors on board as possible and they certainly want a North Carolina band. It would appear that there are enough musicians in this State who would like to go around the world to make up a band for this vessel and any who desire to be globeprotters and have a mighty good home all the while, that is to live in a sev-"Spotless Town," is as attractive as en-milion-dollar house affoat, should ever and I stick to the view that there write Capt. William A. Marshall or write Capt. William A. Marshall or Lieutenant Commander Victor Blue, at the Norfolk navy yard, addressing their letters to the U. S. S. North Carolina. As we were looking over the side of the great cruiser last Fribon, bordered on either side by beds of greenest grass. There are certainly no finer elms in North Caro-A few of them at one corner there were a mighty good lot of seawere damaged by a fire last winter faring men along the North Carolina count. They begin when they are boys, little fellows of 5 or 6 years. and their boats are to them the equiv-At Beaufort one can see the largest alents of the dolls their sisters have

Yet these people, who may be spokproper fear of the water. Up-country people will go out on mill ponds and 'rock' the miscrable boats they have in such places, and the first thing one knows there is a capsize and some-body is drowned. People along the coast never take such a chanthis and as a result more people are Some of these days fig culture will drowned up-country than on the sea-It takes a tenderfoot some little time to understand these things. it will be remembered that Captain

Marshall, of the North Carolina, expressed to me last April his admiration for North Carolinians as sailors and as shots. He thinks they can do anything with the guns, great and small, and they certainly make a good record in the navy. The same which can see a squirrel at the top of a high tree and can take ac-curate aim along a rifle barrel is the eye the navy wants and it holds good for a twelve-inch gun just as it does for a 32-callbre rifle.

Casual mention has been made of waterspouts seen last Thursday, while on the very lively trip, from Morehead City to the North Carolina. No amount of acquaintance with waerspouts removes the uncanny feelng they produce. The cloud droops ow over the sea and slowly it drops tapering, to a point say half-way bet exerts its force and up comes the water to meet it. of mist at the base, which looks almost like smoke or like a cloudy pillar by which the large part of the water yclone by shroudeds - Up this hollow tube, which revolves with great rapidily, as it slowly advances, enormore quantities of water are sucked and the roar can be heard a considerable Out of seven people on a waterspout. One tenderfoot remarked that he hoped it would come near, but the writer said he trusted not, at least until we got within range the guns of the North Carolina, so that the latter could fire into the waterspout and cause it to break. These things have wrecked many a vessel or done great damage and about a year ago one of them came In from the sea, across the struck the mursh in front of Rean fort and then ended in a torrent of water which smashed in the roof and one end of a warehouse on the water front and scared a lot of people half The first one I ever saw ame to an end on the beach on the south side of Fort Macon, but it was not half as imposing or symmetrical as the one I observed last week. Chief. Justice Clark was profoundly impressever seen, and said it gave a wonderful example of the power From what we could estimate it must have lifted the water and necessarily hundreds, perhaps thousands of tons of it, some 500 or 600 feet into the air. in Texas three years ago coming cyclone pits and where timbers were

ground several feet. It seems very hard to understand wifeless telegraphy. To me it is one of the most mysterious things in the world .Ordinary electricity is strange enough, whether we taken it in the dynamic or more modern form; the state, the form in which Benjamin Franklin tackled it, or the voltair, which has now almost gone out of Long use of the wires has made them seem somewhat tame to the ordinary observer, but when one suks at the lofty must of a wireless station and sees the seeming tangle wires which form what is technically known as the "Harp," hears the crackling sounds, very like tuese made by a rapid-fire gun, say a gatis or a Coit, as a message is sent. ng is positively fearsome, say what one will, and then too the great flashes of light are by no means can-

ns, but quite the contrary.

