

# The Lenoir Topic.

VOLUME X.

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

NUMBER 35.

## OUR NEW YORK LETTER.

Odd Ways of Making a Living—News of the Week.

NEW YORK, May 11.

To the Editor of *The Lenoir Topic*:

Wallace  
Bros.,

STATESVILLE, N. C.

Wholesale Dealers

IN

General Merchandise.

of

Largest Warehouse

and best facilities

for handling

Dried Fruit, Ber-

ries, etc., in

the State.

RESPECTFULLY

Wallace  
Bros.

August 27th, 1884.

J. M. Spainhour,  
GRADUATE DENTIST, 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.  
Practice in All The Courts.

tions in Central Park as well as in certain low parts of this city. There is a sort of general fear that cholera will come this summer.

Business remains very dull indeed. The excitement caused by news of the probable war in Europe has died away, and everything is as quiet as a dull time can make it. But strictly speaking, it is never quiet in New York. The bustling, busy city is always in a stir, always rushing, hurrying, going headlong, for so many interests centre here that it is the very centre of activity for the whole continent. CALDWELL.

## LETTER FROM KANSAS.

VINTON, Kansas.

To the Editor of *The Lenoir Topic*:

I have been requested by some of the friends of THE TOPIC here in Kansas, to say something of my visit here. After a long and tiresome journey we reached Manhattan, a beautiful little city of between three and four thousand inhabitants, on the north bank of the Kansas river, one hundred and seventeen miles above Kansas City, Mo. Alighting from the train, we first have an introduction to Judge Piper, a genial man, and an old pioneer of Kansas, who gave us a cordial welcome, saying we had come to "a land flowing with milk and honey."

I am pleasantly surprised at the natural features of this section; instead of finding a level plain as many think, I found it quite broken and hilly, interspersed with beautiful valleys as rich and fertile as any soil can be. These hills, or bluffs, rise to a considerable height above the streams, and remind us much of our own Hibernia, minus the trees, being covered only by the prairie grass, which affords excellent grazing for all kinds of stock.

The Kansas river valley, from Kansas City to Junction City, distance one hundred and thirty eight miles, will average about thirty miles in width, though sometimes ten miles wide. The river is skirted with timber sufficient for fuel, and wind breaks for stock, which is very essential here among the piercing winds of Kansas. Beautiful residences dot the valley all the way along, but alas for the poor immigrant seeking a home, it is all owned by some one else, and held at from \$40 to \$50 per acre. Leaving the valleys we strike the rolling prairie, much cheaper in price, but pretty much all taken up, and held at its present value. People here are fully as restless as in the older States, selling and offering to sell, and moving in various directions and for various reasons. This is indeed a great farming country. It is indeed interesting to a new comer here, to see the ingenuity of man here displayed in the invention of agricultural implements, almost anything in this line you can call for, throw largely the burdens of farm life off the man on to the beast. Fine stock, horses, hogs, sheep and cattle in abundance, and bringing good prices in market. Wheat, corn and meat in abundance, but not growing on the bushes, but only the fruit of the sweat of the face.

These are some of the more pleasing features of Kansas, in other words, the sunny side. In my estimation, Kansas like all other States has its drawbacks. The winters here are very cold, and the wind is very penetrating. The society is in a very fragmentary state; made up of people from all nations, it seems not to have assured any permanent form; I mean in the country. It is quite different in the city of Manhattan, being largely made up from people from the east. The society seems to be as good as we usually find in the older States. The Agricultural College at this place is a credit to the State, offering rare opportunities free, to young men and ladies wishing to prepare themselves for usefulness in life. I have not fully decided to make my future home in Kansas, and would say to my friends in North Carolina that I think it would be well for them to come and see before selling comfortable homes there to come here. It is not all sunshine here, where the tornado and the waterspout are not unfrequent. Hoping to see my friends in North Carolina again soon, I will close. T. F. NELSON.

## Vote on Change of Name.

Baltimore Sun.

By direction of the General Conference of the M. E. Church South a vote will be taken in the next sessions of the annual conferences of that church on the proposition to drop the word "South" and substitute for it the words "in America." If approved the official name of the church would thereafter be "The Methodist Episcopal Church in America," instead of the Methodist Episcopal Church South.

