

The Lenoir Topic

VOLUME X.

LENOIR, N. C., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 1885.

NUMBER 32.

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.
Works 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.
Practice in All The Courts.

OUR NEW YORK LETTER.

Gen. Grant Reads his own Obituary—A Cheap Trading Street—Opening Day—The New Old Testament—Immigrants—High Houses.

NEW YORK, April 20, 1885.

To the Editor of The Lenoir Topic:

The one topic of talk that now supersedes every other here is General Grant's condition. For three or four weeks his death was expected every hour. The poets wrote odes to him dying, the place where he should be buried was discussed, flags were got ready to be flung forth to the breeze at half-mast, hundreds and hundreds of public buildings, newspaper buildings and the like prepared their mourning decorations; the great papers kept an army of reporters in the streets in front of his residence, and they had in type pages and pages about his career, and his obituary is now already in type in every newspaper office in the city. Time and again it has been announced in the afternoon that he could not live till the next morning. Now, after all these false alarms, the man is up, eating and joking and riding out, and will go up into the Catskill mountains to spend the summer; and now everybody is laughing at the doctors. The result of the whole thing, however, will most likely be that about the time it is thought he may be out of danger he will die.

A CHEAP TRADING STREET.

There is not in this whole city (and there is everything in this city) a more interesting experience possible than to spend an afternoon and evening on Grand street—east of Bowery. Every human industry can there be seen, and every kind of human being. I encountered signs in seven different languages in the distance of three blocks—English, German, French, Swedish, Italian, Spanish and Hebrew. In fifteen minutes walk you can see almost every conceivable employment, from a tinker's shop to work in setting diamonds. For half a mile on either side of the street every window is a store, and sometimes half a merchant's stock is placed in that one window. The front of his whole space is just wide enough for the window and a very narrow door. Inside there is just room enough for a narrow counter, and space behind it for the clerks and before it for the customers. Every inch of room is used to the best possible advantage. Most of these small stalls—they are hardly more—rent for \$1,200 to \$2,500 a year. Of course, therefore, they must all do a great deal of trading during the year. If during the day the merchant sells out his whole stock, he can go and buy another stock in half an hour that night—less than half a mile away. I suppose that it is the cheapest trading place in the world. Of course, many things that compose a very large part of the trade are worthless, but the remnants of stock from more fashionable stores in other parts of the city, the goods bought at auction after fires, those sold by insurance agents—in all these odd ways millions of dollars worth of merchandise of every description is sold there for really less than the original cost of manufacture.

In my own acquaintance there is a North Carolina merchant who comes here once or twice a year, and stops at a quiet and reasonably cheap boarding house. He does not fall into the hands of the drummers of the big wholesale houses, but he quietly goes to work on Grand street and the Bowery looking for bargains. He buys in this way a very large part of his stock for a great discount from the current prices. He knows what he is doing, and he buys nothing that is not a good article. Within the last seven years that man has made \$40,000 or more, and he has succeeded where three others in the same line have during that time failed. Can you guess who he is?

AN "OPENING" DAY.

The great merchants have at the beginning of every season here a grand "opening" day—the day on which the first novelties of the season are first shown. Spring opening days are now the thing. Yesterday I examined the elaborate preparation made by one of the large retail merchants upon Sixth Avenue. He had fine pictures especially for the occasion to make the establishment look like a place of art. Over the door was an archway of flowers six feet wide, with "opening day" set in it with red roses in letters as large as your hand. Neckwear and handkerchiefs and notions of every color were arranged in the shape of flowers, of horse-shoes, of rainbows, and flags and banners flew everywhere. In the window was a pretty wedding party of two little figures fashionably dressed, standing before the altar, a mimic Mrs. Tom Thumb wedding. A boy in livery stood to open the door, and a pretty child ran up to everybody who entered and made her a present of a Japanese set of pictures. All these decorations must have cost several thousand dollars. Yet they made a most striking advertisement. For several days in advance this spring had been advertised in the papers, and thousands of persons went to see it.

