

# The Lenoir Topic.

VOLUME X.

LENOIR, N. C., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 1885.

NUMBER 25.

Wallace  
Bros.,  
STATESVILLE, N. C.

Wholesale Dealers

General Merchandise.

Largest Warehouse

and best facilities for handling

Dried Fruit, Berries, etc., in

the State.

RESPECTFULLY

Wallace  
Bros.

August 27th, 1884.

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.

F. LEE CLINE,  
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW,  
HICKORY, N. C.

EDMUND JONES,  
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW,  
LENOIR, N. C.

CLINTON A. CILLEY,  
Attorney-At-Law,  
Lenoir, N. C.  
Practices in All The Courts.

## LETTER FROM THE SEA-SIDE.

WILMINGTON, Feb. 28.

MR. EDITOR:—In one of my first letters I promised to give your readers a view on board a vessel; this morning I will make good that promise. We will go to the foot of Dock street where we will find a British vessel, and of the largest class that can come to the port of Wilmington. She is registered for 649 tons burthen—1,298,000 pounds—can carry across the ocean 3245 bales of cotton, or 4635 barrels of rosin. A cargo of cotton would be valued at about \$11,500—a cargo of rosin about \$6500.

Across the stern of the vessel we read her name, Harriet Campbell. Now let us imagine ourselves taking a view of this vessel entirely above the surface, clear her deck of masts, rigging, etc., and she would look like the half of a huge watermelon lying on the back. In length she measures 180 feet, in width at centre 42 feet, height from keel to rim around deck 40 feet, or twice the height of usual two-storey buildings. Now raise your eyes and view the masts and rigging, two masts, each 120 feet high and 26 inches in diameter at base, one 90 feet, these masts are made of timbers jointed together after the manner of flag poles, only far more secure. To these masts are fastened huge cross pieces, the two lower ones 42 feet in length, about 14 inches in diameter at the centre, and gradually tapers to a small point at the ends. These pieces are smaller and shorter towards the top of the masts. To hold the masts and rigging to their proper places requires about 205 ropes averaging 50 feet in length—10250 feet of roping. From these masts 2350 yards of sails float to the breezes of old ocean, and on average time these breezes will move the vessel across the Atlantic in 40 days.

Some times these ropes, sails, etc., get out of order. Then a sailor whose special business it is to climb the masts must go up by means of rope ladders and re-arrange them. At the top of the masts a man looks like a five year old boy. This climbing of the masts is the most dangerous work on board a vessel as it must be done at all times, even while the roughest storms are raging o'er the bosom of the great deep. At times when the sea is very rough and the vessel being tossed about like a cork lies as it were on the side these tall masts hang far out over the water. Imagine the sailor clinging with one hand to the trembling timbers, while with the other he arranges the disordered rigging. I have heard them tell of being thrown from the mast at these times and how they battled with the waves until taken on board. Just here I will say that a person will not sink as quickly in salt, as in fresh water.

But just there over the bow of the vessel hang her anchors each weighing 1250 pounds, and each fastened to chain 80 fathoms in length, 480 feet—weight of chain 55 pounds to the fathom—4400 pounds. The links in this chain are 6 inches long, 1 1/2 inches in diameter, and the chain is wound about a windlass the shaft of which is 28 inches in diameter—as large as any of your old mill-wheel shafts. These anchors hold the old ship “both sure and steadfast”—no wonder Paul used it to illustrate the nature of the christian's faith. Both anchors are used only in times of extreme danger, one will hold the ship steady in ordinary gales. The anchor is almost in shape of the letter “T” with ends of top part of letter curving toward the stem and flattened like the blade of the old “Ame's shovel” with which you and I have so often thrown blue and red mud.

But there, by the masts on either side, are made secure two large casks; these contain 115 gallons each of fresh water for cooking and drinking during the voyage. For fear that this will not be enough for 13 men to use in case of prolonged voyage several barrels of water are taken on board.

Now we look at the cabin, near the rear or stern of the vessel. A house about 26 x 16, and 9 feet in height with flat roof and sky-light windows; this is divided into 8 or 10 cozy little rooms; the sleeping apartments of the sailors, furnished with necessary articles of the toilet. The captain's room looks like a parlor so nicely it is furnished. To use the captain's own words “the ocean

rocks me to sleep at night and makes me dream of the little crib of baby days.”