I temeraber once being on top of a very high tower and watching the sending of a wireless message and a point nearby and seeing one of those vacuum lights in a long tube, in which there was merury; that remarkable light which fnakes people in a glare look like they had yellow fever, but which enables them to be photographed at night as well as in daylight. The expert of this wire less station told me it would be but a little while before globes and carbons and that sort of thing could by done away with and that street lights would soon be produced in this form between the end of two wires. like a ball of fire. This seems to be

the next step forward. wireless stations these being at Eliz- alligators, which are extremely abeth City, Hatteras, Beaufort, Wilmington and some other points, the ley has for several years manted to only commercial one being that at Hatteras, which is on the Forest -yetem, the others being the Marconi. It is said the Hatters station catches this is probable, awing to its advanced position. Hatteris being the outpost of our coast. However, Hatteras will be minimized so far as dangers are be minimized so far as dangers are concerned by the inland waterway aiready alluded to. for its greatest danger is to the smaller type of vestigation. N. Y. New Life Pills relieve to the least discomfort. Best remfer to coast as near as may be along the store. So, at all drug stores.

one of them said with an air of great pride, this week, that it had been many a long year since on the princi-pal street in Raleigh a Republican sign had appeared. As a matter of fact the name was the device of club, the master-spirit of which is being veterans of a good many cam-Of course the United States Daigns. officials manifest a more or less fatherly interest in the organization and an effort is being made to scatter these clubs and the Republican propaganda all over the State. Republican has been found who is oold enough to say that his party can carry North Carolina this year of who is not willing to admit that the Democrats will win by something like 10.000 or 15,000 majority, most of

Some of the Republican leaders thought as late as ten days ago that Greensboro would be the place for their convention and one of them said that they had come to look upon that place as headquarters, but Charlotte entertained the Democratic State convention so splendidly that it won

I was very sorry to hear of the death of Capt. John Wilkes, the oldest lying graduate of the Naval Academy and for a number of years past the president of the alumni association. I had met him here and at other places and always found him a very entertaining man. His father, Com-modore Wilkes, conducted personally the most important exploring States Navy Department and at this late day the number of volumes printed wil be found to contain very instructive reading. I happen to know ha that Captain Wilkes was held in very ly. high regard by officers of the navy

always treacherous and subject enormous overflows, a barrier-dyke This stood for many years funnel, which haggs, blue-black and trees, yet in a mighty flood not many years ago part of it was cut away and the water poured through one of the richest belts of the vast farm. The There is a smother | State bought this farm for something over \$80,000 and bas pald for it. The large part abandoned, that which is been and will be planted. igher and safer being in cultivation. to be done on a great scale. The character of the soil is a good deal like that of the Texas bottoms, where these trees grow wild and where they the produce extremely profitable crops of housed there, and everything is done all over the city, on a scale equaling that of the vast
Texas and Louisiana farms of the
present day and of the before-the-war
period. Persons who wish to make a
study of farming on a large scale
will find a visit there profitable. This
is the largest convict farm in the
United States, except the one at Sugarband, in Texas which was referred
to by your correspondent three years
aga in The Observer. Texas has five
times as many convicts as North
Carolina, and there the number increases, because counties do not take
them, while the number of State coned by this waterspool, the first he had creases, because counties do not take while the number of State convicts falls off year by year,

ding south Carolina coast by the sickness of his great raven, which was brought from thus illustrated, companion, Secretary Gilbert Pearson, of the State Audubon Society. went to the lake at "Orton" farm, near the mouth of the Cape Fear river, some 20 miles below Wilmington, to make a study of the rookery of the various kinds of herons which have for two centuries flourished there. They found seven different kinds of birds, living in happy family fashion. One of their purposes was to discover some new birds, not heretofore photographed and collected in this State, but of such they found none. This lake at Orton is a very remarkable place. A few people from the North know it; those who have been guests at this wonderful old estate of the late Mr. Murchison, of Wilmington, and New York City. It really is not a lake but a pend, though the dam is only a few feet in length. The water is as black as lnk, of great depth and is North Carolina has a number of full of every sort of life. Some of the abundant, are of great size, Mr. Brimkill some of the largest, but has had no success, those he secured being small speciments, relatively speaking. To kill these he used a mauser. This was a captured gun, presented him by the writer, which he has very adfoldly made into a carbine, and a wonderful weapon it is. Using soft nose builets, the head of an alligator is simply annihilated. Three he killed were struck in the head, and he never saw such wounds produced before.

