

LOCAL NEWS.

New subscribers for THE TOPIC have been booming for the past week.

A petition has been sent to the Legislature asking for a graded school in Lenoir.

The Club met at the Jones House last Thursday night. The attendance was large.

Rev. M. V. Sherrill, the new pastor of Lenoir circuit, arrived in Lenoir last week with his family.

Mrs. J. C. Harper, of Patterson, spent several days in Lenoir last week with her daughter, Mrs. C. A. Cilley.

Iredell Superior Court is in session, this being the second week. Col. Folk, of the Lenoir bar, is in attendance.

On Wednesday, Feb. 7, Mrs. Herman, daughter of Joseph Green, Esq., died suddenly at her residence on upper Mulberry.

Mrs. Allen, wife of Rev. Mr. Allen, rector of the Episcopal church in Lenoir, reached this place last week from Minnesota.

The South is, we are informed, overstocked with horses and mules, and returning drovers say that their business is not profitable.

The cotton fields are thronged with negro women and picaninies who strip the bark from the cotton roots and sell it to the "yarb" dealers.

Last Thursday Dr. Beall drew off the water from his lower pond and found in it 3,000 carp. It was scarcely two years since he placed in it only 47 young ones.

Catawba Superior Court convenes next Monday. The case of the State vs. Jenkins, from this county, is set for trial at the present term of the court for that county.

Last Wednesday was St. Valentine's day, and the young folks thronged the post office in anticipation of the arrival of that most unsatisfactory piece of literature—a valentine.

The housekeeper will find two valuable recipes on the fourth page of this paper. The recipes which we will from time to time publish in our household column have been tested by one of our best housekeepers, and if preserved, will be well worth the subscription price of this paper.

Some of our legislators have lately been down to the seacoast at Beaufort, among them, Dr. Wilcox, of Ashe. The Newbern Journal says that on waking up Sunday morning and finding the tide two feet higher than it was the night before, the Doctor thought that "there had been a d—l of a big rain."

Reports from our correspondents in all sections inform us that the farmers are taking advantage of the fine weather of the past few weeks and are pushing their spring work ahead with unusual zeal. Upon the whole, small grain crops in the mountains are reported as looking more flourishing at present than those in the lowlands.

The Fayetteville Overlooker, many years edited by that stately Carolinian, E. J. Hale, has been revived by his son, E. J. Hale, Jr., a gentleman who besides his inherited editorial talent has had wide experience as a writer and publisher. We welcome Mr. Hale into the North Carolina brotherhood of the press, where his father was so long a recognized leader.

When our legislators went to Raleigh we particularly requested Col. Lenoir to keep a watchful oversight on our member who is young and impressionable; but since the member from Watauga has taken to writing pretty speeches about the ladies, we may be prepared to receive tidings that the member from Caldwell has eloped with an entire female seminary.

We regret to learn that Dr. S. A. Grier, of Patterson, has decided to remove to Cabarrus county to practice his profession. The people of our county are so distressingly healthy that the doctors have very little encouragement. While wishing the people of Cabarrus no harm, we hope that Dr. Grier may find a better field for the practice of his profession in his new home.

On the first page of the paper will be found a very interesting letter written for the Vesper Reading Club by an honorary member in Texas. We commend it to our young men who are suffering from the "Texas fever," and for fear that some of our readers may think the letter a product of the elastic veracity of Tom Ochiltree, we will state that the writer is a native of North Carolina, a State where the sublime influence of a truthful press tinges the literature of a wandering son, even in Texas.

The thermometer has gone down and we are having a touch of winter again.

Mr. G. F. Harper, at Davidson College, has been quite sick but is now better.

The Reading Club meets at the residence of Mr. S. M. Clarke tomorrow night.

Singings, quiltings, choppings and other sociable gatherings are all the go in the country now.

The firm of T. J. Coffey & Bro., of Boone, has withdrawn from the firm of Curtis & Co., at Butler, Tenn. Curtis & Farthing will carry on the business at the latter place.

The remaining cases of the State vs. Jenkins and of the State vs. Freeman were disposed of Saturday by Justice Miller, who bound most of the defendants over to court.

Within the last few days we learn that the bill lately passed by the House to change the boundary line between Caldwell and Watauga meets with opposition in the county.

Mr. D. Stewart Hesse, of Columbia, S. C., Chief Engineer of the C. & A. Railroad, was through here last week on a tour of inspection of the track and trestles of the C. & L. R. R.

Mr. Mark Holsclaw, a venerable citizen of Watauga, living on Brushy Fork, is 83 years old, has been twice a widower and three times married and is now "cutting a new set of teeth. And still the cry is for "young men to take the lead in politics."

Col. Tate has introduced a bill in the House to establish a new county to be called Lee and to be composed of parts of Caldwell, Burke, Mitchell and Watauga. The project meets with the hearty approval of the citizens of northwestern Caldwell.

An account of Friday's proceedings in the Senate, coming in advance of the full regular report, says, "Bill to establish a Normal School in Boone passed." Capt. Lovill, you are a trump. Now, if it can be done, Col. Lenoir will navigate it through the House.

