

# The Lenoir Topic

VOLUME X.

LENOIR, N. C., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 1896.

NUMBER 26.

Wallace  
Bros.,

STATESVILLE, N. C.

Wholesale Dealers

IN

General Merchandise.

101

Largest Warehouse

and best facilities for handling

ties for handling

dling

Dried Fruit, Ber-

ries, etc., in

the State.

RESPECTFULLY

Wallace

Bros.

August 27th, 1894.

J. M. SPAINHOUR,

Dentist.

Lenoir, N. C.  
Use 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.  
Specialist in All the Courts

## THE NO-FENCE LAW.

MILL CREEK, Patterson, N. C.  
EDITOR TOPIC: Excuse me for being one of many to say something about the arguments of our Wilton Creek friend. He abruptly breaks in with, "I don't see how we can better the country by the stock law." His not seeing it is no argument, for, being shut in by the peaks of the hill country, no one expects him to see as far into the future as those living in the broad valleys farther east.

Also, he is assuming a great deal in saying it will "break up the county," and it is a strange idea to me, that the stock law will hinder any one from keeping their original number of horses. I did not know that it was a practice anywhere in the county to turn horses to the range. If it is, the sooner stopped the better. And it is too hard for the cows, man's best friend, to have to climb the rugged hills and explore the mountain gorges for their daily food, the substance of which is drawn from them at night for the benefit of their unfeeling owners.

As for reducing the number of hogs, that will be little loss to any one. Where does the money come from on the long-nosed, flop-eared, razor-back d woods hogs of Caldwell? It doesn't come. It is not a very heavy job to fence Caldwell. It will not be a heavy tax on the "good people of Caldwell," (the tax will be equally on good and bad.)

And our "mean people" are less likely to burn the fence around Caldwell than they are to burn an individual fence. They fear the law.

I gladly admit "the county is improving," and the people becoming anxious for the stock law is good proof that they see the county is not "good enough" to let alone, and are determined to improve it more. He has been saying all along that the stock law what bring the money in the county; now hear him saying, "fence your cultivated ground and let your stock take the range," which is to say, send your stock off in a root-hog-or-die fashion, to shift for themselves. I say, if it is the stock brings all the money, fence up and take care of the stock rather than agricultural work.

As for his "plain case," that is the drover's business, and he had better tie his cattle anyway, for there is danger of losing some in taking them loose.

Very likely he had rather have the revenue law, living up there in the mountains where he has so good a chance to blockade; but those who live down in the bounds of civilization don't have a "fair showing."

It may be the only good in it for him is to "let it alone," but on the other side see other good in it, and we won't have any "let it alone" in ours.  
D. E. F.  
(I am not deaf.)

## GENSURE OF JURIES.

MORGANTON, March 11.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TOPIC:—An "outsider" in your issue of the 4th in reply to "one of the jury," whose article appeared in your issue of Feb. 11th, seems to go too far in his controversy in the strictures he makes upon the jury in the Ray case and in regard to the action of juries generally.

It may be true and your correspondent has frequently thought that juries often acquit in capital cases, especially in cases of homicide, when they ought to convict, but when an "outsider" goes so far as to say that "when any juror or lawyer denies the right and privilege of criticizing the verdict of juries this country will have fallen upon evil days, our large oaks will become Tyburn trees whose fruit will be supplied by Judge Lynch and our society will degenerate into chaos," it seems even an "outsider" goes too far.

As I remember the remarks of "one of the jury," a straight forward manly utterance, he denied no man the right of criticism, but simply repelled what he conceived unjust imputations.

But are the verdicts of juries to be controlled by the irresponsible opinions and criticisms of outsiders? Is our sole reliance for honest and just verdicts the shame or the fear excited in the minds of the jury by expectant criticism of the public? Is the public sentiment, the criticism of outsiders to influence juries at all?

If so, assemble a mob at once and let that mob try and acquit or hang the one accused accordingly to their ideas, for fear our large oaks may become "Tyburn trees," bearing fruit of a strange sort, and our society degenerate into chaos.

