

STATE CAPITAL GOSSIP

BY FRED A. OLDS.

One of my earliest recollections of Raleigh was of a country, then rather an old man, riding a very fine horse, carrying a gold-headed cane and looking very dignified indeed. This was Oscar Alston, a member of a very noted family in North Carolina. He died somewhere about 1835. I think he was always a free man and so his father had been before him, and he kept very closely in touch with the white people of his family. He had several wives, several of them, and had a good farm. Some of his former slaves had descendants in Raleigh and round-about. Sunday I was talking with some colored men about Alston and one of them said that on one occasion Alston went out to Ohio to spend the winter and leased a house. He asked his landlord if he could furnish him a woman for a cook, and the next day a mulatto woman came around. He made inquiry and found that the white man, the owner of the house, had a negro wife, and that the woman who went to him as a cook was their daughter. Alston very promptly decided he did not want her. Alston educated his daughters quite highly and one or two of them were excellent performers on the piano.

That the way of the transgressor is hard is illustrated forcibly in the case of Sheriff Aman of Sampson county, and it points a moral. Aman got to speculating in futures and became involved to the extent of \$40,000. His private fortune, amounting to some fifteen thousand dollars, was on the board and he embezzled county and State funds. He fled, changed his name and went first to Oklahoma, which is quite a refuge for such men, but there he found he could get nothing to do because he could not get any money and would tell nothing about himself. While there he had a very close call. A man walked up to him on the street and told him he knew who he was; that he was Sheriff Aman, of Sampson county, North Carolina, and was wanted on two charges, embezzlement and forgery. Aman replied like a flash that his name was Jones, and he was a slave, at these words snatching back the lapel of his coat and showing a badge of one of the detective agencies, which he had picked up somewhere, with it being a card giving the name he had given. That very night Aman got away from that place. He went to Texas, to Florida, to Alabama, then back to Florida, and everywhere his hoodoo pursued him and he could find no rest. His hoodoo worked while he slept and was with him day and night. The thing grew on him so that it finally got on his nerves and he decided that he would rather go to the penitentiary than continue to endure such a life. So, with his money almost gone, for he had left with only \$450, he wrote to a lawyer of Sampson county to meet him in Alabama and that he would surrender himself. They met, Aman put himself in the lawyer's hands, was taken back to Sampson county, put in a farm house in the country, near Clinton, and kept so quietly that nobody knew he was there. Until all of a sudden the case was called and he was produced in the court room. He was acquitted of the charge of forgery, but convicted of that of embezzlement and was given four months in the county jail for taking county funds, and next goes to the penitentiary with State funds. It is strange, but true, that he is a great deal happier now than he was while wandering about, frightened every moment, and a prisoner in mind, though free as to body. There is a very good lesson in all this case.

The question of hats or no hats in church, has been brought to a sharp issue in the Baptist Tabernacle here. For some time it has been a point there, more or less, but now the new pastor has made the final announcement. This brings to mind the question that there are a number of ministers who contend that St. Paul commanded, so to speak, that women should wear hats in church, but others say he did no such thing, and that the head-covering in the east in St. Paul's time did not apply at all to what are worn now-a-days. It is irreverent, they say that St. Paul, were he on this earth to-day, would speak directly and loudly against the monster hats which are worn, and which shut out so much in the churches. The pastor of the Tabernacle remarked that the big hats of the day distract the attention of worshippers to a great degree. It is certainly true that worshippers in a church like to see the minister's face and that many of them cannot do so. I know I was sitting behind a monster hat and was delighted when the order came "Hats Off!" It was no wonder the men laughed, and some women, too, for the women who had, with excellent judgment, gone to the church bare-headed, laughed as much as anybody. Conditions change and the rule of yesterday is not the rule of to-morrow, and so there may be more or less of a fight on this hat line in many other places.

