

The Lenoir Topic

VOLUME X.

LENOIR, N. C., WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 1885.

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NUMBER 41.

MOUNTAIN BREEZES.

BY REV. J. F. AUSTIN.

From Blowing Rock to Banner Elk, Are grand old mountains hard at work, Building linn, and rolling streams, To purify "low country" winds.

Oh, lull me, lull me, charming air! Inspire my soul with breezes sweet! Like snow on wool thy waftings are, Soft like a spirit's are thy feet.

Ferns and flowers in the gorges hide, Kind nature breathes her genial power, Sweet odors flow like mighty tides, Suckling each herb and every flower.

From the boiling ocean comes a breeze,

Seeking those who come for health; And filtered through the vernal leaves, Adds more to life than Southland's wealth.

Blue Ridge clothes herself in young attire, Speckle trout up the water courses strain, Pure oxygen—the vital part of air, Animates, invigorates all living things.

Brother pilgrim, come up higher, For your health is failing fast, Soon the summer will be over, And the wholesome breezes past.

To Sons and Daughters of North Carolina.

At the annual meeting of the Confederate Home Association held May 20th, 1885, it was determined to make one more effort to raise, in the State, the amount required to erect a suitable home for indigent soldiers, before asking aid of strangers.

The success of this movement will depend on local organizations, through which we hope to collect at least fifty cents from each white voter in the State, and the same from his mother, wife, sister or daughter. In every community there still must be willing hearts enough who will undertake this labor of love and patriotic duty. We therefore, in the name of everything dear to us as North Carolinians, appeal to them to meet, organize, and go to work at once, by asking everybody for something and accepting everything offered be it but five cents.

We appeal to the editors of the State to head a column "Contributions in aid of a North Carolina Soldiers' Home," and to publish weekly all contributions made in their respective communities. This would materially stimulate local organizations and contributions, and be an additional proof of the willingness of "The Press of the State" to promote any movement calculated to elevate North Carolina.

We appeal to our ministers to give full notice and to have special contributions taken up for this work.

The heads of colleges, seminaries and schools are requested to ask their pupils to aid us with contributions. We are confident such requests would receive a cheerful and generous response, for the young are always liberal towards needy and pleading old age.

The necessity of a home for the indigent survivors of "The North Carolina Troops" must be apparent to all who can appreciate the noble spirit which impelled these bent old men to brave the dangers of war and win glories sufficient which, if transposed into gems of worthy brilliancy, would encircle our State and create for it a perpetual day more superbly bright than those which came to us in summer's happiest time. True as are these inspiring facts, many of our old soldiers have been allowed to die in poor houses and many are still forced to resort to these abodes of woe. Is this right or just? Do you believe these heroes would have done so much to make North Carolina's war record so grand if they had known their State would desert them in their years of feebleness and want? Alas! they never doubted their State, but, inspired by that love which shines in matchless splendor when devoted to a country's cause, they marched ever forward until the flag they were commanded to defend and follow was furled forever.

Should such men be allowed to exist in poor houses and fill pauper's graves? Will you longer permit such fates to come to them and still continue to boast of a peculiar chivalry and renown—the plain result of their soldierly bearing and devotion? Until this home is built and provided for, all such boasts should cease, for they cannot sound, save as heartless mockeries!

Will you give and gather the pittance we need and must have to make our object a success? or will you decline, and thereby force the historian to draw around your claims for magnanimity, generosity and charity the dark and dreadful lines of palpable neglect and merciless ingratitude? Believing your answer will be such as North Carolinians should make, when their needy and pleading defenders ask shelter, support and mental ease, we hopefully submit this important question and imperative duty for your consideration and action.

W. F. BEASLEY, President.

Gen. Robert E. Lee.

A British Soldier's Eulogy.