THE NEW OLD TESTAMENT.

The new translation of the Old Testament—the revised version which corresponds with the Revised New Testament—will be issued here tomorrow. It is not expected that it will cause as much discussion as the Revised New Testament caused. The latter has yet never got into common use among the people. They prefer the good old version that was taught in their childhood. The new Old Testament will be published in a dozen different sizes and shapes, which will range in price from a few cents to \$50. Most Biblical students will wish to have it in order to compare it with the old translation. A special edition will be published which will have the new and the old versions in parallel columns. This is the most important news of the time from the printing houses.

IMMIGRANTS.

Every day now large numbers of emigrants from Europe land here. The tide of them is just now especially large and strong. They have not yet, however, begun in any great numbers to go South. North Carolina this year, however, may confidently count on an unusually large number of Northern visitors to spend the summer. The fear of cholera here, the diseases and tendencies to disease that were aggravated by the unusually severe winter and the continually increasing reputation of Western North Carolina as a summer resort will cause a strong tide to set toward you as soon as the hot months come.

HIGH HOUSES.

The fashion to build a house by here now is to build it eleven stories high. That is far above the earth as many of these Babel builders will ever get too. For one day last week eight high houses in one block tumbled down. It was a fortunate thing that they were not quite finished and were, therefore, not occupied. Otherwise there would have been a great loss of life. As it was, several workmen were killed. The contractor has been arrested and will be tried for murder in the second degree—for allowing such slenderly supported structures to be put up so high. Ground has become so very costly, and elevators have become so rapid that it is as convenient to live ten stories above ground as it is to live on the first floor—and a good deal cheaper, of course. In some of these buildings which are used for business purposes thousands of men and women work, packed as close as sardines in a box. Some of them that are used for residences are inhabited by a dozen or more families—every family being far away from the others in all practical ways as if they lived in different cities. To people who are thus huddled together a little fresh sunshine is a great blessing, and they appreciate it. Yesterday, which was the brightest and pleasiest day that has come this spring was a great day for the elevated railroads, the liverstable men and the horse-cars; for everybody went to a park or down to one of the rivers or up or out into the country. Ten thousand children hailed such a day as a blessing. Yet your good air and weather is so abundant and free, that you seldom think of how poor a thing life would be where you could not get it. CALDWELL.

The Solicitor-Generalship.

Baltimore Sun.
Solicitor-General Phillips, who has held the office for twelve years, has placed his resignation at the disposal of the President, and proposes when his successor is appointed to practice law at the seat of government. Mr. Phillips has filled this important office with distinguished ability, and he retires from it now because, as he says, he thinks the incumbent of the position should be in full accord with the administration. The salary of the position is \$7,000 per annum only \$1,000 less than that of the Attorney-General. There are many applicants for the position, the majority of whom are thought to be entirely unfit for it, but none of whom are worried by the absence of qualifications. The President and the Attorney-General have given careful consideration to the matter, and both are exceedingly anxious to select a man worthy of the place if the politicians will permit them.

Not a Mugwump.

New York Evening Post.
The appointment of Mr. James M. Morgan as Consul General at Melbourne must not be ascribed to the influence of the Mugwumps, although the appointee was an active partisan of Mr. Blaine down to the day of the Presidential election. His admiration for Mr. Blaine's foreign policy was so great that he wrote and published, here in New York, a pamphlet of considerable bulk, advocating Blaine's election on the ground that it would be a guarantee of protection to American citizens abroad. Mr. Bayard ought to ask Mr. Morgan for a copy of that pamphlet before making out his commission, unless perchance the appointment was made upon grounds of special fitness for consular duties, overruling all party considerations.

Our New Orleans Trip.