It is very evident that the coast artillery service is going to be very popular. At present there will be four-company battalions and this will do duty at Fort Caswell, of course. It is learned that Fort Macon, at Beaufort harbor, is to be modernized. This means, of course, that none of the old work will be done. The Fort Caswell of to-day is not the Fort Caswell of yesterday at all, for the old fort, almost entirely torn away, is only used as an electrical station and no one would recognize it in its present shape. It will be a thoroughly familiar with the old place. So Fort Macon will be a series of batteries along the water front, several of these no doubt, and it will be a very important place. The entrance to the inland waterway, the biggest thing of this kind the United States has yet undertaken. Of course the harbor at Beaufort will be very important for the channels will be deepened, so that large vessels can use it, and there will be a good sizedarrison also at the fort, and necessarily there will have to be considerable reserve corps, which will naturally come from this State.

Raleigh will, before many months, have a very striking memorial gateway at the entrance to the Confederate Cemetery. The stone is very handsome, black-colored granite and is a gift and the Daughters of the Confederacy will secure the remainder. This entrance way will be quite near the great monument erected to the Confederate dead in this State, and will be in plain view from the street car line, only a short block away.

Old hats are in great request these days. Men are going around through the country buying them, and they other ship them North or will boil them, re-shape them, in any shape desired, and turn them over to the coun-

try merchants. And old hats are made to serve. This brings to mind something which occurred the other day. A man received at a little country postoffice, a box, postage paid, and when he opened it there was a hat for his wife, a shoddy black felt affair, with a little spray of forget-me-nots and a bundle of straw, wheat heads, loose in the box. The whole affair could have been secured for 10 cents in a five and ten cent store, but he had paid a dollar for the outfit and was immensely proud because there were no charges on it and took it home to his wife with great glee. It had come a good many hundred miles from one of the other orders, and no doubt the hat had had seven years of service in other forms.

All of who have been interested in the work of the farmers institute agree that they are tremendous factors in country life in North Carolina and that if the people from the rural districts can be induced to come to them there will be a wonderful improvement in a few years. There is mighty hard living in some parts of the country, among persons who are spoken of in common parlance as "the poor whites." These people simply do not know how to cook in a great many cases, and the general run of people simply have no idea how hard they live; with the same things every day, everything flooded with grease, and far too little attention is paid to cleanliness. They simply do not know how to do things and some of them feel that they are beyond the pale and are not cared for by anybody. Now these are the people sought after by the farmers institute. They are the people who need education in home life. Some of these people can be found within a few miles of Raleigh, within sound of its church bells. Their houses are untidy; they are dirty personally, using very little water and soap, knowing and caring nothing about sanitation and the proper care of food, and living hard from the cradle to the grave. Life was not intended to be this sort of thing at all. Some of these people are very hard to reach—and as one moves towards them with the helping hand, they recede.

How few people realize the latter-day responsibilities of the United States. Strange to say in the old days, and regarded as the then trading centre of the world, the crossing place was Jerusalem. Now if crossing lines are drawn from the north of Europe and the south of Europe and the north of Asia and the south of Asia it will be found that they intersect the United States in Ohio. In other words this country has become the world's centre, nearest to Europe, nearest to Asia, and since all the greatest things ever accomplished have been in the north temperate zone it will be seen that for geographical reasons the United States is just now the base point of the world.

The Chinese, with four hundred millions of population, die so rapidly that if a man starts from Raleigh for, say Peking, by the time he reaches that city one million, two hundred thousand people will have passed away from this earth. The figures almost stagger belief but they are true. There are four thousand missionaries to these four hundred million people. It can be seen, therefore, how pressing is the call for missionaries for China and the Far East; that country which, as Kipling expressed it, is beyond the Ten Commandments. The United States has more favor from China now-a-days than any other country enjoys, and it is kindness which has brought about this wonderful change. Some years ago, on the gray-colored paper fans which come from China in such great quantities, there were to be found the most horrible expressions in the Chinese characters, which so few here could read, denouncing the "outer barbarians" and their religion and telling people that the missionaries killed children, took out their eyes and ate them, all this being a sacrifice to their god. Now all this sort of thing is done away with. America has stood by China three times, and now luck is turned. The missionaries by their kindness as ministers to the soul and to the body have done wonders; in other words the doctor could do more than the preacher. Then, too, the United States has stood in a great measure between China and the greed of the old world. It all goes to show how the times change, and for the better, too.