A special legislative committee, composed of Messrs. Powers, Page, Whitford, Boykin, Cowell, Galling, Thompson, Smith and Leazer, visited the Western Asylum last week and, we understand, will recommend a liberal appropriation for carrying on the work and completing the Northern wing.

We have reason to be proud of the representatives from this section in the Legislature. The Asheville Citizen speaks in praise of Mr. Bowler's skill as a debater, and Col. Lenoir's capital judgment has given his opinions weight in the House. Capt. Lovill is an acknowledged leader in the Senate, and Dr. Wilcox, of Ashe, is probably the strongest man on the republican side in the House.

Rev. C. Moretz gives Mr. John L. Hayes a good character.

The undersigned takes pleasure in stating to the public in general that he has known John L. Hayes for years, and that he is a youth of excellent habits of industry, and that in the main his morals are good and unexceptionable. C. MORETZ.

Our Burke cousins have been considerably alarmed at the appearance of three cases of small-pox in their midst. A man named Copeland, who had small-pox in Texas, returned a few weeks ago to his home on Irish Creek, Burke county, eight miles west of Morganton. Since his return three cases of small-pox have developed in his family, one of his children dying last Thursday. Drs. Pearson, of Morganton, and Hilliard, assistant Superintendent of the Western Asylum, have visited the family, and pronounce the disease small-pox. It is supposed that Mr. Copeland brought the disease from Texas in his clothing. Morganton is strictly quarantined against the section of the county in which the small-pox has appeared and every precaution has been taken to prevent the spread of the malady, which it is hoped will prove effectual.

Col. Folk has given the young people of the valley several very pleasant parties at Riverside since Christmas.

Mr. James Council is in the valley where he expects to remain this summer.

Mr. F. P. Cottrill is in the South with horses.

The boys in this section are well pleased with the repeal of the fish law in Caldwell county. I fear some of them will let their corn crop get weedy while fishing.

The first letter with foreign post age and mailed out of the United States was received not long since at this office by Mr. John B. Isbell.

Nelson Brothers, of Va., were in the valley last week buying young cattle.

Mr. T. K. Horton, our popular young teacher, closed a 3 month school in Elk district on the 9th ult. Mr. Zeff Young, of Cranberry, is in the neighborhood on business.

Bakersville Budget.

Accept a few briefs from this rapidly growing town. I have not seen a town of so much thrift and enterprise in a while. There are two good churches with excellent houses of worship—Baptist and Methodist. Mr. Hamby is pastor of the Methodist church and S. M. Collis, of the Baptist. Both are splendid men.

The Baptist have just closed an interesting meeting in the Baptist church. Rev. I. W. Thomas, of Ashe county, assisted the pastor in the meeting.

Prof. J. C. Carper is here teaching a very large class in vocal music. The class will number near one hundred. Prof. Carper will remain in the county till spring.

The mica business is not altogether so encouraging here now as it has been, but new mines are being developed.

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Hurrah for Watauga and the enterprising spirit of her citizens. It would surprise a person who had once lived here and been absent many years to return and see the change for the better that has taken place. New and elegant private mansions, church houses, school houses, &c. have sprung up as if by magic.