To the Editor of the Lenoir Topic:

By your permission we will now conclude our former article outlining what we saw at the Exposition. New Orleans is indeed a great city, numbering two hundred and twenty five thousand inhabitants. She is great in a commercial point of view. Besides her railroad facilities she is situated on the Mississippi river, comparatively near the Gulf of Mexico, thus possessing the finest advantages for a commercial port. As a cotton market she stands at the head of all others and does an immense business in sugar, molasses, rice, &c.

Her population is composed largely of the French and other foreign elements. More than once the writer listened to conversations among these people which were as meaningless to him as the babbling of so many brooks. Judging from appearances the city is greatly demoralized. The busy throngs disregarding the sacredness of the Sabbath day crowd her stores, saloons, theatres and other places of business and amusement to such an extent as to remind one unaccustomed to these things of the wickedness of those ancient cities which by their persistent wickedness brought about their own destruction. But amidst all this chiming of the church bells, calling the pious away from these demoralizing scenes to their sacred temples, told us that in this vast multitude there were many good people. Indeed if such were not the case an overflow of the mighty river on whose banks she stands might long ago have swept her into the great Gulf—we will say—of Mexico.

In and around New Orleans are many places of interest as well as fine scenery. West End and Spanish Fort on Lake Ponchartrain to which we referred in our former article, the French markets, city parks and cemeteries are all interesting, but to note all these would make our article much too lengthy, hence we forbear.

We took a trip by rail down to Shell Beach on the Gulf of Mexico, a distance of twenty-seven miles, which was of much interest to us. Some distance of this run was alongside of the Mississippi, thus giving us a splendid view of the river. Here we find places of historical interest. We pass over the old battle grounds where was fought the "Battle of New Orleans" and see the antiquated house in which Gen. Jackson had his headquarters and the old monument erected near by to his memory. We also see the house in which Gen. Packenham died as well as the historical dueling grounds of New Orleans.

We pass through rich and extensive sugar and rice farms—some of them higher and some lower than the river, the latter being protected from overflow by the levees. These farms are cultivated by tenants, consequently the dwellings are very common, but on every farm may be seen large sugar houses. Here we see many of the tropical plants, orange and pecan trees, magnolia and ancient groves of live oaks, thick with swinging, long gray Spanish moss.

This is the home of the alligator which we saw in different places. Small ones were freely offered for sale at one dollar apiece but our party, being a long distance from home and unable to discover the utility or beauty of the amphibious creature, declined such investment.

On our return we spent forty minutes in Chalmette government cemetery. Here we were reminded of the fact that history repeats itself. On the old New Orleans battle grounds is this cemetery, where lie, sleeping beneath the green and silent turf, nineteen thousand soldiers who wore the blue, but lost their lives in the recent rebellion.

We now turn our attention to the Exposition grounds which are a part of the city park and was one of the oldest plantations under the old Spanish regime. On these grounds are the Exposition Buildings.

The largest one being main building devoted to general exhibits and covers an area of thirty-three acres. The next largest is the Government building, devoted to States' exhibits, women's department and colored people's department. Horticultural Hall, Art Gallery, Live stock stables, Factories and Mills are separate buildings. Mexico has a separate building devoted alone to the exhibit of her minerals in which she makes a rich display.

These as well as the grounds are all brilliantly illuminated by electric lamps of many thousand candles power.

The electric searchlight being the most wonderful of all. The operator by some means can concentrate this light, which is said to be one hundred thousand candle-power, and throw it in an instant in any direction and on any object almost anywhere in the dim distance.

After entering the grounds we took a look at Gen. Jackson's war-horse. "Little sorrel" as the General called him, is now thirty years of age but seems to be in fine keeping and looks as if he might live a number of years yet.

Near the main building we view with much interest "Liberty Bell"

which more than one hundred years ago tolled out in such thunder tones the independence of our nation that she rent herself in twain. She is mounted on a car and an iron guard rail all around to protect her from American relic hunters.