Last week W. N. Hutt, State horticulturist, returned from a trip through the central and southern States in which he was looking up data on the commercial culture of the pecan. Professor Hutt made a special study of the pecan tree in its native home in order to compare its growth and behavior with the pecan trees growing in the Old North State. The pecan is a native of the alluvial lands along the Mississippi river. It is surprising what a range of soil conditions are made use of by the pecan tree in its native home. It is found, too, that the pecan tree has a considerably wider range of growth from north to south than is commonly supposed. A RICH TABLE for the poor, but that fact should not stand in the way of furnishing such tables as can be furnished by such evidences of good will. Especially during the holidays should all be done that can be accomplished in that or any other way to satisfy the hunger and alleviate the suffering of the poor who at that season are usually the most needy. TEE AITCH.

The dancers were Virginia, and in the Old Dominion, To give my frank opinion, They danced extremely well. The music tinkled lightly, The river rippled brightly, Up rode a stranger sightly, As evening shadows fell. His voice was just a quiver, As with a chitly shiver, "What do you call this river?" Inquired the horseman bold. A youth made some excuse, "This is the river," he said, And turned to some excuse, Who said that she was cold. M. C. S.

between Wild Crab and a Honum apple. This year in Florida there is a very large crop of pecan nuts being harvested. Named varieties bring from 30 to 50 cents per pound, while the wild seedlings from the woods are worth but 1 cent. In North Carolina we are very favorably situated as regards the culture of the pecan tree, especially in the eastern or coastal plain region of the State. In the rich river lands along our rivers there are excellent opportunities for the culture of these splendid trees. The trees are set 50 feet apart and the middles may be used for the growth of crops which will pay for the use of the land till the trees come into bearing. There is not a farm in the eastern part of this State which can afford to be without at least a few of these valuable trees.

Tanglewood

Answers to puzzles and inquiries in connection with this department should be mailed to E. R. Chadbourn, Melrose, Mass.

87-LETTER ENIGMA.



Young Quentin Quest was of the people Who looked beyond the village \*\*\*\*\* And long for life on broader lines Than centre to their hay-fork \*\*\*\*\* He ventured to the smoky cavern That thereabouts is called "the \*\*\*\*\*" And then, on wild adventures bent, Sought out some soldiers in a thicket (Grim gossips I should like to thrille) Declare these soldiers had \*\*\*\*\* A soldier next caught Quentin's eye. And taught him curious knots to \*\*\*\*\* Then, to adorn his manly breast, He bought himself a gorgeous \*\*\*\*\* And falling with wheelwright folks, He worked a while at making \*\*\*\*\* His postal cards relieved all fretters, He always signed them with two \*\*\*\*\* At last he came home, blithe and sunny, Although with very little \*\*\*\*\*

With these ten words within your reach, Reflect one letter, please from each; You'll find a new word, well and wireless-ly. If, like friend Quest, you seek it LITERAL.

88-BOTANICAL DISSECTIONS.

1. Deseect a personal plant allied to camomile and get a disease and not many. 2. A stalling plant of the genus Cucurbita and get a hydraulic machine and relatives. 3. A showy flower of the genus Delphinium and get a bird of the family Alaudidae and something that projects. 4. A poisonous umbelliferous herb of several species and get a border and a tuft of hair. 5. An annual plant of the genus Iberis and get confectory and a cluster. 6. A succulent plant of the genus Sedum and get a gem and harvest. 7. A fragrant flower of the genus Pullanthes and get a pipe and a shrub of the genus Rosa. 8. A plant of the genus Digitalis and get an animal of the genus Vulpes and a covering for the hand. 9. A tall, yellow-flowered plant of the genus Solidago and get very precious and a wand. 10. A trifoliolate plant that has been adopted a nation's emblem and get anything feigned and a stone. FLADJELTIA.