Gov. Bate, of Tennessee, it is announced, is preparing to issue his proclamation convening the Legislature of that State in extraordinary session. He will decline to mention the lien law and the railroad commission, both of which he has been urged to include in his call. He will include in his call mention of the pleuro-pneumonia, registration, revenue and appropriation bills.

## Answer to a Correspondent.

Peck's Sun.

WISCONSIN, March 26, 1885.

"Mr. Peck I read the son once in a while and find you accommodating to answer an advise I am dead in love with a Rich girl and I don't know how she feels about it I am a Barber and can handle the razor in great shape I have the prettiest mostash you ever seen just as black as a crow I wish you would tell me how to work up my case as I never was in love before. Her old dad told me if he cot me around his house again he would lift my coat tails with his boots but I will look out for that please answer and tell me what you would do in a case of this Kind I remain yours resp"

The above, literatim et punctatim, comes written on gilt-edged note paper, with round corners, and smells of bay rum and pomatum, so it is probably genuine.

It is something of a delicate matter to present good advice in such a case as this, without knowing all the parties, but if you are an exemplary young man in every other respect the fact that you are a barber need not render your case hopeless, although it will probably be useless to try and bring the old man around at present. If you could manage to entice him into the shop some time, and get over him with a razor, you might make terms. Almost any man would sacrifice a daughter rather than he talked to death, or run the risk of having his jugular severed by a disliked suitor for her hand and ducats. That, however, is not likely to occur, as he would not be apt to place himself at your mercy, and probably shaves himself, if he shaves at all.

On the face of it—the fact of your writing a letter of inquiry on such a subject—the fact that the girl is rich, and you, probably, have no unusual amount of wealth, brains, or anything to depend on except handling a razor in great shape, and the father is dead set against you, perhaps the most sensible thing to do would be to let the matter rest awhile until you can show the old man that you are able to carve out a competency with your cunning right hand, assisted by the left, in sham-poops and hair cuts.

There is another point. You should, however, find out whether she loves you for yourself alone, or for that pretty mustache. Such a mustache as you describe will go a great ways towards turning an impressionable young girl's head. Cut it off and see how she then receives you. If it makes no difference, cheer up, wait patiently until you have a shop of your own and are making money with your unequalled Hair Invigorator, warranted to bring out a luxuriant head of hair on a marble statue. Such a girl will be worth waiting for.

Now, with a few hints that may be of benefit, this advice will be closed. Always treat your customers politely, and turn away your face as much as possible when it is necessary to place it very close to theirs. Don't try to start a conversation, but answer all questions of course. Don't insist on a dry shampoo after a shave or hair cut. If a person wants one and don't see it, he will ask for it. Don't drink, nor swear, nor try to shave too quickly, etc., etc.

There you are, sir. Next.

## Homicides in Ashe.

Appalachian Philosopher.

Reports reached town on Thursday of a shocking murder committed on Grassy Creek, this county, on Tuesday last. From the meager reports we are only able to give the following particulars:

A man named West or Wist rented some land from a Mr. Sexton. West sowed part of the land in wheat. The crop did not look very promising and Sexton desired to have it plowed up and planted in something else. West objected, but it seems that Sexton was about to have it plowed anyhow, when, it is alleged, West shot him. He died a few hours afterward. We had not heard at the time of going to press whether the murderer was arrested or not.

The quiet and peaceful hamlet of Helton, which is fast coming to the front as a manufacturing centre, the recently established Helton Woolen Mills being located there; was the scene of a shocking and bloody affair on Monday evening last. News of the affair reached town on Tuesday, from which the following was learned:

George Pennington and a man known in the neighborhood as Maj. Perkins got into a dispute and engaged in a fight, when Jim Michael tried to part the combatants. It seems that Pennington used a knife, cutting Perkins in various places, some of the wounds being very serious. Michael was also stabbed in the back, the knife penetrating the region of the heart. It is said that all three men were under the influence of liquor. The affair occurred about two miles from the woolen mills. We understand that Major Perkins is not a relative of the Messrs. Perkins of the factory and store, of Helton. It is reported that Pennington made no attempt to escape.