In the name of all that is sacred, keep the public sentiment and the fear of public criticism out of the jury box, for there can be no general public sentiment and no general public criticism except there be some public sentiment, and the words of the wise tell us and the pages of history show us that in times of excitement every safeguard around both the innocent and the guilty is thrown down and no man is safe who differs in conduct from his fellows, or who acts contrary to their theories as to how he should have acted.

No man, we say, is safe when in-

dicted, unless the jury which tries him has the manhood to look solely to the law and the testimony. If the public sentiment or the one-sided opinion of the public made up on hearsay testimony or the fear of criticism is to obtrude itself into the jury box, and influence their deliberations on their verdict, then farewell to liberty and justice for the verdict returned is a servile one and Fouquier Tenille's court is an honorable one in comparison for that made no professions of honesty.

He who has the most followers, he who has the most wealth and influence, he who is most capable of influencing the opinion of the public is sure of a verdict, and the weak and the poor and the powerless may console themselves in knowing that the foulest oppression, the most abject tyranny has been accomplished under the forms of law. They feel the pangs of the wolf and think "outsider" that they feel it the less or that his bite is the less deadly that the wolf has on the garb of the sheep?

"Outsider" thinks that "when any juror or lawyer denies the privilege of criticizing the verdict of juries, this country will have fallen upon evil days," but has he ever thought that "this country will have fallen upon evil days" if the fear of criticism and the public sentiment is to go with juries into the jury box?

I point "outsider" to the different phases of public sentiment. In Fredell county a homicide case has just been tried and the jury convicted of manslaughter when the prisoner ought probably to have been hanged, but see how unseemly it is that a great daily paper should berate and condemn the jury as it is doing because the prisoner was not acquitted. This it does upon the idea—an idea which if founded in fact would undoubtedly excuse and justify him—in the eyes of a jury if not in the eyes of the law, that the prisoner acted in defence of the public and virtue of womanhood. Therefore we say with the kindest feelings towards "outsider" and agreeing with him probably as to the fate which Ray justly merits that the public opinion and the fear of criticism ought not to be considered by juries and ought not to influence them.

OXLOOKER.

## FIRST CABINET MEETING.

Secretary Lamar and Attorney-General Garland were the first arrivals to attend the cabinet meeting. They came a few minutes before noon. After them came Messrs. Vilas and Whitney, Messrs. Bayard, Endicott and Manning were five minutes behind time. The President was already in the cabinet-room awaiting their coming. After greeting all present, he directed one of the executive clerks to designate the seats around the table. President Cleveland took the head of the table, the Secretaries of State, War and Postmaster-General on his right; the Secretaries of the Treasury, Navy and Attorney-General on his left, and the Secretary of the Interior at the foot of the table. It was ten minutes past twelve when the first regular cabinet meeting of this administration was called to order. They remained in session until twenty minutes past two o'clock.

There was a general expression of opinion on subjects relating to the various departments. Each member stated the condition of affairs in his department, and made such suggestions as he deemed necessary to facilitate the transaction of public business. Without committing himself as to what actually occurred, a member of the cabinet remarked that the time consumed at the first meeting was spent profitably and in the interest of good government.

It is understood that the session was devoted almost entirely to the consideration of federal appointments. It is asserted on good authority that each member of the cabinet submitted a list of appointments in his department, held to be essential to the administration of public business under the present regime. The lists, it is understood, included only such offices in which a change was desirable at once, in order that the new Secretaries might discharge the duties of their offices without the least friction or embarrassment. The deliberations of the cabinet today will probably result in a long list of nominations being sent to the Senate by the President tomorrow.

## Politics in Washington.

It is understood that the democratic Senators to take the places on the committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, vacated by Messrs. Garland, Bayard and Lamar, will be Messrs. Vest, Coke and Harris. Senator Vance will take Mr. Bayard's place on the committee on finance, Senator Ransom will become chairman of the committee on private land claims, in place of Mr. Bayard, and Senator Gorman will be chairman of the select committee on the river front of Washington, in place of Gen. Ransom. Senator Gorman will also be given a place on the committee on appropriations.