Next we look at the “galley”—the kitchen and dining room, size 12 x 18 feet, kitchen furnished just like any other, only the stove has an iron frame about the top to keep the vessels from turning over when the sea is rough. The dining room has its tables and chairs, but often when old ocean is “wrathy” they have to eat like those people did before dishes were made—with hands and fingers.”

Next we will notice the apparatus for governing the course of the ship; these consists of a wheel about four feet in diameter around the shaft of which winds or unwinds the chain fastened to the rudder, and by which the rudder is made to direct the vessel in whatever direction the wheelman may direct it to go. “Behold also the ships, which though they be so great \* \* \* yet are they turned about with a very small helm” James 3: 4.

There back at the centre of the ship we find an opening 10x12 feet. Through this we descend into the “hold,” or what a boomer would term the cellar of the ship. When standing on the bottom timbers of this our heads are 11 feet under water. In this vast space the cargo is stored away. The packing away begins in the centre of the hold and proceeds towards the ends of the ship; by thus beginning the cargo packs itself, as the ends are higher than the centre. To look at the tremendous beams, bolts etc., that are used in the construction of a ship one would hardly think that she could so soon be made “a poor old stranded wreck.”

A look at the sailors. What dirty fellows! “Tars” sure enough; for they look as if they had been rolled in tar and then slid up and down on a board till they glistened. Poor fellows! How much do we owe to them for many of the blessings of life that they bring to us from distant lands.

The captain is a well dressed fellow—the aristocrat of the number. How sassy he is; cursing and swearing at the poor sailors who seemed to be working for life. I felt like “spanking” him. I did tell him that perhaps they would do as he wanted them if he would use gentler language. To “curse like a sailor” is simply to reach the high-tide mark in profanity. But there are some good men among sailors, and when we find one we find a man who has the respect and confidence of his comrades.

But it is a very mean thing that cannot be turned into some good, and an old sea captain tells that he once knew a preacher who thanked God that the sailors were cursing; hence if the divine was sincere there must have been apparent good in it, especially for him. I will give the incident and leave the reader to his own opinion of the sincerity or fright of the parson. The preacher had started across the ocean and when far out at sea a terrible storm came up. Naturally the preacher sought comfort in asking the captain as to the danger of being lost. The captain told him that there was no danger of being wrecked or lost as long as the sailors were cursing. In possession of this information the “doubting Thomas” would tramp back and forth from sailors to captain eagerly watching this immoral and satanic barometer as it measured the force of the storm. When the storm was raging in its wildest fury he listened for a second to the cursing, then running back to the captain he said “thank the Lord they're cursing” yet.”

But truthful sailors say that 'tis a fact that when there is great danger of being wrecked at sea there is no cursing among the sailors. All are quiet and subdued while he that rideth in the storm is blowing his breath over the bosom of the mighty deep.

This brings us to remember that often a poor sailor sickens and dies when far out on the ocean. Then comes the seaman's sad burial service. The dead man's body is sewed up in heavy canvass cloth, to the feet are fastened leaden weights almost as heavy as the man himself; the body is then placed on a smooth plank, the centre of which rests on the railing of the vessel and while in this position the burial service is read after which the plank is raised by two sailors designated for the sad

duty, and the body plunges into its deep grave never to rise until the morn of the resurrection when the sea shall be called upon to give up her dead. What a sad burial. No tender parent there, nor sister's quiet prayer, indeed “there is a lack of woman's tears.” No dear one can visit the place in twilight's dewy hour and breathe there an evening prayer, or leave there a full blown flower.

Now we leave the vessel and turn to other things. A most interesting study at a seaport is the great variety of human life with which one comes in contact. On any day one can see vessels from nearly all the European countries—most usually from England, Germany, France, Norway, Denmark, Italy and Russia. Then we see them from the West Indies and South America. There is always a rush when it is known that a West Indies fruit vessel has reached her wharf, laden with lemons, oranges, bananas, pine apples, coconuts, etc. On board these vessels you see men from many nations and each has peculiar characteristics that will identify him at once.

Here comes a squabby, jostling, jelly-like, beer-gurgling, generous, cleverly covetous German. He looks as if from a land of materialistic tendency.

There goes with a quick, elastic step, the raw-boned, muscular English sailor; he is dartering about the city as if his keen eye was searching out the Queen's business. He walks, he talks as if from a land of progressive intelligence.

There you see a slovenly, awkward, swathy looking fellow, with expressionless eye, and countenance with deadened pallor; he is a Spanish sailor, a fit representative of a land where individual thought has been stifled for centuries and mental prowess made stagnant by the decrees of tyrannical ecclesiasticism.