## MAY CROP REPORTS.

Cotton Planting and Spring Plowing—Winter Wheat Prospects.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 8.—The May report of the Department of Agriculture relates to the progress of spring plowing and of cotton planting, and to the condition of winter grain, meadows and pastures. It also reports the prevailing rates of wages of farm labor. Cotton planting, though comparatively late, is well advanced, fully four-fifths of the proposed area having been planted. Everywhere planting was begun late, but the progress has at most points been unusually rapid. The plants have been slow in germination on dry areas, and have not yet made their appearance at any points.

Spring plowing, in preparation for planting, is everywhere late. Last year at this date it was estimated to be two-thirds done. This year it is exactly six-tenths. The estimated average of a series of years exceeds seven-tenths. Less than half of this work is done in the Eastern States, in New York, Ohio and Michigan. A much larger proportion is finished in the Northwest, where corn, potatoes and other late-planted crops are grown in smaller proportions. The injury to the wheat crop was greater than appearances indicated on the first of April. The roots were killed in the central belt even worse than was supposed. In New York the snow protection was ample, except in spots, and in Michigan no material injury occurred; but in the Ohio valley and in Missouri reports of condition are much reduced. In the South slight improvement in the prospect has occurred. The average of condition in the principal wheat-growing States is as follows: New York, 95; Michigan, 100; Ohio, 59; Kentucky, 45; Indiana, 70; Illinois, 42; Missouri, 60; Kansas. The general average is 70, instead of 77 in April, a reduction of about 9 per cent., reducing the indicated production of winter wheat to about 240,000,000 bushels. The condition of rye is also lower than reported in April, yet much better than wheat, the average being 86. The average condition of winter barley is 82. The mowing lands promise a nearly average crop of hay, the average of condition being 92. Pastures look nearly as well, condition 90.

## Reminiscences of Eminent North Carolinians

By John H. Wheeler, author of the History of North Carolina, and member of the Historical Societies of North Carolina, Virginia, Georgia, and Florida.

In announcing that the above book is now preserved in print, the editor trusts that he may receive the generous support of those interested in fostering literary enterprises of North Carolina origin.

This book was written by a devoted son of North Carolina, and North Carolina, as he says, especially for North Carolinians, and is the work of many years.

It is not only a record of those North Carolinians who attained distinction in the forum, on the bench, in the cabinet, and "on the tented field," but also of those who have become eminent in the church, in literature, and in the quieter walks of life.

It is a book of which North Carolina may well be proud; and "thousands yet unborn will bless the patient and pious hands that have rescued from oblivion these precious memorials of our illustrious men."

This work is complete in one volume, and contains 544 pages, in quarto form.

Price per volume, bound in cloth, \$5. Same in four parts, with stiff paper binding, \$4.

For circulars, specimen sheets, &c., address, Joseph Shillington, bookseller, four and a half street and Penna. Avenue, or the editor, Woodbury Wheeler, 321 Four-and-a-half Street, Washington, D. C.

## How Daniel Boone Died.

The Paris, Ky., *Citizen* reproduces from the same paper of Sept. 8, 1809, the following: "As he lived, so he died—with his gun in his hand. We are informed by a gentleman direct from Boone's, on the Missouri coast, that early last month Colonel Daniel Boone went to the deer lick and seated himself with a blind raised to conceal him from the game; that while sitting thus concealed with his old trusty rifle in his hand, pointed towards the lick, the muzzle resting on a log, his face to the breach of the gun, his rifle cocked, his finger on the trigger, one eye shut, the other looking along the barrel through the sight, in this position, without a struggle or motion, and of course without pain he breathed out his life so gently that when he was found the next day by his friends, although stiff and cold, he looked as if alive with gun in hand just in the act of firing. It is not altogether certain if a buck had come in range of his gun, which had been the death of thousands, but it might intuitively have followed its old employer's mind and discharged itself. The hypothesis being novel we leave its solution to the curious.