The President sent the following nominations to the Senate today: Charles S. Fairchild, of New York,

to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury; John C. Black, of Illinois, to be commissioner of pensions.

The Secretary of the Treasury has appointed Mr. Valentine P. Snyder, of New York, his private secretary, to succeed Mr. Frank Sperry, who has resigned to engage in the practice of law in New York city.

One of the first official acts of Secretary Manning was to authorize Assistant Secretary Coon to sign instead of the Secretary all warrants for the payment of money into the public treasury. A successor to Mr. Coon will be nominated in a few days.

First Assistant Postmaster Gen. Crosby was the first bureau officer to tender his resignation to President Cleveland. His resignation was tendered verbally on March 5, and formally, and in writing, on the day following.

President Cleveland will continue the practice of having cabinet meetings on Tuesdays and Fridays of each week, and the first meeting of the new cabinet will be held tomorrow.

## British Arms in Africa.

Our correspondent from Sands who asks us the cause of the British war with El Mahdi propounds a hard question and one involving a long history. In the imperfect and, in many respects, inaccurate reply which we give below, we must be excused from giving dates. We have for some time intended to reprint such a history from the columns of an exchange if we could come across it, but we have failed to find it.

Our correspondent must know that the Sultan of Turkey is the head of Islam to whom all Mohammedan monarchs owe allegiance. Egypt being a Mohammedan country, is therefore tributary in a certain sense to the Turk. The complication begins there. The Sultan is the traditional "sick man" of Europe and all the European powers watch with jealous eye every act of public policy taking place at Constantinople for fear it may involve a change in the "balance of power." If a fair divide were possible the European part of Turkey would have been dismembered long ago, but as it is, the powers of Europe content themselves with allowing their relations with each other in reference to Turkey to assume the shape of an "armed neutrality."

This interest of Europe in Turkish affairs relates also to Egypt which is a dependency of the Ottoman Empire. Indeed, in Egypt there are separate and independent interests with which all Europe is concerned. The Suez canal, the great pathway of the Eastern trade, belongs to the world and Europe is interested in keeping it open to commerce. This alone gives all of the European powers an excuse for interfering in Egyptian affairs. Again, the Khedive or viceroy who preceded the one at present on the Egyptian throne was what was called a progressive monarch. He had traveled much in Europe and had imbibed Western ideas. He essayed the task of modernizing Egypt and of pushing the country bodily forward out of the darkness and ignorance of the time of Mohammed into the light and science of the present.

Great things were predicted for the land of the Pharaohs.

At once this "wise prince" gathered around him as advisers a few natives who shared his new views and a good many foreigners, among them, we believe, some Americans. He remodeled his army upon the European style and officered it with English, French and American veterans. Several of our confederate Generals, Colonels and Majors found employment for their swords under this Egyptian reformer, among them Gen. R. E. Colston, who has just written a very readable account of his services in the Soudan for the March "Century."

He called around him many learned men of science, masters in art, literature, &c., and gave them preference. Of these was Dr. Edward Warren, Bey, of North Carolina. He began public works upon a magnificent scale and prepared to make his cities the equals, if not the rivals, of those of Europe.

To do all this required money and he had none. He borrowed from the money changers in Europe and much of it came from England. Time rolled on and the "new Egypt" seemed to be going ahead of the days of Moses and the bull rushers. All of this change was on the surface, however, and down below it, the great body and bulk of the people were the same ignorant, superstitious, fanatical Mohammedans as in the past. They were not favorably inclined to the new order of things and looked askance at the "dogs of Christians" who had been placed over them not only in the army but in the civil offices. Bourbons of the Bourbons they chafed beneath subservience to the foreigners.

The Khedive's loans bore interest and some of them were due. The already high taxes were increased. His tax gatherers made their rounds and oppressed the people. The opponents of the new regime kept the people in agitation and an uprising resulted. The Khedive abdicated

and a new Khedive, the present one, was appointed in his stead by the Sultan.

