

The Lenoir Topic.

VOL. IX.

LENOIR, N. C., WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1883.

NO. 11.

TO THE TRADE

Statesville, N. C. Sept. 1, 1883
Our Fall and WINTER STOCK is now instore, ready for inspection, and we again take pleasure in inviting the Merchants of Western North Carolina, and the Trade generally, to visit us.

Everything requisite to the full and complete outfit of the Retail Dealer may be had under our roof. A larger or more varied Stock of General Merchandise is not offered by any House in the South.

Our traveling salesmen will be on the road during the season, and we hope to receive your continued liberal orders through them.

All orders by mail will be filled upon the same terms and receive the same attention as buyers in person.

We are, very truly yours,
WALLACE BROS.

We solicit your shipments of Dried Fruits, Blackberries and all kinds of country produce. Having the best facilities for conducting this branch of our business, we can assure you of highest market prices at all times.

READY MADE

CLOTHING!

FRESH GOODS IN

EV'RY PART OF

GENERAL STOCK DAILY

ARRIVING.

S. W. Hamilton, Lenoir, N. C.

DARBY'S PROPHYLACTIC FLUID.

A Household Article for Universal Family Use.

Eradicates MALARIA. For Scarlet and Typhoid Fevers, Diphtheria, Sallow, Ulcerated Sore Throat, Small Pox, Measles, and all Contagious Diseases. Persons waiting on the Sick should use it freely. Scarlet Fever has never been known to spread where the Fluid was used. Yellow Fever has been cured with it after black vomit had taken place. The worst cases of Diphtheria yield to it.

SMALL-POX PREVENTED. A member of my family was taken with Small-pox. I used the Fluid, and the patient was not dangerous, was not pitted, and was about well in three weeks, and no others were affected. J. W. Parkerson, Philadelphia.

Diphtheria Prevented. The physicians here use Darby's Fluid very successfully in the treatment of Diphtheria. A. S. Stollman, Greensboro, Ala.

Scarlet Fever Cured. I used the Fluid during my present affliction with Scarlet Fever with decided advantage. It is indispensable to the sick-room.—W. F. SANDERS, Ocala, Fla.

Practical Life. The Key to Fortune 600 pp. Clear type, first binding and illustrations. AGENTS WANTED. \$75 to \$150 per month. For terms, address J. C. McCURDY & Co., Philadelphia, Pa.

NAVAL BATTLES. Agents Wanted for the sale of the new and complete History of the Naval Battles of the World. 16 Medical and Surgical Treatises. J. C. McCURDY & Co., Philadelphia, Pa.

WILL C. NEWLAND. Attorney at Law, LENOIR, N. C.

JNO. T. PERKINS, Attorney at Law, MORGANTON, N. C. Will practice in the State and Federal Courts.

J. M. Spainhour, (GRADUATE BALTIMORE DENTAL COLLEGE.) Dentist, LENOIR, N. C.

Uses no impure material for filling teeth. Work as low as good work can be done. Patients from a distance may avoid delay by informing him at what time they propose coming.

LAND & IMMIGRATION AGENCY. HOUK & VON RINGHARZ, having formed a limited partnership for the purpose of selling land in Western North Carolina, particularly in Caldwell, Burke & Watauga, and for the purpose of inducing immigration into that section, hereby solicit correspondence with all persons who have land, either wild or improved, to dispose of on reasonable terms.

¶We want only farming lands for actual settlers.

¶We want no lands except those with clear title which we must be allowed to examine.

¶Do not give extravagant descriptions of your lands. Let the purchaser be pleased rather than disappointed when he examines it.

¶Do not put fancy prices on your land if you want to sell it.

¶Do not go West but sell part of your land to a good neighbor who has \$1,000 to pay you for it and \$1,000 to stock and improve.

¶We have excellent facilities for selling land to a good class of immigrants, who will make good, peaceable and industrious neighbors.

Address HOUK & VON RINGHARZ Collettsville, N. C.

A DESCRIPTION OF ELK PARK.

Correspondence of The Topic.