89-CHARADE.

Shaggy THREE and his master were firmest of friends, As canines and small boys will be; But Tony hammock beloved by them both, was a point About which they could never agree. One day THREE sat watching, with Tom great envious eyes, Tom snuggled in cushions, enjoying the prize, And he seemed to be pondering, in slow doggy-wise, What plan to ONE-TWO Tom his TWO could devise. All at once from the doorway ONE quickly he sprung, And seemed to make straight for the wood. "A rabbit, I know," said Tom, springing up, too, And following as fast as he could; But THREE when Tom reached him, turned sharply around, Like lightning his long legs sped over the ground, And ere for such conduct a cause might be found, The hammock he gained with a swift, joyous bound. And Tom, though ONE-TWO-THREE enjoyed the joke well, And, an old man now, wrinkled and gray, He still tells the tale "how a bright TWO-THREE dog Got the best of your grandpa one day." MABEL P.

90-ANAGRAM.

WHOLE contributions seldom if ever furnish a RICH TABLE for the poor, but that fact should not stand in the way of furnishing such tables as can be furnished by such evidences of good will. Especially during the holidays should all be done that can be accomplished in that or any other way to satisfy the hunger and alleviate the suffering of the poor who at that season are usually the most needy. TEE AITCH.

91-HOMONYM.

The dancers were Virginia, and in the Old Dominion, To give my frank opinion, They danced extremely well. The music tinkled lightly, The river rippled brightly, Up rode a stranger sightly, As evening shadows fell. His voice was just a quiver, As with a chitly shiver, "What do you call this river?" Inquired the horseman bold. A youth made some excuse, "This is the river," he said, And turned to some excuse, Who said that she was cold. M. C. S.

92-RIDDLE.

I cannot walk, eat, nor talk. Without me no being would ever have had existence. I am in everything and yet in nothing at all. I exist in fire, in the air, and in the billows of the ocean. I am found in all cities, kingdoms and empires. All articles possess me—continents, islands, rivers, fish, birds; also sunshine and rain, although I belong to neither. I am essential to the life of all things, ever accompanying wisdom, and thrift, and yet have birth in idleness and ignorance. No one ever lived or died without me. Despite all, at last I am found as

END OF A RED NOSE

New Fresh-Colored Products That Heals and Hides Skin Imperfections. A peculiar feature of poslam, a new skin discovery, is that it is naturally flesh-colored and contains no grease, so that when used on the face for the complexion, or for pimples, red noses or any other inflammations, blemishes or discolorations, its presence cannot be detected. It can thus be applied in the daytime, the natural color of the skin being immediately restored and the actual healing and curing process accomplished in a few days. It can be had of any pharmacist who sells pure drugs. R. H. Jordan & Co. make a specialty of 12. Fifty cents' worth will answer either for the troubles mentioned or in curing ordinary cases of eczema. Itching stops at once. The Emergency Laboratories, No. 32 West Twenty-fifth Street, New York, are the sole dispensing agents for poslam in the United States, and will send an experimental quantity free by mail in plain wrapper to all who write for it. This will show results after an overnight application.

895-1. Webster-Daniel, Noah, Thomas. 2. Franklin-Benjamin, Sir John, William. 3. Adams-John, John C., Isaac, Sarah (Flower). 4. Jackson-Andrew, Charles F., Helen Hunt (Flake), Thomas J. ("Stonewall"). 896-Cabalata, cabal, daba, cab, ca, C.