Gen. Sir Frederick Roberts, who, during the last war in Afghanistan forced his way to Cabul to avenge the murder of Major Cavagnari and the members of the British commission, and who subsequently made the famous march from Cabul to Candahar and relieved the besieged British garrison there by signally defeating the besieging force under Yakoub Khan, has written a letter to the family of Gen. Lee in acknowledgment of the receipt of a copy of the oration of Mr. John W. Daniel on the occasion of the inauguration of the Lee mausoleum at Lexington. Gen. Roberts, in writing from Madras to a member of the Lee family, says: "Like most Englishmen, I knew that your father was a man of whom any nation might well be proud, but I confess that I never thoroughly appreciated his noble character until I read the stirring and pathetic address delivered by Major Daniel. It is a very remarkable oration and worthy of the hero in whose honor it was composed. I think that no one can peruse Major Daniel's speech without a feeling of the deepest admiration and respect for the late Gen. Lee. It will always be a regret to me that I never had the opportunity of becoming acquainted with a man who proved himself to be a soldier, a statesman, a patriot and a gentleman. It is pleasant to find how well Gen. Lee's fellow-countrymen seem to have understood his good works, and I am sure it must be a source of deep gratification to his family to know how genuine and unanimous this feeling is." He adds that although impossible now, he hopes some day to visit the United States, and that he may then see the monument in the College Chapel at Lexington, considering it, he says, "a privilege to be able to show my respect and admiration for one of the greatest soldiers of any age—Lee, of Virginia."

Important to Justices of the Peace.

By chapter 288 of the laws of 1885, it is enacted: "1. That all appointments of justices of the peace by the general assembly shall be void, unless the persons so appointed shall qualify within three months thereafter. 2. That all unfiled appointments occurring under the provisions of the preceding section in the office of justice of the peace shall be filled for the term by the appointment of the Governor."

The election of the justices by the late general assembly was on the 11th day of March last, and the three months in which they were required to qualify expired on the 11th day of the present month. It is probable that the attention of the justices elect was not called to this act inasmuch as the laws have not recently been published and, relying upon the provision in the Code which permitted their qualification at any time prior to the commencement of their terms, to-wit: the first Thursday in August next after their election—doubtless many of them have allowed the three months to elapse without qualifying and the office, are now vacant.

The Governor has caused the matter to be examined by the attorney general, who has given an opinion that the legislature had the authority to pass the act referred to, and that the Governor had the power and it was his duty to make appointments to fill the offices made vacant by the failure of the persons elected by the general assembly to qualify. It is understood that his excellency will in all instances where they will qualify, unless some good reason is given to the contrary, when called upon, appoint the persons selected by the general assembly, and where the persons so selected decline to qualify, he will make appointments upon recommendation from trustworthy sources. It is desirable that the county authorities throughout the State shall give the matter speedy attention.

The Odor of the Hay Field.

American Agriculturist for July.

Going from New England to a Western State, many years ago, the writer was struck with the difference between the two localities in the haying season. In the older States, the air at haying time, is redolent of the most delightful fragrance, making it a pleasure to be out of doors. At haying time in the western locality, there was only a clean, weedy odor, quite unlike that to which we had been accustomed. In looking into the reason for this lack of pleasant odor at haying, we examined the hay, and while all the usual grasses were present, we could find no trace of the Sweet-scented Vernal grass, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, so common in eastern meadows. In itself, this grass has little value. Indeed, its chief merit lies in its odor. This is developed as the herbage dries, and a few spears of this grass will impart its fragrance to a large mass of hay. This grass should always form a small part of a mixture for seeding a lawn.

THE PRESIDENT.

As Viewed through the Glasses of a Gifted Southern Editor.

From James Barron Hope's Letter in Norfolk Landmark.

My first emotion was one of surprise, for I had derived my idea of the President as to his appearance, from the various pictures, good, bad and different, which I had seen of him. But whatever may have been the artistic merit of the likenesses, not one of them is to be called good, or fair even, as a means of expressing his personal appearance. I had ample time to make a study of it, and on the principal that "a cat may look at a king," I made a careful survey of the eminent personage before me. He is immeasurably superior in fact to anything ever suggested to me by the artist, and as the gentlemen of the graphic art have given to the great multitude their notions of this high official, I feel it a sort of duty to say what my impressions are, and to record them while fresh from his presence. I had ample time to observe him, and I was at once struck, and vividly impressed with the difference between the man and the pictures.