ELK PARK, N. C., Nov. 17.—A little over twelve months ago I witnessed the birth and christening of the subject of this letter. A few citizens met by common consent to divide the chosen site into lots, mark out streets and lay the foundation of a town. I little thought of seeing a prosperous town upon what was then an old field upon the rail road side. Had I been more interested in the enterprise, I might have had the honor of being god father to a town; but, as in most cases it would doubtless have been a much neglected child and I a much abused sponsor. The site chosen for the town is the first eligible space on the rail road below Cranberry. It is level and sufficiently ample for a large town. The plat was divided into quarter acre lots. These lots were then offered for sale at \$25 each. The most desirable of these lots could not now be bought, without the improvements, for \$500 each. This is "proof of the pudding." Who can say but that ten years hence they will be valued at \$5,000 each? It is said that once in a life time Fortune knocks at every man's door. Was the fickle goddess then "gently tapping at my door?" Here was certainly a good chance for speculation.

But the birth of Elk Park was of much less consequence than its present and future prospects. Only a little over a year old, it can boast of three stores with the prospect of another soon; a good hotel, though not yet open; two steam saw mills; cabinet shop; blacksmith shop; merchant mill in process of erection; two bar rooms, soon to be dispensed with, and all the appurtenances of a prosperous and rapidly growing town. The citizens of Watauga and Mitchell counties are beginning to find here a good market for their country produce, and buy their necessary supplies as cheap as they can be bought in any town in the State. Messrs. Banner and Taylor meet their many customers with such benign smiles as convince a person at once of his being in the presence of genuine philanthropists, whose souls are bursting with anxiety to do somebody a kindness. You only have to trade with them a little to realize the truth of this statement. Capt. Lovell meets his friends with such whole-souled courtesy and gives a customer such a hearty shake of the hand that a person would think that it was election day and the captain candidate for the Legislature. But he is not. He only wants to give you the best bargain you ever had in your life. If you don't believe it, try him. W. M. Crowder is the very essence of politeness and good humor. He can tell the best jokes out. If you are the least skeptical about it, just buy a suit of clothes or a plug of tobacco of him, and be convinced.

One does not need to be endowed with prophetic vision in order to see a rapid progress for Elk Park in the near future. He only has to take into consideration the advantages that surround it, and compare them with the causes that have built up other towns of similar location. It is natural in the heart of a vast mountain section, rich in resources of every kind. It would not be the head of the E. T. and W. N. C. road if lots could be bought at Cranberry. But the Cranberry Iron and Coal Company positively refuses to sell or lease lots on any terms. This makes Elk Park, so far as the people is concerned, the terminus; and the people must have a town at the head of the road. It is the natural outlet for Mitchell and a great part of Watauga county, and will contend for a great part of the traffic which has formerly used the W. N. C. R. R. as an outlet. Much of this country produce will find a home market at Cranberry. The surplus will find a ready market at Chattanooga, Knoxville and Johnson City, all of which promise soon to become extensive manufacturing cities. Elk Park promises, too, all the natural advantages for a summer resort. All that it needs to make it such is a few more good houses and liberal advertisement. The minerals and timber furnished by the surrounding country in such vast quantities and such excellent quality give it superior facilities for becoming a manufacturing

town. With all these resources its future prosperity is inevitable. May the public welcome its progress with the good will and patronage that it deserves. K.

THANKSGIVING DAY.

Its Origin, History, and Some of its Observances.

The Magazine of American History gives us the history of Thanksgiving day and its origin. From the papers we learn that the earliest thanksgiving service was held by the Church of England men. The Popham colonists, who, August 9, 1607 (O. S.) landed upon Mohegan, near the Kennebec, and under the shadow of a high cross, listened to a sermon by Chaplain Skenno, "giving good thanks for our happy meetings and safe arrival in this country."

Next we pass to Plymouth, where in 1621, the autumn after the arrival of a notable thanksgiving was held. The brief accounts present a joyous picture. As we learn from Winslow, the harvest being gathered, the governor sent "four men out fowling, so we might, after a special manner rejoice together," and the traditional turkey was added to the abundant venison. The people gave themselves up to recreation, the great chief Massasoit was feasted for three days with his ninety swartly retainers.

Possibly on this first Plymouth thanksgiving, there was more caressing than we might suppose, while there is not the slightest indication of any religious observance. Massasoit and his braves, no doubt, enjoyed it all greatly, as the thanksgiving idea was entertained by the Indians before their contact with the whites, and in their celebrations there was much excess. How much "comfortable warm water" the grave and reverend elders themselves consumed during those three days of jollity, Bradford does not say.