The sickness of Secretary Pearson prevented the trip to the bird "rookeries," from a point some fifty miles

material one. No other way of meeting the dangers of Hatteras has been devised which will stand the test.

Some of the local Republicans here are immensely proud of the fact that they have, upon the front of the headquarters, in big letters, the words "Young Men's Republican Club," and one of them said with an air of great pride, this week, that it had been many a long year since on the principal street in Raleigh a Republican There used to be very large colonies There used to be very large colonies along the sea-face of the "banks," as fact the name was the device of the lamb of land, often absolutely barren, bettern to Raleigh in the autumn, and known in North Carolina. Two at least he is the man who originated the of these colonies have been re-established. In 1876 I saw at one of these Postmaster Willis Briggs. To tell places so great a number of birds that the truth the club name is a mistance must have been at the very namer, for there are not so many young men in it, a number of them destruction of these began about 1891 destruction of these began about 1891 or 1892, when the New York dealers in feathers made the contracts for the wholesale killing of all plumage

birds.
This went on for several years, until the destruction was thought to be complete, and then the bird vendors sought other fields.

I had the pleasure of spending a week at Asheville and find that up in that section and to the northward and them confining their claims to state- southward of it more attention than ments that they propose to do a great ever has been paid to re-stocking the the Smoky mountains in this State, deal in the Legislature. streams of trous. This has pro- near the Tennessee line, and he has gressed wonderfully in Mr. George been mounted. He was an immense Vanderbilt's great forest reserve, bird and very friendly. No crow could known as "Pisgah Forest," and first be a bigger thief than he and a favordescribed by the writer in Forest and ite trick was to spatch a handkerchief Stream in August, 1899.

preserve, and there are nine streams, go back to his perch and look as in and certainly nothing in the South when he saw other birds moving touches it in point of purity and cold-about or even saw their shadows in ness, and indeed few places in the the court yard where he lived. world have anything which equals it. The water is brought in a large main from a point on the side of Black very fine specimens of domesticated mountain, 18 miles away, that region wild geese and these bring to mind a being as wild and absolutely wild geese and these bring to mind a absolutely primitive as can be imagined. From the stream which furnishes this supply and which has been restocked with expeditions ever sent out by the Unit- trout, many of the latter have been taken and placed in the fountain basin, a very large one, in the public square at Asheville, and there they have grown and flourished exceeding-They are now a foot or more in length. All are salmo fontinalis.

Very few people know that the where there is another notable pre-State itself has the biggest farm in serve, fostered by the Murchisons. Mr. Evans thought he had said good-North Carolina, bigger even than Mr. MacRaes and other wealthy Wilming-Vanderbilt's—many times bigger, in ton people, trout have been again It lies along the Roanoke riv- made a feature of the very beautiful er and there are practically two farms streams. Many fish have been secured In the old days, before the from the United States fish commiswar, there were over a thousand slaves sion this season and it is safe to say large number of their friends on these farms, and with great labor that at no time before have more proceeded to settle down with them they had reared as a breakwater been placed in various streams and against the Roadoke river, which is ponds in North Carolina.

The season has been extremely favorable for partridges so far, and these birds seem to be everywhere, the goose line was passing. Mr. Evans their cheerful notes being heard by the writer every time he goes afield, where from the suburbs of Raleigh outward. The grain crop in the State Roanoke island was exactly the right this year is the largest and best in many a year, and following the wheat and oats great quantities of peas have

It is proposed to plant pecan trees and to the well-shaded towns like not far from the bank of a little plang the lower banks and this ought Raicigh is very charming. In one af-stream, and recently happening to termoon a party of observant boys and pass by he saw a snake, coiled entireproduce extremely profitable crops of rather odd to see such birds as the being pulled well back and hidden there are now over 400 convicts on yellow-hammer, national wood-pecker, among the leaves. Bird-flover that he this Roanske river farm and they red bird and and blue jay right in the is, he shot the snake. He found four have over 1,200 acres of cotton to city, but here they are, perfectly at eggs in the nest and judged that the look after, even more of cern, not to home, and on a principal street two reptile must have laid his plan to get speak of peanuts and all sorts of other kinds of red birds were seen the other one of the birds, in preference to the er crops. There are big warehouses day, while squirrels dashed for storing crops, though the cotton across the roadway to get away from squirrels dashed eggs.