Another very interesting scene was a panoramic representation of the battle of Sedan. This representation was so realistic in its details of the battle that the observer was almost made to believe that he was actually engaged in this mortal contest, where in less than eleven hours fifty thousand lives were lost.

The reader will remember that this was the decisive battle of the Franco-Prussian war as it was here that Napoleon III surrendered, thus ending the second empire of France. Let no one who may have an opportunity miss seeing this grand panorama.

An electric car playing in front of the main building on which we took a ride is a matter of no small interest. Wonderful element. Just think. Electricity controlled by man has converted the world into one grand whispering gallery. Has illuminated it with a light nearly rivaling that of the Sun and is beginning to drive the wheels of the engine. Are we not justified in believing that its possibilities are far beyond our conjecture.

But we are growing lengthy and must hurry on.

We will now spend a few moments in the Government building. This building is divided into State sections in which each State makes her own exhibit. As a matter of course the one of most interest to us was that of our own State, and we may truly say that it reflects great credit upon her citizens and is such as we may well feel proud of.

Her display of grains, cotton, tobacco, timbers, minerals, &c., is very fine. From Caldwell we saw gold from Tuttle's X Roads, and the beautiful paintings of Mrs. Dr. J. M. Spainhour. Also in the Smithsonian department a representation of the pit of Nelson's mound on the Yadkin river two miles below Patterson showing relative positions of skeletons, burial cists and altars found on removing the earth under the directions of Dr. J. M. Spainhour. We also noticed the beautiful Hiddenite gems from Alexander county. We will only add that North Carolina's exhibit is rich and diversified and so artistically displayed as to place her in the front ranks in this great exposition. California's exhibit is splendid. She makes a fine display of all of her varied productions. She shows a native squash weighing 222 lbs and being the leading seed producing State of the union shows from one farm 640 samples of different grain seed.

Kansas makes a very fine showing of her agricultural products which are displayed in the most artistic styles.

In Mississippi's exhibit which is also very fine there are two things that attract much attention. One is a house with two occupants, an old gentleman and lady—life-size and human like, all made of cotton as white as snow. The other is "the burial of Cock-Robbin" in which all of the different characters appear as represented in this familiar story.

We will now leave this department for Main Building. Here we see the world in miniature. The exhibits herein made by the different natives of old earth are too immense for our pen and must be seen to be appreciated. However, we will mention a few of the most noticeable exhibits in this department.

Perhaps that of Mexico which is near the centre of the building attracts as much or more attention than any other exhibit, but you must excuse us from a further description of this display. In the United States exhibit perhaps the extensive display of plows made by B. F. Avery & Sons, and Hall Plow Co., of Kentucky, and the Tobacco display made by W. T. Blackwell & Co., and Morris and Sons, of Durham, N. C., attract as much attention as any other exhibits. Machinery department is also very interesting. Here may be seen from the smallest piece of machinery anything up to the great Corlis engine or the Morris Cotton Compress.

Clarks', Coats', and Willmantics' exhibit of spool cotton and its manufacture is beautiful and attractive. But it was not our intention at the outset to particularize of what we close this imperfect outline of what we saw at the World's great Industrial and Cotton Centennial Exposition.

J. L. N.

Down in Wilkes.

Owing to the inclemency of the weather, I have so far done but little prospecting; but from the indications which I have seen, I am satisfied that the mineral resources of this old county are very great, and perhaps second to no county in the State. D. M. Hall our enterprising postmaster and merchant at this place, is doing a profitable business in the mercantile line and is also engaged in developing the mineral resources of this locality. T. C. L.

Ismael Pasha, ex-Khedive, has subscribed \$500 to the Gordon memorial fund.

Intensive Farming.

NORTH CATAWBA TOWNSHIP, Caldwell county, N. C.