In 1622 there is no mention of thanksgiving, but in 1623 a day was kept, not, however in the autumn as a harvest festival, but in July, upon the arrival of some provisions. After this nothing more is heard of thanksgiving at Plymouth for nearly half a century. So far as the colonial records go, they indicate that the day did not find a revival until 1668, when there was some kind of a thanksgiving. Again in June, 1689, there was a thanksgiving for the accession of William and Mary. In 1690 an annual thanksgiving was held, and the next year Plymouth colony was merged in Massachusetts, and so passes out of the story. If any festival can be said to have been established it was established in imitation of the customs across the sea. Distinct religious societies, however may have kept occasional thanksgivings as the people at Barnstable observed thanksgiving on December 22, 1636, and December 11, 1639.

In the Massachusetts colony the first thanksgiving was held in Boston, July 8, 1630, it being a special occasion, having no reference to harvests. Again in February 1631, there was a thanksgiving, as already noticed. In October following a thanksgiving was held for the safe arrival of "Mrs. Wintthrop and her children." In these appointments we do not find the thanksgiving that we know to-day, nor do we detect any full design against Christmas. In 1632, on June 5, there was a thanksgiving for the victories in the Palatine, and in October another for the harvest. In 1637 there was a thanksgiving for victory over the Pequots, and in 1638 for the arrival of ships and for the harvest. The thanksgiving days from 1684 to 1684, numbered about twenty one, or less than one in every two years. The celebration in 1676 had special reference to the victory over King Philip. From this period until the revolution, a thanksgiving of some kind occurred nearly every other year, and even twice in the same year, as in 1742. Some of these days were appointed by the royal governors, while again by the King or Queen or by the home board of trade.

After the close of the Revolution a tendency to make Thanksgiving day a regular institution in New York was at once apparent, and Gov. John Jay, in 1795, issued a proclamation for the 11th of November. The act, however, was seized upon by politicians, who maintained that he was seeking to flatter religious prejudices.

At an early period also, the Mayors of New York were accustomed to appoint a day of thanksgiving, in accordance with the recommendations of the council, and that of December 16, 1799, appears to have been the first so ordered. Yet the observance of the day until Governor Clinton's time was more or less broken. The festival was kept, however, by Episcopalians, according to the provisions of the prayer book, other religious bodies at the same time following their own preferences. Clinton's course, like Jay's excited criticism. At the east end of Long Island there was no little murmuring because the day did not coincide with the local custom. It appears that the people of East and Southampton observed thanksgiving on the Thursday after the cattle were driven to the common pastures at Montauk Point, the day of the return of the cattle being fixed annually, with due solemnity, at the two meetings. Hence there was no collision, and the herdsmen were divided, striving as the herdsmen of Abraham strive with those of Lot. But this was no case of an immovable body opposed to an irresistible force, and therefore the opponents of Clinton gave away, though not without many expostulations. Here was the beginning of the movement which led to the first Presidential proclamation authorizing Thanksgiving day.

A Young Lady's Idea of Marriage.

Charles Reed.

So she was going to be married! to be mistress of a house, settle in London; he able to get out into the streets all alone, to shop or visit; have a gentleman all her own, whom she could put her finger on any moment, and make him take her about, even to the opera and the theater; to give dinner parties her own self, and even a little ball once in a while; to buy whatever dresses she thought proper, instead of being crippled by an allowance; have the legal right of speaking first in society, instead of sitting mute and dumb; to be mistress instead of Miss—contemptible title; to be a woman instead of a girl; and all this rational liberty, domestic power and social dignity, were to be obtained by merely wedding a dear fellow who loved her and was so nice; and the bright career to be ushered in with several delights, each of them dear to a girl's very soul, presents from all her friends; as many beautiful dresses as if one was changing her body or her hemisphere instead of her name; elate; going to church, which is a good English girl's theater of display and temple of vanity, and there tasting delightful publicity and whispered admiration of a heavenly long veil which she could not wear even once if she remained single. This bright variegated picture of holy wedlock, as revealed by young ladies by feminine tradition, though not enumerated in the Book of Common Prayer, so entranced her that she flew by unheeded.