he dashed into the bunch, in a very cavage fashion, tail and claws wide-spread, and they troubled him no more spread, and they troubled him no more with the bits of harmiess snakes, however, for about ten years ago Curator Brimley with the by a binelspake, a pet, and The last whale captured in North One thing has observed here since the result was that he nearly lost his proved a distinct disappointment. Its eigh their home, this being that the life and it seemed for a long time that length had been reported to be over 50 English spacrows are no longer so belfect and the State Museum officials, ligerent. They have been taught a dition of his blood was bad or there through a wrecked town, where nother therefore, wanted the skeleton, but good lesson by such knights of the may have been something in the ing was standing and where all the when Curator Brimley went there he air as the mecking-bird, the king-bird mouth of the snake which caused people alive were in the dugoouts or found the whale was only 35 feet long, or bee martin and the wood-peckers, bloodpoisoning. being much smaller than the 50-footer for none of these triffe with them at ground several feet.

the State has had in the museum for a all. No braver bird files than the financial plantiful insist hat the worst, so that nothing was mocking-bird, of which we have only dinarily plentiful, insist that the worst, Strange to say, the men one kind here, what is known as the or as they say the "meanest" of all who took the chale got very little out "French" mocking-bird not coming far the serpents is the one that they call of it. Two weeks before they killed it up country, but being plentiful near the "swamp lion" or black moccasin. had a very exciting adventure off the coast. By the way, have any Ob- They say that he will dash at people where this kill was made. They struck "French" mocking-birds dancing on whale and the harpoon held. This, the grass? A score of years ago, when September, and deer hunters who are whale was a big fellow and he took in camp near Wilmington, I used to then abroad keep a close watch on them right out to sea. They were in see them do this, and it was very this serpent. His bite is regarded as such close quarters, the sea being very amusing indeed, (Sometimes several fatal unless something is done quickheavy, that they had to cut loose and would be engaged and it looked rather ly. lost him, together with much line. A like an old-fashioned square dance. In lightship, a school of whales was seen wills-widow as well as the ordinary illustrating the nests of birds.

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out of the pocket, if one's back was There are about 225,000 acres in this turned, and hide things very adroitly, which have been well filled with trout. nocent as Mary's little lamb. He had Asheville's water supply is remarkable a great way of crying or croaking

In the public park here are some very good story which mine host Asa Evans, of the Hotel Tranquil, on Roanoke island, tells. This is that he had eight domesticaed wild geese, which lived around his place and had been used several seasons. / At first their wings were trimmed, but later they were not, and so two seasons ago, when the spring migration began, a great flock of wild geese passed overhead, the dignesticated ones gave a Up in the Linville river section honk or two, then suddenly rose and bye to his very useful pets and that he would have to buy and train new ones. but when the cold weather came nor only did his t-usty and well-behaved birds come back, but they brought a and make the island their home, spending the winter in the little lake and bays, here and there, coming out freely on the land, enjoying life generally and honking when anything in is a firm believer in the fact that geese have a language and that his particular birds informed the others that place to stop at.

A friend of mine in a county south of here has told me a very interesting The return of bird life to the woods story. A bird had a nest in a low tree

usually taken to Norfolk and ware- a swift street car. The song-birds are very large specimen of the king snake. I'p at the State Museum there is a on a scale equaling that of the vast A few days ago a cuckoo, or "rain- It is half gentle, but will sometimes

People in the eastern countles of

Passing mention has been made of menths ago, not far from the that section they have the chuck- the fact that the State Museum is now whip-poor-will, but in this part of the special work is done by Mr. Thomas Chrator Brimley was knocked out State we have only the latter bird. Addicks. He will by the end of another his intended trip along the North The museum people have killed the season, perhaps, have at least 50 birds

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myself saw thirty-three kinds of birds, ly around the nest, doubling the size point three miles in the country. It is not the formed part of the nest, the head rather odd to see such birds as the being miled well back and bidden. Presbyterian College for Women

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