To the Editor of The Lenoir Topic:

As I see an editorial in your last issue of THE TOPIC on farming, in which my name was mentioned, and as your ideas on the intensive system are true, I thought that it would not be impertinent for me to give you a statement of my experience in farming in Caldwell. I moved to Caldwell in March 1881, bought 160 acres of land at \$4.50 per acre, planted five acres in cotton in 1881, used five bags of fertilizer, which cost \$19, sold my cotton crop for \$203. After paying for fertilizer I had \$184 left. I then had a chance to make my fertilizer for the next year which caused me to increase my crop as far as I could manure and no further. I made five bales and sold them to Geo. Harper and Patterson Factory Co., for \$227. By making compost, using all kinds of rich earth, placing it in the drill, then dashing it with about 100 lbs. of Navassa Acid Phosphate to the acre, has gradually increased my crop and improved my land, so that in 1883 I sold my cotton to Patterson Factory Co. for \$302, got the cash all at one load. Only used three bags of fertilizer which was given me by companies to experiment with to test their value.

In 1884 I cut off part of my cotton crop for wheat, expecting to make the same but the drought interfered, though I made \$200 worth, besides I made my meat and bread every year after 1881 and sold corn, wheat and bacon every year.

I only mention cotton as I would like to induce the people in this and Lovelady township to grow it, for a money crop, but I have been equally successful in producing wheat, oats, potatoes and all kinds of vegetables except cabbage, which the dry weather ruined. This year (1885) I am making preparation for a good crop. I have put on one acre for cotton \$500 lbs. of compost and expect to run my crop through on that scale. Put out a small crop, manure, cultivate well and make a good profit, is the plan in this day.

I do not give the above statement as boasting, for I have not done as well as I could have done with a little more energy. The fact is, we do not make farming a study as we should; we ought to read agricultural papers and work more and in better time; do not idle so much time away when we are needed on the farm. When we think that we have nothing to do, that is our busiest time; we ought to be making manure for the next crop. Land in this part is poor but there is no reason why any person should not make a living and clear some money farming. Others in this section can make money raising cotton and tobacco if they will take hold and hang to it. We have some good tobacco farmers that are making big money raising tobacco, though it is something I do not understand. I can always get a cure on cotton, so I will still try it. We earnestly advise our people to cultivate only such land as will make a fair crop and not plant one foot farther than their manure goes on poor land.

A. G. CORPENING.

NORTH CATAWBA, Caldwell county, April 20, 1885.

To the Editor of the Lenoir Topic:

As I see an editorial in THE TOPIC about the intensive system of farming, I thought that I would give a little of my experience in raising cotton in this section. After A. G. Corpening raised his first crop that induced me to try it. It always paid me better than any other crop I raised, and last year I made \$34 off of 1 1/2 acres, besides what I left at home for family use. I expect to plant 5 acres this year and am making my own fertilizer. Have hauled about 4,000 lbs. of manure to the acre and want to use a little commercial fertilizer in the drill under my cotton. I wish we could induce the farmers to raise cotton and tobacco in this section; it will bring more money in the country than anything else.

It is no use for me to try to farm with A. G. Corpening, for he came here and moved on a place worn out and given up as dead without or beyond resurrection and has only been here 4 years and has improved it so as to make a good living and clear from two to three hundred dollars a year on cotton only, besides wheat, oats, &c., that he makes for sale. It seems that crops will grow for him better than any one else. If he walks through a cotton patch that guarantees it to make cotton.

E. E. BRADSHAW.

Wilkes Letter.

HUNTING CREEK, April 14, 1885.

To the Editor of The Lenoir Topic: Farmers are busy now planting corn and preparing land for planting, consequently merchants are idle and trade dull. We are having very cool weather for the season, the wind is blowing snow to-day, but we hope ere long that the breeze will be laden with the gentle breath of spring, and the valleys and hills resume their wonted verdure of green.

Mr. Wm. Anderson and Miss Mary E. Bell, Mr. Samuel Johnson

and Miss Hester Johnson were married on the 8th inst., Rev. I. Holler officiating, and Mr. P. M. Parker and Miss Mary E. Johnson on the 9th inst., B. F. Tedder, Esq., officiating.