In his figure he is strongly built, and of that sturdy, upright carriage which at once suggested to me the idea of a soldier, which I have already recorded—a grave, deliberate, self-contained soldier of many and varied experiences by flood and field. The civilian has a strong, masterful, and well disciplined nature, sobered down and refined by arduous public service and ample experience of men and affairs.

The powerful frame, the deep chest, the sturdy, upright attitude indicated also robust health; and I dwell on these details with satisfaction for the great reformer has need of bodily powers beyond those of ordinary men.

His manner was still more interesting study. Grave, self-possessed, deliberate and modest (but modest with no end of self-reliance), he moved from group to group, and listened with attention, almost painfully intense, to what was said to him.

But his countenance was the studies after all which I made with the greatest pleasure. When my turn came and I stood face to face I was still more struck with what I had noticed on first seeing him. He has not that florid look which I expected. He is pale, but it is clearly the pallor of work and not of any lack of health.

His countenance is strong in its repose, his eyes kindly, his air patient, his purpose evidently to do his duty and to do it very thoroughly at that. Indeed, there was something almost pathetic to me in the meditative face into which I looked, and not desiring any office for my own benefit—never having held or asked for one in my life—I feel free to set down my notions without fear of being considered akin to the Vicar of Bray. He heard what I had to say, understood me perfectly, threw in two remarks, and with another good look into his face, I made my bow, convinced that he is a man who gives others what is due to them, and knows how (on occasion) to command it for himself.

Drunkards in Turkey.

St. James Gazette.

According to Ponqueville, a Turk who falls down in the street overtaken with wine and is arrested by the guard, is sentenced to the bastinado. The punishment is repeated as far as the third offense, after which he is reputed incorrigible, and receives the title of imperial drunkard or privileged drunkard. If after that he is taken up and in danger of the bastinado, he has only to name himself, to mention what part of the town he inhabits, and to say he is a privileged drunkard; he is then released and sent to sleep on the warm ashes of the baths. Ponqueville had been in Constantinople at the commencement of the present century, since which time a good many changes have been introduced into the city of the sultans; but an improved way with inebriates is scarcely one of them.

The fact that nearly two-thirds of all deaths from diarrhoeal diseases among children during the year occur in the months of July and August is made the leading theme in *Babyhood* for June, and considerable space is devoted to a comprehensive article on "Summer Complaint," with a special view to prevention. There are few subjects connected with the care of children which are of such vital importance as this, and there can be no doubt that the startling mortality of infants could be materially reduced if parents would allow themselves the full benefit of such literature as this. Of other interesting articles contained in this number of *Babyhood* may be mentioned "Photographing the Baby," "Creeping Aprons," "A Remedy for Sleeplessness," "Baby's First Attire," "Eating Between Meals," "Obstinate Children," etc., etc. (\$1.50 a year, 18 Spruce Street, New York.)

The Patagonian Giants.

Science.

The tales of their gigantic stature, so often told and as frequently denied, are thoroughly investigated in this memoir, and with a result which will be interesting to anthropologists.

Careful measurements have been made in recent times, by different observers, of many individuals in various parts of Patagonia. The result is that the mean stature of adults (of both sexes, it would appear) is found to be about 1.78 metres, or five feet ten inches English. "This mean," remarks the author, "may seem rather low; but if we compare it with that of France, which is only 1.65 metres (about five feet five inches), and if we consider that for all humankind the statistics give only 1.70 metres (rather less than five feet seven inches), we shall perceive that this figure represents in reality a very lofty stature, and makes the Patagonians the tallest race of men now existing." Men of six feet French (six feet three and a half inches English) are common among them; and occasionally one is found who reaches two metres, or six feet six and a half inches.

This, however, is not all. The Patagonian, in the upper part of his body, is of a huge build. His trunk and head are large, his chest broad, his arms long and muscular. On horseback, he seems far above the ordinary size of man. When he dismounts, however, it is seen that his legs are disproportionately short and slender; they frequently bend outward. His walk is heavy and lumbering. These are the well-known peculiarities which are found in the Tartars, and in all races of men who spend most of their time, like the Patagonians, on horseback. But it is only a little over two centuries since the horse was introduced into this region. The natives who were first seen chased the swift guanaco and ostrich over their immense plains on foot. Such activity required long, straight and muscular legs. It is not too much to suppose that the total change in their habits of life, which has occurred since they became a nation of horsemen, has detracted at least two inches from their stature. Adding these lost inches to their present height, we recover the giants who astonished the companions of Magellan, and vindicate the narratives which later writers have discredited. We gain also a notable evidence of the influence of natural causes in modifying the physical characteristics of men.