While her mother was taking a fly out of the butter, little Daisy asked, "Is that a butterfly, mamma?"

## Ashe County News.

Appalachian Philosopher.

Ordered by the Board of County Commissioners that a child of Barnes, a lunatic, is properly a charge of Caldwell county, N. C., and it is ordered that H. L. Burgess, Esq., proceed forthwith to have said child returned to said county of Caldwell.

There are more rumors in the air about the Ore Knob copper mine resuming work again. Can any of our Ore Knob friends give us the truth about the matter?

The building known as the new Methodist parsonage was weather-boarded from the plank of one popular tree; besides there were 790 feet left. The house is two stories high, 18 by 36 feet. The tree grew at the head of Buffalo creek, about 8 miles from Jefferson, and was presented to Mr. Martin Hardin's father by Mr. Ephraim Gentry. There is another tree at the head of Buffalo which is some larger. It was also presented to Mr. Hardin at the same time.

Mr. W. J. Stimson, of Lenoir, N. C., arrived in town last Friday with wagon, tent and the appurtenances of the photographer's art, and pitched his tent in a lot in the west end of town. He remained in town until Thursday, without taking any pictures, however. He intended to remain some time, but learning that the county would exact a license of \$10, besides the State tax of about the same amount, something over \$20 in all, he refused to submit to the robbery and departed for Watauga county. We doubt if he could have cleared \$20 in a month above his expenses in our village, yet there are some who think he could have made \$100 or more here.

## The Late Nathaniel Coffey.

CALDWELL CO., N. C.

To the Editor of *The Lenoir Topic*:

The subject of this sketch, Mr. Nathaniel Coffey, who died April 27, 1885, was buried at Hartley's burying ground on the 28th, Rev. D. C. Stimson, officiating. He was born on Wilson's Creek, near the Table Rock in Burke county, April 3, 1795, and was the son of Joel Coffey.

His father moved to Kentucky when he was a small boy and settled down near Monticello, and he staid in Kentucky till after he was grown free from his father. His father died and all the family but his mother and two sisters, and they went to Missouri. One of his sisters married a man by the name of Martin Wright, and one married a Stacia. He came back to this county in 1825 and married Nancy Clarke, a daughter of Benjamin Clarke, and raised 8 children, 5 boys, soldiers in the war, and 3 girls and never had a death in his house.

His occupation was principally a brick moulder and also an overseer for men who owned negroes. He was not afraid of any of them. He overseed for John Sudderth 4 years on the Catawba river, from 75 to 100 negroes. He overseed for James Harper and Elisha P. Miller 4 years; Abram Sudderth 12 years; Joseph Tucker 1 year; Alexander Perkins and Judge Mitchell in the gold mine 3 years.

He went to Cherokee when the Indians were there, with a lot of negroes and staid there 3 months, to fence up the Cherokee land for John Sudderth. I have often heard him talking about the Indians. He would go out to their mounds at night to see them dance and play. He also took a barrel of whiskey with him to get work done, and the Indians would call whiskey *dedo* and sugar *cubsada*, and when he would pour out whiskey for them they would run their fingers around in the glass and say, "*cubsada! cubsada!*" and he would understand them.

He said he never had an interruption with any man he ever overseed for in his life. He was honest and trusty. Wherever he was sent to do business he did it carefully and right. He was burning a brick kiln for N. A. Miller just before the war and was taken sick there and had to be hauled home, and from then he hasn't been able to do a full day's labor. For the last ten years he has not been able to do anything scarcely.

He joined the Methodist Church about 25 years ago and died the death of a Christian.

A. N. COFFEY.

## Dynamite for Private Vengeance.

CHARLOTTE, N. C., May 11.—A house occupied by Lizzie Blunt and Minnie Bell, women of ill-repute, was blown up by dynamite at 5 o'clock Sunday morning. An eight-inch cartridge packed in a piece of gaspise was laid on the porch and exploded.

The house was so badly damaged that it looks as if it had been shelled with grape shot. A piece of iron passed through a pillow on which Lizzie Blunt's head was resting, and on through the forehead, without injuring her. The outrage was the work of jealous parties, who adopted this method of taking vengeance on the women. Two young men have been arrested.

