

GOSSIP OF STATE CAPITAL

BY COL. FRED A. OLDS.

Raleigh, Aug. 14.—A great many people talk about the superstitions of negroes, but very few have an idea how deeply these are rooted in the minds of white people, too. A State official told me the other day about a case in point. A good many years ago he and another prominent man were invited to a dinner given by a Governor, and as he was standing in the hall the Governor walked up very hastily, evidently quite excited, and told him that fourteen persons had been invited to the dinner, but that only thirteen had come; that it was but a little while before the hour and that in case the fourteenth man failed to show up he was going to ask the gentlemen to quietly leave the house.

HENRY CLAY'S SPEECH.

Hon. John Nichols, of this city, ex-member of Congress and now United States commissioner, was speaking the other day about his first arrival in Raleigh. Henry Clay met him a few days after the arrival of the latter's famous speech from a portfolio of the Capitol, which was then quite a new building and the admiration of the whole country, being by far the handsomest of all in the Capitol and indeed exceeding that at Washington.

Lighting can play some queer pranks. Six miles from here, on the Neuse river at Millburn, is an electric power plant and, although all kinds of lightning arresters have been tried there, during every big storm the plant has to be cut out.

At the Soldiers' Home there are some very interesting characters, but one of them is certainly Dred Thomas, who is from the County of Wake and is perhaps the only man in North Carolina suffering from a second major amputation. Mr. Thomas is about 90 years old, and when he was a youngster went to Florida to aid in taking some slaves there for their owner.

IGNORANCE OF NATURE.

When a city dweller gets into the country people who ought to know better about flowers and plants. A few days ago a lady of this city was taking a tramp in the country in search of flowers and mushrooms.

THE FAMOUS SWINDLER.

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climax was reached when very mysterious sort of attempt was made to actually force Governor Glenn to give this man a pardon. It was perhaps the rudest thing ever attempted, and some day a whole story will be told of Governor Glenn's refusal of courtesy to his hosts, has never himself told the story, though it got into the papers in one way or another, and hence it is hard to say how much is true or how much is false.

Hon. Thomas R. Jernigan, so well known in North Carolina, from which, however, he has been absent some years, having lived in China since 1896, sends me his book, "Shooting in China," admirably illustrated, the pages being faced by the beautiful photograph of himself, his dog and his Chinese ammunition bearers. The book is full of clever things, and shows that Mr. Jernigan is an all-around man, equally at home in the field of sport or in that of law and business.

From what can be learned of the crop situation in this State it may be boldly said, in general way, that up to this date it is the best crop year North Carolina has ever known.

DOCTOR'S SPORTING BOARD.

An ex-engineer was telling a good story a day or so ago about the old doctor who had been removed to race between Raleigh and Cary, and finally this got to be so dangerous that one of the roads issued an order against it, but it happened that on the very day the order was issued the present of the road, no less a person than the late Dr. William J. Hawkins, got in the cab of an engine, as he frequently did.

TELLING STORIES.

Most of us have seen a picture representing a Greek story-teller seated on a bench, while before him, in the happiest of all happy attitudes, are his listeners. It is a picture which has in now and then been used in the hands of the old Greek days, and I find nothing so delightful as to hear a story with more or less of truth in it.

It is astonishing what people will do in order to obtain pensions. Out week with the soldiers' Home one day this week we were talking to a number of the oldest inmates along came Chairman A. E. Stronach, of a board of trustees, and he told a story about a man named Raleigh, dead or alive, who some years ago had applied for a pension. This man was in the employment of Dr. A. W. Frappes here, in a factory which he had run, and he had been wounded, and said no, but when asked if he was wounded, replied yes, and said that was why he wanted a pension.

DEVOTION OF SLAVES.

A friend from the Scotland Neck country was speaking the other day about the devotion of so many of the slaves during the war when families were divided, and the work of the infirm was done for them. He said that directly after the war a girl who had been a slave at one of the great mansions along the Roanoke river went to Washington, D. C., and there a woman of the North who was looking for a servant met her and said she wanted to hire some one to work at her home. Then she turned to the colored girl and asked her what she had in mind.

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NOTES OF A MOUNTAIN TRIP

A VACATION AT WEAVERVILLE.

The Quiet Village in Buncombe, Sprung by Mountains, a Fine Spot for Resting—Pleasant and Picturesque Mountain and Pasture—Craggy Mountain and the Mecca of Many Parties—The Town Full of Freely and Cultured People.

BY U. N. HOFFMAN.

With a vacation of ten days at the disposal of the new editor laid aside his blue pencil early on the morning of August 2d, deserted the "night gang" of his co-laborers "apostates" and became a day idler, with correspondents said "specials" occupying no part of his mental make-up.

There are many other delightful points about the little town that the idler could mention, such as the grove of great oak trees where the Methodists used to have a camp-meeting ground, the old water mill with its mill race, which is now a fine place for fishing, and the many historical events about the town.

Weaver is a strong Methodist stronghold and withal a community of very pious people. The strength of the Methodists in that region is due to the fact that Bishop Ashby, who visited the place in 1840, scattered Gospel seed that brought forth many fold.

Hamburg mountain affords an ideal outing for a few hours, but the point visited for a trip of several days is Craggy mountain, which is a peak nearly 7,000 feet high, eight miles east of Weaverville.

Weaverville is very strikingly a town of girls—ambitious country lasses with sparkling eyes and cheeks that have the color of ruddy apples and with all the sweet graces which Mother Nature bestows upon her rustic daughters.

Southern Railway

B-Following schedule, figures published in Particulars and are not guaranteed. April 15, 1908. 1:25 a. m., No. 27, daily, for Washington and points North. Pullman drawing room sleeper to New York. Day coaches to Washington. 2:30 a. m., No. 23, daily, for Columbia, Savannah and Jacksonville. Pullman drawing room sleeper to New York. Day coaches to Jacksonville.

SEABOARD

These arrivals and departures as well as the time and connection with other companies, are given only as information and are not guaranteed. Direct line to the principal cities North, East, South and Southwest. Schedule taking effect August 17, 1908, subject to change without notice. Tickets for passage on all trains are sold by this company and accepted by the railroad companies connecting with this company.

NORFOLK & WESTERN RAILWAY.

Schedule in effect May 17th, 1908. 10:50 am Lv. Charlotte, So. Ry. At 8:30 pm 2:50 pm Lv. Winston, N. W. At 2:50 pm 4:37 pm Lv. Mineville, Va. At 10:45 am 10:25 pm At Richmond, Va.

SPECIAL RATES VIA SEABOARD TO CHARLOTTE, ACCOUNT REPUBLICAN PARTY.

The Seaboard begs to announce rates based on 50 percent of the double rate fare. Tickets will be sold for all trains August 25th and for trains arriving in Charlotte on August 26th with final return limit August 26th.

WILMINGTON, AUGUST 13th, 1908. The Seaboard will operate its last low rate excursion to Wilmington, leaving Charlotte on August 13th, and returning on August 14th. Tickets for the round trip only \$1.00. First-class coaches and Pullman cars, etc. See Bulletin in Section Two of this issue for full particulars. Tickets are on file at your agent's office.