The American Agriculturist in the South.

Prior to the war, the *American Agriculturist* was a household word in nearly every Southern home. Following the return of peace, the former subscribers hastened to send for their old favorite, until it now again extensively circulates through the Southern States. But to the end that it shall be made still more interesting and valuable to Southern readers, one of our editors, now in North Carolina, is writing a series of valuable articles on the resources of the South generally, and the best means of developing them, while another of our writers, who spent several months in the Southwest, is doing the same work for that special region. We will cheerfully comply with the request of any present subscriber who may wish to have a sample copy forwarded to any Southern farmer for examination with a view to his subscribing.

Letter from Elk X Roads.

ELK X ROADS, June 20.

To the Editor of The Lenoir Topic: Died June 17, 1885, near Elk X Roads, Mrs. Eveline, wife of Mr. George Grub. She was a daughter of the late Thos. Greer, of Boone. We sympathize with the bereaved family, hoping as we do, that our irretrievable loss is her eternal gain.

There will be a dedication of the Masonic Hall at Elk X Roads June 24, and it is said that Capt. Lovell, of Boone, and Mr. A. F. Davis will lay the corner stone.

We are having a good Sunday school at South Fork Church. There are about 40 in attendance, and the number increasing every Sunday. Our farmers are busy hoeing corn, which is looking very promising at present.

Wheat is looking a great deal better at present than we expected it would early in the spring.

The School at Gap Creek.

PINETOP, June 17.

To the Editor of The Lenoir Topic: We have an excellent school near Mr. A. D. Cowles' at Gap Creek, Ashe county. Mr. L. G. Maxwell is teacher. A better teacher is hard to find. He has a large number of scholars and they are making fine progress with their studies. If we only had plenty of such schools as he is conducting at Gap Creek there would not be so many children and youths in this vicinity who can neither read nor write.

REUBEN G. GREER.

The policemen in Pensacola sport umbrellas while on duty.

Senator Ransom's Report from North Carolina.

WASHINGTON, June 21.—Among the recent callers on the President was Senator Ransom, of North Carolina. The Senator recently arrived in this city to urge the claims of several of his constituents who are applicants for office. His relations with the President are said to be of the most friendly character, and his suggestions usually receive marked consideration. After the Senator came away from the White House he said to a representative of the *Sun* that he had just arrived from home, where he left everything pertaining to politics in pretty good shape. North Carolinians, as a rule are well pleased with the administration and its methods of transacting the public business. He said he was tempted to make a speech before leaving home and tell those of his people who think changes are not being made rapidly enough that there is no ground for their complaints, especially so far as North Carolina is concerned. He only restrained himself because he thought it might look as though he was attempting to vindicate an administration that needs no vindication. He said he was in favor of turning out of office all republicans and appointing in their places efficient democrats, and they would all have to go if he had his way. Unfortunately the civil-service law stands upon the statute book, and it would scarcely do to go behind it. The President had sworn to execute the laws as he finds them, and no good democrat would be willing to have their President commit perjury. The Senator believed that the President has but one object in view—to give the people of the whole country an honest and a good government. He does not aspire to a second term and probably would not accept a re-nomination under any circumstance; indeed, if the truth was known, he would probably say that he is already tired of being President. Referring to the cabinet, the Senator said the President has surrounded himself with an able corps of advisers selected from the various sections of the country. He has been extremely liberal with the South in the distribution of offices both at home and abroad. The Senator cited several instances to show that in almost every batch of presidential nominations the South received ample recognition.

Boone Creek Letter.

BOONE CREEK, June 20.

To the Editor of The Lenoir Topic: Again permit me to address your many readers a few lines through the columns of THE TOPIC, which by the way has a very good circulation on the creek.