896-LIMERICK. A youngster who lived at Melrose, Whirled round on the tips of his toes; Saying "Where will you see Any dancer like me?" When he \*\*\*\*\* SHANNON.

ANSWERS.

88-Wood-chucks. 88-1. Second, send. 2. Savage, sage. 3. Locust, lost. 4. Select, sect. 5. Pocket, post. 6. Dawdle, dale. 7. Relief, reef. 8. sale. 11. Middle, mile. 12. Denied, deed. 89-An eye. 89-Esther, Psalms, Daniel, Romans, Ezra, Acts, Ruth, Timber, tier. 9. Better, beer. 10. Sample. 12-Mister, merits, timers, mitres, re-mits, smiter. 89-Humanity. 89-Man-hat-tan.

Nursing Mothers and Malaria.

The Old Standard GROVES' TASTELESS CHILL TONIC drives out malaria and builds up the system. For grown people and children, 50c. Malaria Makes Pale, Sickly Children. The Old Standard GROVES' TASTELESS CHILL TONIC drives out malaria and builds up the system. For grown people and children, 50c.

Here is Mr. Madsen's Letter

The Herpicide Company, Detroit, Michigan. Dear Sirs:—I have been using your Newbro's Herpicide for the last year here in my shop together with others, such as are used in Barber Shops, but my customers all call for Herpicide now, and will not stand for any other. I hold the best trade of this town and they always want the best of the world affords. Many of them say that if it had not been for my application of Herpicide they would be without hair to-day. Any one with hair falling out can save it by using Herpicide, and there will be no hair in the comb or brush any more if the rubbing is done thoroughly. You cannot kill a weed by cutting off the top, you must get the bottom. The same applies in the case of dandruff; get at the bottom of it with Herpicide, and you will have good results. (Signed) M. S. MADSEN, Mr., Villa Barber Shop, Hayward, Calif.

Send 10 cents in stamps to The Herpicide Company, Dept. 41, Detroit, Mich., for sample and booklet. Two sizes: 50 cents and \$1.00. At Drug Stores. When you call for Herpicide, do not accept a substitute. Applications at Prominent Barber Shops.

R. H. JORDAN & CO., Special Agents.

SNOWDRIFT HOGLESS LARD FOR ALL COOKING PURPOSES. FIRST: Nature-grown in the fields of the Sunny South; and obviously much purer and a great deal healthier than the fat of the hog. SECONDLY: More economical than hog lard; goes farther -- much farther -- every time. THIRDLY: As good as butter for cake and bread making and for all kinds of cooking where butter or other cooking fat is needed, and much cheaper, because it costs less in the first place and less of it has to be used. FOURTHLY: Its purity and quality guaranteed. Every pound of it is made under United States Government inspection. THE SOUTHERN COTTON OIL CO. NEW YORK SAVANNAH NEW ORLEANS ATLANTA CHICAGO

WIGLEY ENGRAVING CO., ATLANTA, GA. STRAUS GUNST & CO. Largest and Most Complete Whisky House in the South. The Best Whiskies. In the use of WHISKIES it is highly important that you get the BEST QUALITY and the STANDARD GOOD. Protect yourself against the inferior articles offered. We offer you the absolutely pure and better grade. Our famous brands have been on the market for thirty years, and we guarantee every drop of them to be pure and wholesome—always the same. Recommended for family use. OLD HENRY (the long proved proves more) \$4.00. JEFFERSON CLUB (excellent and superior) 4.00. FULL DRESS (price high, quality highest) 4.00. DOWNEY HALL WHISKY (for medicinal use) 4.00. DIKE COGNAC (old and pure) 4.00. TURKEY GEN (perfection in quality) 4.00. For sale by all leading distributors, or write us including post-office or express money-order, and we will have your order filled promptly, shipped in plain package. Straus, Gunst & Co. Distillers and Blenders of Fine Whiskies, Richmond, Va.