The policy was changed and many of the foreign officers of the army and civil service were discharged. But the European debt remained and the European powers retained enough influence to see that it was not repudiated. So that the people still found themselves saddled with a foreign debt and were galled with a foreign yoke. Some of their leaders, El Mahdi especially, dreamed of complete independence. This impostor made himself accepted by a large class of the "true believers" as the promised Messiah, and began a war upon the "infidels." Thousands flocked to his standard.

Here, then, was England's "casus belli." The freedom of the Suez canal was an European necessity and the payment of the Egyptian debt, much of which was held by English subjects, was another. Both would be sacrificed if El Mahdi succeeded in entrenching himself in Egypt and dethroning the Khedive. So she sent Gordon with troops to suppress the false prophet. The other European powers felt the necessity of repressive measures and yet they held themselves aloof, ready to take advantage of any misstep England may make, for fear that, by bearing the brunt of the war, England may demand an extra slice in the final settlement.

At home, in England, the Liberals are in power and they are peace men and do not believe in wars for the acquisition of territory. They are in favor of prosecuting this war far enough to whip the El Mahdi and to preserve British interests intact. On the other hand the Tories are in favor of the war at all hazards and, in the end, to increase the bounds of British territory if possible. All hands in England favor the war to a certain extent.

## THE CLOUDBAND.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TOPIC:—I have seen the huge and famous canon, at the almost invisible bottom of which, dashes and foams the Cheat River, with a sullen roar which reaches the ear hundreds of feet above, in West Virginia.

I have seen the broad and solemn stretches of the sage-covered plains of Nebraska and Nevada. I have stood on the top of the snow-created Rockies and gazed at worlds of beauty.

I have seen the king of oceans kissing the shores of the fair land of gold and flowers. I have seen the great, solemn "dark deep blue sea" with its ocean's heave and its fierce billows rolling. Again I have seen it slumbering in its glassy calm, dead and still as far as the vision goes.

I have seen the "white caps" dash themselves into flying spray against the marble-like vine-clad rocks that make the beautiful and famed little bay at Mansanilla, Mexico. I have noticed with a northern eye the luxuriant vegetable beauty under the equator. I have seen the dew drops clinging in the palm-covered Indies.

I have stood on high and looked at the "gay festive Broadway" in the live, wringing City of New York.

All these and much more have I contemplated, but lo! here is something in my own State, under my very eye, as 'twere, that far surpasses anything else in grandeur, sublimity, softness and varied beauty. I refer to "the Switzerland of America," the Watauga "land of the Sky."

I have also seen the French Broad, "Caesar's Head" and the famous Asheville views, made famous more perhaps by Miss Fisher's gifted pen than anything else. These views do not in the least compare with the Blowing Rock scenery.

We have many brilliant young ladies in W. N. C. capable of "doing up" the Switzerland of America, the Watauga "land of the Sky" if only they would. I will guarantee that whoever does this, as Miss Fisher has done, will reap to herself "a monument that will mock the regal splendor of marble and the durability of perennial brass" and last as long as the rock of Gibraltar.

"Don't all speak at once, but pause and reflect." Look at the new Switzerland well, the Grandfather, the Elk Knob, Flat Top, Fairview, Blowing Rock. See these at the right time and under the proper circumstances, and you can say along with me:

Oh, never before have I felt the glow,  
That now gladdens my heart to its core.

A Fox Hunt, Chase and Catch.

Hunting is not only an amusement of the peasant, but of the king and Lord as well. In some shape it has existed from the earliest dawn of history even down to the present time. Every section, as well as every age, has its peculiar kind of hunting. And the kind is varied according as the game varies.

Nimrod was a hunter. Esau was a hunter. Quite a number of the Kings of England were hunters. And the royal park was as far from being public hunting ground, as was England's crown of gold, power, and greatness from being public property. Daniel Boone the great

North Carolina, Tennessee and Kentucky explorer, was a hunter. Elbert Beach is a hunter, and so are many more that I need not mention now.