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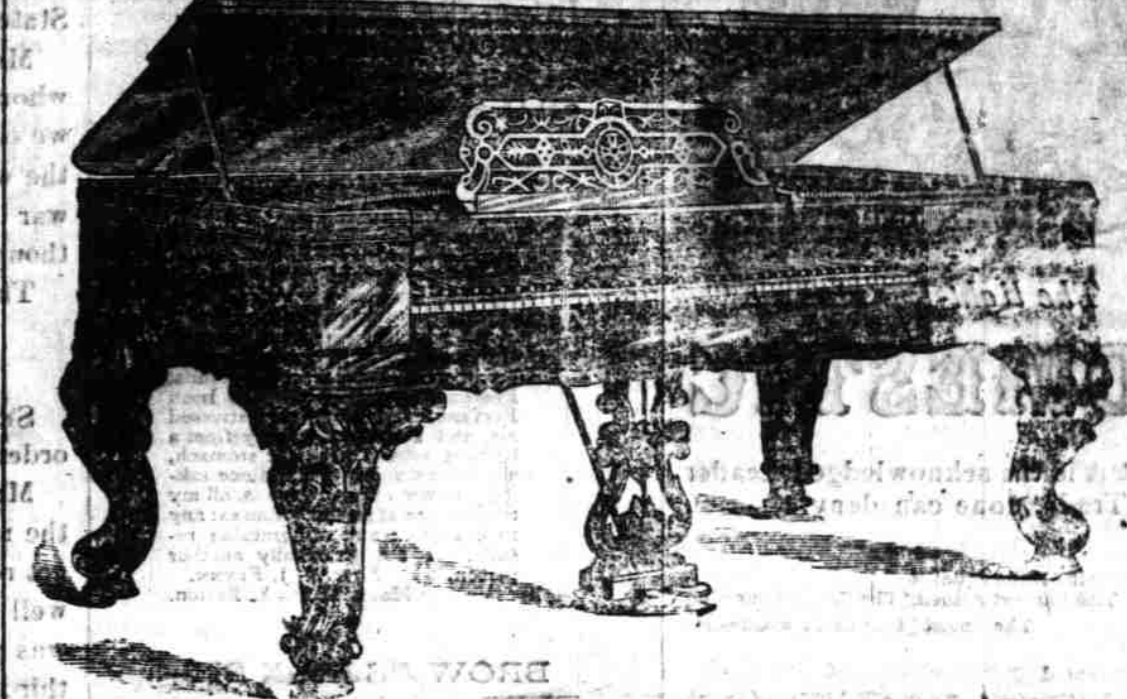
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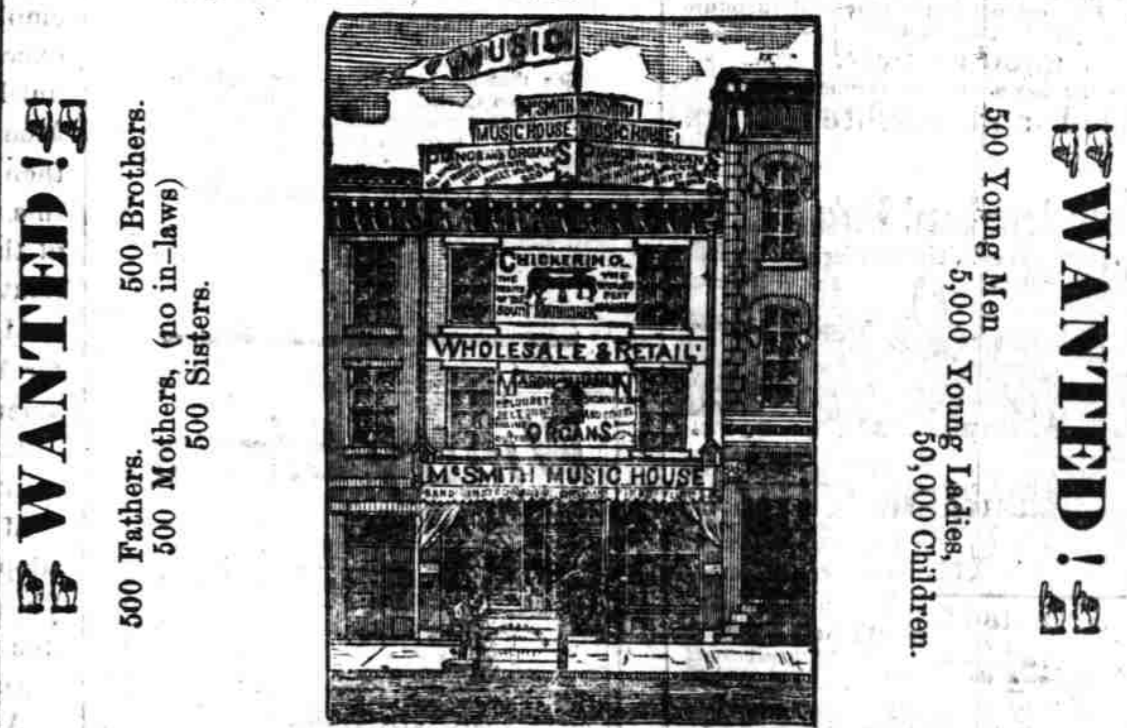
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OUT OF DARKNESS COMETH LIGHT! SAID THE DEVIL WHEN HE BUSTED OPEN A KEG OF PRINTERS' INK!



25 Pianos. 75 Organs. 1,000 Harmonicas. 500 Accordeons. \$2,000 WORTH OF SHEET MUSIC. \$10,000 WORTH OF MUSICAL VARIETIES. McSMITH MUSIC HOUSE.



ALL AT THE McSMITH MUSIC HOUSE. If You Can't Come, Send Me Your Photograph. But Don't Forget Your Pocketbook. H. McSMITH, CHARLOTTE, N. C.

G. L. Bernhardt & J. D. Faucette WITH G. W. F. HARPER, MERCHANT, LENOIR, N. C.

With thanks for the liberal patronage which he has enjoyed in the past, and with best wishes for a prosperous and

HAPPY NEW YEAR

to all his customers, the subscriber announces that his business will be continued at the old well-known stand. With ample means and increased facilities for an extensive trade, he invites his many friends and customers to make his place their headquarters for business.

ALL PERSONS Indebted by Note or Account over-due are requested to CALL AND SETTLE "And don't you forget it." Jan 4, 1883. G. W. F. HARPER.

DRUGS.

I desire to call special attention to this department of my business. Having had four years' experience in Drugs, can say my stock in this line is as full as the business of this country will sustain.

Physician's Prescriptions

These are both kept up, and all work done in both of these departments, is done by good workmen and guaranteed to give satisfaction. Repairing of Shoes or Boots, and all kinds of Tinware solicited.

Tin and Shoe Business.

Exchange for Goods.

Call, examine and be convinced that Goods can be sold to suit the times. S. W. HAMILTON.