Died on the 3rd inst., Mr. Jehu Hendren, and on the 5th, Mrs. A. Glass, leaving a large family to mourn her loss. CATO.

Shull's Mills.

April 20, 1885.

To the Editor of The Lenoir Topic: The monster, death, is constantly on his circuit. He has visited the house of Mr. Henderson Calloway in character of fever, and has taken from the family circle his oldest son, Harrison, who was a young man of rare intelligence. He was also a schoolmate of mine at Globe during the fall term of 1884, much loved by all of his schoolmates. His departure in early life will be mourned by all; but regretted by none more than by me. We roomed together and often we recited our lessons to each other. He was apt, diligent, and agreeable; but alas! no more will that morning bell hasten him down the road he has so often traveled! In my last tribute of respect I will ask dear little Laura to scatter some of the earliest flowers upon his new made grave.

He is gone from among you, the young and fair: To have lost the gleam of his shining hair! But I know of a land where there falls no blight, I shall find him there with his eyes of light, Where Death 'midst the blossoms of the morn may dwell. I tarry no longer, farewell, farewell!

J.

Spring Fashions.

There seems to be nothing very marked in the early-announced fashions for spring. Simplicity in ways of making up, and good, substantial quality in goods, are some of the principal features in those already seen. Woollen fabrics have taken the place of silks for home and street wear, and we may confidently assert that a trained silk dress, such as was commonly seen on the streets a few years ago, would now be an object of ridicule. Cashmere is very popular for spring dresses for ladies and children, and can be worn all through the summer. Almost any shade of any color may be found in this fabric. These and other woollen goods are not, as formerly combined with silk. They are made in tailor-fashion, simply stitched, or trimmed with some of the new fancy braids, or with velvet, which, it is said, is to be worn all through the summer. Velvet figures on silk or satin grounds, are among the most expensive goods, but the designs are much smaller than they have been. These are used for basques, and the front breadths or side panels of skirts. For summer silks nothing can be prettier or more useful than Surah silks. They are in all plain colors and also in changeable colors, as black and gold, blue and brown, etc. Small striped and checked silks may be had at low prices, but light wools are preferred. Nun's veiling is found in all shades for home, street and evening wear. And there is a new fabric of about the same texture called wool-crape, with a slight finish like crape. Interlinked rings, keys, half moons, or tiny flowers with thin leaves, are among the designs used. This is a very handsome way to make up ladies' or children's woollen dresses. For children, the yoke or vest is embroidered, with belt, collar and cuffs to match. Basques and polonaises are both to be worn with vests, real or simulated. The old cut-away basque, sloping back from the top of the darts, is revived, also small jackets of dressy material, resembling the old Zouave jackets.

The Jersey Boom.

The leading aim of the best breeders new seems to be to breed for the butter record. This is so much the case, that the great majority of Jersey cows that have record below fourteen pounds of butter a week, are comparatively cheap, while those with a record of fourteen pounds a week, upwards to twenty-five and thirty pounds a week, are comparatively high. Those at the top of the scale are sought for and bring fabulous prices, or what would be called such a few years ago. Great emphasis is put upon their butter record, and the condition of the tests, as to rations and previous feed of cow, continually grow more precise and satisfactory. The aim is, to show the value of a given animal on a specified value of rations, as a machine for making butter, or what the cow will do on grass alone, in flush feed. These tests are made under the supervision of the American Jersey Cattle Club, or under the direction of such witnesses as secure impartiality and give entire confidence in their correctness. These butter records of the Jerseys are remarkable, compared with the average yield of common cows. They are remarkable especially, as showing the propinquity of bulls.

Bishop Perkin, of West Virginia, has accepted an invitation to preach the annual sermon before the Young Men's Christian Association of the University of Virginia Sunday evening, June 28.