Our farmers are somewhat behind with their work owing to the late freshet, which brought about a double task, fixing water ways, making fence &c., to keep out the notorious "land pike" and the muly scrub yearlings which infest this, and doubtless other localities.

And I wish to say right here that this community want, and greatly need the no fence law. Then, and not till then will there by any great improvements in stock. Fewer and better stock is the one thing needed.

The corn crop in this section presents a very promising appearance since it has been worked out. The recent heavy rains did less damage than we thought for first. James Hood, Esq., has a two acre lot of corn, which is the brag corn of the creek. It will average all over as high as a man's head.

The wheat prospect has improved very much in the last two weeks. The heads, though short, are filling very well. Some little being out.

There are some improvements in the way of buildings on the creek. Mr. J. M. Houck has a handsome new barn nearly completed, and when finished up will be the best on the creek, and among the best in the county.

Mr. Houck also has lumber and brick on the spot for a large dwelling house which will be under course of erection before a great while.

Our saddle and harness maker, Mr. J. H. LeFevre, has made some improvements on his dwelling, and has erected a very commodious work shop and is prepared to do good work at reasonable prices.

Wanted, and very much needed in these parts—a good steam saw mill. An investment in this direction I think would be very remunerative to a company with sufficient capital to start a good one, as this part of the county is rich with the products of the forest.

The mill of Mr. B. C. Honck which was wrecked by the late water spout, has been repaired, and is now running on time to the great convenience of his customers.

Mr. W. W. Berry, our tobacco man, will make a failure this time. He has planted his tobacco ground in corn, his corn crop along the creek having been washed away. Mr. Berry understands how to raise and cure the weed, and we are sorry that his barns will have to stand idle this year.

The query column of THE TOPIC—we are looking anxiously for it. Shall we not see it? BEE AYCH.

Upon the Evil of Intemperance.

GLENBURNIE, June 25.

To the Editor of The Lenoir Topic: I am aware that there is prejudice against any man engaged in the liquor traffic. I do not believe, neither have I ever heard of any person engaged in the liquor business who did not grow worse instead of better. There is not one man out of ten but what will come out worse than he started in; if he does not in dollars and cents he will some other way. Look at men who have thrown themselves away with the poisonous stuff, that ought to have made useful men; but alas, where do we find them? Some in the common jails, some in the work houses of the State for life, some in the asylums and some have filled premature graves. All we have to do is to think of the wrecks on either side of the stream of death, of the suicides, of the insanity, of the poverty and destruction coming from liquor.

Intemperance cuts down youth in its vigor, manhood in its strength; it breaks the heart of the parents, it extinguishes natural affection; it destroys conjugal love, blots out filial attachments, blights paternal hope, and brings premature age in sorrow and dishonor to the grave. It produces weakness, and not strength, sickness, not health, death not life. It covers the land with idleness, misery and crime. It produces controversies, fosters quarrels, cherishes riots. It crowds our penitentiaries and furnishes victims for the scaffold. It is the blood of the gambler, the inspiration of the burglar, the stimulus of the highwayman, and it violates obligation, reverence, fraud, turns love to hate. It degrades the citizen, debases the statesman, and disarms the patriot. It brings shame, not honor; terror, not safety; despair, not hope; misery, not happiness. It does that and more—it murders the soul. Can any one tell what it will net do, if you put liquor and some other material together? In my opinion it is the worst evil that is on the face of the globe, among the many. It is the father of all crimes, the mother of all abominations, the devil's best friend, and God's worst enemy.

H. H. H.

Bonnets come high this spring, remarks a fashion paper. The man who has the misfortune to sit behind one at the theatre is fully convinced of this fact.

The mouse a woman never fears: A moustache.

Wallace

Bros.,

STATESVILLE, N. C.

Wholesale Dealers

IN

General Merchandise.

Largest Warehouse

and best facilities

for handling

Dried Fruit, Ber-

ries, etc., in

the State.

RESPECTFULLY

Wallace

Bros.

August 27th, 1884.

J. M. Spainbourn,
GRADUATE DENTIST
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.

P. LEE CLINE,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW,
LENOIR, N. C.

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

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