So we see that hunters have existed, that they still exist; and that it would not be presumptuous to say that they may exist in the future. And I doubt not, "mirabile dictu," that many, at first thought, will take the mighty peal of Gabriel's trumpet, for the sound of some hunter's horn.

But a little history is making our tale too long. It was in the morning of the 7th inst., at 2 o'clock, that "Gus" and myself were aroused from our slumbers by the distant "tooting" of Elbert's horn, to take a fox hunt.

Now Elbert is one among the list of famous hunters named above, and his dog Kate, the brag one in his pack, is as good a "striker" as Pink's Bob, and he is just "good enough." She was never known to take the "back track." She yelps only when she strikes a 'possum or a fox trail.

The morning was clear and still, the frost had tipped mountain, valley, twig and spire with a beautiful crest of crystals, from which the clear, modest moon, as she rose in the eastern sky, caused to shoot forth in silent magnificence, a thousand silver rays. A better morning for a fox chase, all hunters will agree, never dawned.

Being surrounded by all things favorable to a successful hunt, we "toot" our horn, the hounds howl, and rear and play, and then we start to the "hunting grounds" in the distance. We have gone only a few hundred yards when both Kate and Bob disappear, nor are they seen or heard any more until we have gone over hills, through valleys, across the path of the cyclone and up and down the mountain, for a distance of six miles.

All at once the deep silence of the night is broken by the well known "open" of Kate, Elbert, the hunter's thrill running through his soul, says: "Kate has struck." In a moment Bob chimes in, and away to the foot of the mountain they go. They are trailing either an opossum or a fox, and we are soon convinced by reason of distance, that it is the latter; and that, unless he shows double cunning, he will be our meat before the frost melts away, for we feel that if Bob and Kate and Streak and Chip and Buzzard can't catch him, Pomp (our bird dog) can set him.

It is now a quarter after 4 o'clock, and Elbert and I sit down on the mountain, while Gus follows the dogs. Aeneas-like we strike the fire from the flint, and lay to the fagots, and soon we have a crackling fire, around which we sit, with perfect comfort and indulge in "jeu d'esprit," waiting anxiously for the hounds to "jump" renard, who has by this time found some jungle, suitable for his diurnal snooze, and is crouched, while he counts the number of his pursuers, as they yelp, and wonders if they can be after him, Nearer and nearer, clearer and clearer, yelp after yelp falls upon his much excited ear, until wonder becomes reality—he is the pursuer.

"Magno coelo!" he exclaims, "it is time for me to stir." He rises, he springs, he flies. He is now "up." In a moment the trail dogs scent him afresh, and bark in livelier tone. The hunters give a resounding whoop. The dogs, that have this far taken no part in the chase, fly to the place, and the race is begun.

By this time it is "prima luce." Aurora appears in the East, and the silvery moon grows pale, and draws back from the earth, and folds to her bosom her beams, now conquered and made faint by those of a superior. Away to the Freeman old fields, thence back to the Wiley Bean place the hounds speed in hot pursuit, making mountain, valley, hill and dale resonant with the sprightliest of music. Then they turn to the eastward, and to the flat woods between Hudsonville and Lovelady they go, a distance of over two miles.

By this time Gus has joined us, and we stand "auribus relictis," over the dying coals of our once cheerful and warming fire, and listen to the hounds music, as it grows less and less audible, until all is hushed. Silence reigns supreme, except now and then the shrill bluster of chancier, in some neighboring farm yard.

Some one says, "they'll be back." We wait some minutes. No sound is heard, and we follow the direction of the last yelp. We keep our course for the distance of two miles, and lo! we hear the dogs coming.

We are still having winter in Watauga. There is a beautiful snow on the ground this morning about 3 inches deep.

Coru and hay will be scarce in this neighborhood, this spring, on account of light crop last year caused by the drought.