Of Course It is a Lie.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 16.—An evening paper publishes to-day a statement that there is now on file in the Department of Justice a report, the contents of which have never been made public. This report is to the effect that it is impossible to convict any one of an election offense in South Carolina. Men, women and children are against it; no jury could be found that would convict it. It is set forth that wives and sweethearts of white men drawn for the jury daily say to their husbands and lovers before they go to court, "you need not come back to me unless you do your duty. This means that unless you give a verdict for acquittal you can depart." This report was made by a special agent of the Department of Justice and indorsed by the United States Attorney.

THIS IS BUSINESS.

Johnson City, (Tenn.), Enterprise.

Lenoir (N. C.) Topic: Steel rails are at Hickory to lay the track of the railroad to Lenoir.

We understand the road has been completed to Hickory, from Chester, S. C., and will soon be completed to Lenoir, thence to Cranberry there to connect with the E. T. & W. N. C. (narrow gauge) which of course means the extension of the road from this place to Virginia, through the Boons Creek valley, at an early day. Let the good work go on, say we.

THE LIBERTY OF THE PRESS.

Chicago Tribune.

"We haven't any further need for your services," said the managing editor of a city daily to a reporter who had been at the work only a week.

"That's rather sudden, isn't it?" replied the startled reporter. "I haven't done all I had to do?"

"You have done the work, but not properly, sir."

"What's wrong?"

"Well, you wrote up Mrs. Pavanue's ball, and there was not a word about it being a brilliant affair."

"That's just what it was."

"The lady, sir, takes several copies of this paper, and her husband has his printing done in our office, and ordinary common sense should teach you to understand your duties under the circumstances."

"But—"

"No excuse is necessary, sir. If you brought in an article of general interest, your father-in-law's arrest of young Mr. Fresh for drunkenness. His father is one of our patrons, and we have a certain independence to disregard the wishes of the curious public in the selection of news when our patrons are not misled in its suppression."

"I understand—"

"No you don't, for you wrote Mr. Jones' obituary without saying he was a distinguished citizen of our community and a man of great good character."

"I thought he was another kind of—"

"You wasn't that. The independent spirit of the press is not to be governed by reprobation, sir. Did you think when you wrote of Miss Angelina Shoddy's departure to the seaside without referring to her as the charming and accomplished daughter of one of our most respectable families?"

"Who said she was the—"

"Do you have to hear what other people say in order to know your business? Who told you that Mr. Motile, the Councilman, was a rascal? Don't you know he is a man of high money to this paper?"

"I wasn't aware that—"

"Of course you were not aware of anything! If you were you might be useful to us. No, sir; you are not the kind of a man we need. We want a man not to know what he knows, and know what he does not know. The liberty of the press is not to be trifled with by irresponsible reporters who think, nor is its freedom to be restricted by young men who let the actual facts in a case interfere with the requirements of the occasion. You can get your pay, sir, by ending at the office."

The Largest Man in the State is Dead.

The Newbern Journal's Snow Hill correspondent says: "Capt. Jas. F. Jones, one of our largest cotton planters, died at the home of Mr. J. G. Brit, this county, a few days ago. During life he reached the enormous weight of 495 pounds; in all probability the largest man known in the State." A few years since Mr. Jones was said to be twelve feet in height, and his weight was estimated at 700 pounds. He had a buggy made for his own use, and the door ways in his house were all of double size. He would never permit himself to be weighed, being very sensitive on that subject. He was a man of means and very clever, though extremely singular in some respects. He married a very engaging little lady of his county. Some years ago he was a partner in one of the hotels in Goldsboro. There is no doubt of his having been the largest man in the State, and one of the largest in the United States.

A Smart Negro.

Wilmington Star.

We have referred to Bishop Turner, of the African Methodist Church, and have sampled his speech heretofore. We must copy one more specimen of his ravings. Hear him:

"Mark my word, there will be bloodshed enough over the decision to crown every member of the Supreme Court in less than two years. It resolves the allegiance of the negro to the United States if the decision is correct. The United States Constitution is a dirty rag, a cheat, a libel, and ought to be spit upon by every negro in the land. More, if that decision is correct and is accepted by the country, then prepare to return to Africa or get ready for extermination."