The Portuguese sailor, in looks and manner, is very much after the style of the Spaniard, but manifests a more daring or independent spirit than his national neighbor from the fact that so many of them desert their vessels when they reach our shores and seek homes among our people.

Then comes the musical Italian, low, heavy built, very dark with poetic tinge to glance of eye and tone of voice—he will give you plenty of music and then after good old Methodist fashion, will pass around his hat for a half dime, and unless you desire a satanic blessing in rapid speech you had better not get too much music without throwing in—he will brand you as a fraud which would be too near the truth to be palatable.

There is another fellow who looks as if he had stolen some one's milk crock, cut it squarely into and had taken the bottom half thereof, painted it red, put a red tassel in the centre and wearing it for a hat. It is almost as bad a sham as some of the ladies wear now-a-days. This last named chap is a Turk, and will try to sell you relics from Jerusalem.

Other interesting characters are, the Russian, Norwegian, South American, Indian, to whose complexions the copper cent bears a very striking resemblance. Another thing noticeable among the people at and around seaports is how they adopt in conversation the language or peculiar terms of expression used among sailors. The common conversation of the sailor becomes the “slang” of the populace. For instance in speaking of a man who breaks in business they say “he is sinking,” “his head's under water.” Or of making a “corner” in a bargain they say “I'll back on him.” If two fellows get into a quarrel you'll hear such language as “I'll go aboard you” or “I'll wreck you.” They say much more than they mean—the best fighters say the least. In these days we need more work and less gush.

Now, Mr. Editor and readers, this will close my regular descriptive letters from the seaside—will give the remainder in broken doses. I thank you sincerely for the space you have given me in your excellent paper. The sketches have been hurriedly written, therefore imperfectly. I am conscious of having made mistakes, but if none criticize but those who are free from error, then my critics will be few. If in them you've found merit applaud; is demerit spread over it the gorgeous mantle of charity “for blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain life mercy.” So one and all; when a life of error is done may gems of joy, and pearls of peace sparkle in your “crown of rejoicing.”  
HERNDON TUTTLE.

## MR. BOWER'S SPEECH ON THE EX-CONFEDERATE PENSION BILL IN THE SENATE.

Reasons Why This Humane Act Should Command Itself to Every Patriotic Person—Proper Gratitude to the Brave.

MR. BOWER SAID:

MR. PRESIDENT: Observation and study have taught me there exist here, as elsewhere, two distinct classes of legislators,—characterized by the motives which impel them to action. I hardly know by what terms to designate them unless we distinguish them as the realists and the sentimentalists. To one class everything that is useless and practical addresses itself with special force, while to the other the strongest impulse to action is often naked, blind, and uncalculating sentiment. The first are always painstaking and parsimonious, though generally safe representatives, while the latter, though lofty and disinterested in motive, are usually speculative and unreliable repositories of public trust. The first are all facts and figures, the latter all feeling and heart. The latter move to the music of the noblest passions of the human breast, the former keep time to the “eloquent chink” of dollars and cents. These two distinct, but by no means reprehensible types of representatives, are strikingly illustrated in the occupants of this chamber. They exist as checks and counter-checks upon each other. But distinctions are invidious, and I shall not enter upon so delicate a classification. I have attempted in my short legislative career to blend as far as possible in happy composition the two prominent traits of both classes, and thus bring to bear in my official conduct a proper degree of mingled economy and liberality. The measure before us is to be settled by an appeal to the heart or to the purse. To my mind it presents the strongest merit, founded, as it is, in the most rigid justice and the noblest sentiment. A preliminary question that claims our investigation is our financial ability to meet the expenditure contemplated by this act. Much as our hearts may plead for the measure if upon a calm survey of our situation we find ourselves unable, pecuniarily, to meet its demands, it should fall to the ground. A donation that oppresses the giver, is not a gratuity, but an exaction. Thanks, however, to the wise counsels that have prevailed in the past, such is not our condition. If the report of our Treasurer be at all reliable we have never been in a better situation to meet the expenditure contemplated by this act. Much as our hearts may plead for the measure if upon a calm survey of our situation we find ourselves unable, pecuniarily, to meet its demands, it should fall to the ground. A donation that oppresses the giver, is not a gratuity, but an exaction. Thanks, however, to the wise counsels that have prevailed in the past, such is not our condition. If the report of our Treasurer be at all reliable we have never been in a better situation to meet the expenditure contemplated by this act. 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