Your correspondent wants to know the cause of the present war between Great Britain and the Arabs. Please answer in THE TOPIC. See accounts of the war in many of the newspapers, but I have not yet seen the cause of the war.

## Sketches from Watauga.

SUGAR GROVE, March 7.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TOPIC:—Seeing that the esteemed and more worthy correspondent at this place has no late articles in THE TOPIC, and also the "Pine Burr" sketches of Caldwell, has led me to try a few reminiscences. Watauga county, noted for its beautiful mountain scenery, cold clear water and pure air, is almost encircled by the Stone mountain and Blue Ridge. The poets of the old world have made much ado about "Nature's deepest dyes, floating o'er Italian skies," but we need not go to Italy to behold a beautiful, a soul inspiring sky. True, we have not seen much of nature's beauty during late cold spell, but even now we have some perfect days, when not a cloud disturbs the blue serenity of the arching dome above us. The hills, basking in the golden light of the gorgeous winter sun, are softened by a mellow haze, characteristic of the Indian summer, and the birds, whose carols have been hushed by the ice and snow, break forth in merry song.

Much has been written about the scenery of Switzerland, but we need not cross the boisterous ocean to enjoy scenery equal if not superior to that of Switzerland. The most enchanting features are found on the summits of the Blue Ridge, Beech and Rich Mts. What summer visitor from the lowlands will ever forget Blowing Rock or Fairview? Of equal beauty and grandeur, though not so well known, are the North and South pinnacles of the Beech and the Big-Bald of the Birch Mts.

The bold and rugged outlines of the Grandfather, standing out in full relief against the horizon, have allurements even for those who were reared near its base, but how non-appreciative are we of the lavish gifts of nature! Many people have spent their lives under the very shadow of this noble mountain without climbing to its balsam covered top for a single view.

Watauga county was organized in 1849 and takes its name from the river which flows through it. The name is of Indian origin and was proposed, I think, by Dudley Farthing, Esq., delegate to the organizing convention from Beaver Dams, where he still resides in the enjoyment of a ripe old age. Col. Johnathan Horton of New River, and Benj. Greer, Esq., of Cove Creek, were also members of the convention. They are both living and much respected and beloved by all who know them.

Of those who took a part in the early county government but few are living. Most of them have passed away from the stir and bustle of this life, have crossed over the river to rest under the shade of the trees.

Michael Cook was the first sheriff. He was a good man but the office broke him up. He died a few years ago on New River. The first term of court for this county was held in an old barn about a half mile east of Boone, where Henry Hardin now lives. A courthouse was erected in due time, but I believe the second term was held in Dr. Council's office, which was just closed, but not finished.

Up to this time there was only one dry goods store in the county, that of Jourdan Council. He hauled all his goods on wagons from Charleston, S. C., giving in exchange bear skins, deer hides and hams, ginseng and such other produce as the country afforded.

The price of ginseng then being about five cents per pound and other produce equally low, the great distance to market and the total want of competition, for about twenty years, kept goods up at booming prices, and I have been told by some of the first settlers that they had to pay from 35 to 50 cents per yard for calico and domestic and 24 dollars per bunch for spun cotton.

No roads, no mills, nothing but woods, and yet you offer her the youngster of today who wears good warm yarn clothes at the same price his grampa wore domestic, say: "I don't see what kept grampa from getting rich." KERR.

## Our Sands Letter.

SANDS, March 7.

Miss Asinith Sands died the 24th of Feb. in the 79th year of her age. She was never married and lived with her sister, Elbert Brown's wife, who died a few months ago. Miss Sands was the third one of the family to die within twelve months, all very old people.

We are still having winter in Watauga. There is a beautiful snow on the ground this morning about 3 inches deep.

Coru and hay will be scarce in this neighborhood, this spring, on account of light crop last year caused by the drought.

Your correspondent wants to know the cause of the present war between Great Britain and the Arabs. Please answer in THE TOPIC. See accounts of the war in many of the newspapers, but I have not yet seen the cause of the war.

SUBSCRIBE.

A floury composition—A bread pudding.

D. LIFEKAW.