## To the Press of the State.

The North Carolina Teachers' Assembly desires to publicly return most hearty and sincere thanks to the press of the State, without exception, for the very cordial and zealous manner in which it has espoused the cause of education in North Carolina in all departments, and particularly the objects of the Teachers' Assembly. We are laboring to build up the educational facilities of our State until they shall be equal to those offered by any other State of the Union, and we are striving by great gatherings and consultations of our teachers to create an educational enthusiasm throughout our borders which shall give us better schools, better attendance and better teachers. In all our efforts we fully realize the great value of the hearty co-operation which has been given to us by the press and in thus publicly acknowledging our indebtedness and sincere appreciation we feel that we speak the sentiments of every teacher and all others who love North Carolina and desire the extension of her material prosperity.

H. W. Reinhart, president; R. S. Arrowood, treasurer; Eugene G. Harrell, secretary, North Carolina Teachers' Assembly.

## Gap Creek Letter.

PINE TOP, N. C., May 6.

To the Editor of *The Lenoir Topic*:

My residence is near the Deep Gap of Blue Ridge. We have as nice lying lands along Gap Creek as I think can be found in North Carolina. Our lands produce rye, wheat and the grasses in abundance, but are not so well adapted to raising corn.

We are having a great deal of sickness in this and adjoining neighborhoods. Robert Cooper, aged about 20 years, died the 2nd day of May, of typhoid fever, near Elk X Roads.

I notice in a late number of THE TOPIC that there is a hard time about the Elk X Roads postoffice to determine who shall be postmaster. It seems there is nearly half the offices that are in confusion. Our office at Pine Top is truly in a bad fix. The postmaster has long since left his office and now his assistant has moved from the office, which has left the office completely vacated. R. G. G.

## Shull's Mills Letter.

SHULL'S MILLS, May 13.

To the Editor of *The Lenoir Topic*:

Beautiful spring has again dawned upon our "land of the sky," with its warm sunshine and balmy breezes. Our meadows and hillsides are again clothed in their garments of green, and the merry songsters warble forth their songs of gladness as if in praise to the Creator.

Rev. G. D. Sherrill preached an interesting sermon to an attentive congregation Sunday.

Glad to meet our former friend, Miss Alice Cottrell, of Lower Creek, Saturday, now the guest of Mr. Robert Shearer, her uncle. We wish her a pleasant visit.

Mr. Z. B. V. Sherrill will soon return from Louisville, Ky. School of Medicine, where he has been for several months.

E. F. Dobbins, of Patterson, returned home Monday from a visit to relatives and friends in this locality.

J. C. Shull has recently purchased a new double-seated two horse hack. He says he means to ride this summer. URET NIPTO.

## State Normal School, Boone, N. C.

The Normal School will open the 8th of July and continue 5 weeks.

Hon. J. C. Scarborough, superintendent, Selma, N. C., Capt. John Duckett, of Hamilton Institute, N. C., A. H. Eller, Chapel Hill, N. C., J. F. Spainhour, Wake Forest College, N. C., Miss Maggie McDowell, Raleigh, N. C., Miss Lucy Jurney, Mooresville, N. C. Others yet to be employed.

## OBJECT OF SCHOOL.

The object of the Normal is to better prepare teachers to teach in the common schools. Instruction will be given in all the branches taught in the common schools. Physiology and Hygiene have been added to the public school course.

## BOARD.

Board can be obtained in Boone and vicinity from \$8 to \$12 per month. Rooms can be had on very reasonable terms for those who wish to board themselves.

TUITION AND USE OF TEXT BOOKS FREE.

The local Board of Directors of the Normal earnestly solicit all the common school teachers, and those who contemplate teaching, both male and female, of Watauga, Ashe, Alleghany, Wilkes, Caldwell and Mitchell counties, and as many others as see proper, to attend the Normal, and avail themselves of this excellent opportunity for learning the best method of imparting instruction and the best system of school government.

E. F. LOVILL, Ch'n B'd'rs.  
I. W. THOMAS, Sec'y.