

THE LENOIR TOPIC.

W. W. SCOTT, Jr., Editor and Publisher.

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THE ASHEVILLE CITIZEN says that no blame attaches to the officers of the jail for the escape of Ray and Anderson. That is an open question. The first thing said by every man upon hearing of the escape, was "just as I expected." The papers had forewarned the authorities in charge of the prisoners, over a month ago, that there was danger of a rescue. THE TOPIC printed such a warning five weeks ago. In the face of all these facts and of the natural apprehension which the jailer and sheriff should have felt themselves, a strong guard would have been the proper thing. We do not know who is to blame nor, if anybody is to blame, what they are culpable for, but, looking straight ahead of us in the old-fashioned way, we see that there is something out of gear.

ESCAPE OF RAY AND ANDERSON.

Condensed Account of Their Daring Adventure taken from the Asheville Citizen and Tribune. At 9 o'clock on Monday evening of last week Asheville was thrown into a state of intense excitement by the ringing of the fire-bell and the circulated report that Sheriff Rich had been killed and five murderers escaped from the jail. A crowd quickly gathered at the jail located in the bottom 200 yards East of the Court house and found that the prisoners had escaped but that the sheriff was not dead but tied, hand and foot, and gagged in the jail. He and the jailer, who was in a like predicament, were released and immediately organized a pursuing party composed in part of the military company but with no success up to last accounts. After getting through the main door and all the parties escaped from town being fully armed and shot at several persons whom they met on the way. Lambert, their fellow prisoner who did not escape and who was within 3 feet of the wall when they got through the wall, says that he saw the pistols passed through the window to them Saturday night and that on the night of the escape 15 men were on the outside and a negro man passed the axe through. The Citizen says that three of Rays brothers—two of them being from Texas—were known to be in town Monday evening and that a squad of six or eight Mitchell men came in the same evening. The Tribune says there is great excitement in the town and that public sentiment is somewhat divided, a few being in sympathy with Ray and Anderson. The Governor has offered a reward of \$400 each for the recapture of Ray and Anderson. THE JAILER'S ACCOUNT. About 9 o'clock at night I accompanied Sheriff Rich in his accustomed visit to the cage in which were confined Ray, Anderson, Sluder, York, Calloway, Hensley and Henson, all charged with murder. I unlocked the door of the cage, and Sheriff Rich went in. I then manipulated the lever, which opens the doors of cells leading into the main room of the cage. Sheriff Rich was in the main room, examining a bundle of newspapers, which certain friends had sent to Ray and Anderson. When the doors of the cages were opened, Anderson and one or two others came out to the main room, and stepped toward Sheriff Rich. I was holding the lever with my left hand and leaning considerably to the right, looking into the cage to see what the Sheriff was doing. Suddenly Ray stepped from the cell nearest the main door, and before I knew what he was about, a pistol was gleaming right before my eyes, and so close as almost to touch my face. At the same instant I saw Calloway bring a pistol to bear on the Sheriff, and Ray said to me, "if you move I will kill you." I asked him not to kill me, and he replied, "I will not kill you if you don't move." Immediately I saw some one run his hand through the lever bolt of the cage and slide the lower bolt that secures the main door, and then run his hand through to the upper bolt and slide it. I had removed the hasp of the lock that secures the bolt, and held it and the bunch of keys in my hand. When the bolts were slid back, the door immediately opened and Anderson came out with a pistol in his hand, and demanded my pistol. I started to get it from my hip pocket, and Anderson seized it, and jerking it out with considerable force tore my pocket. Anderson then seized the keys and ran down the steps to the main door leading to the room in which are both the cages. I was seized by two or three, and dragged into the cage and tied. Sheriff Rich, in the meantime had been tied, and a towel fastened over his mouth. We were both tied to bunks in different cells at the far end of the cage. The prisoners then all went out and down to the lower floor. Two of the prisoners, Ray and Anderson, I think, had gone down while the others were securing the Sheriff and myself, and began cutting through the wall with an axe. I am sure the whole proceeding from the time it began until the escape was effected, did not last over three minutes. Everything seemed to have been prearranged, and moved with remarkable precision. Every man seemed to understand his business, and did it with lightning-like rapidity. This is all I know about it from my personal knowledge. Henderson was asked his opinion as to means by which the prisoners came into possession of the pistols. He replied that they were evidently conveyed to them by means of long poles of some kind, poked through the windows of the jail, looking in to the cage room. This, as he explained at the time, could have been done very easily by friends on the outside. A CHILD'S PRESENCE OF MIND. When Anderson seized the keys from the jailer and ran down to the main door, referred to in Mr. Henderson's account of the affair, it was evidently his purpose to escape by that means. Nothing having been said during the progress of affairs up stairs that could have been heard by any one below, he evidently intended to pass the keys through, as the door could not be unlocked from the inside, and have some one of the jail employes to open it by making him believe it was Henderson who requested it. The jailer's little boy was at the door, and when Anderson handed him the keys with the request to open the door he (the boy) became suspicious that there was something wrong and seizing the

STATE TOPICS.

H. J. Wolfe, Register of Deeds of Union county, died at Piedmont Springs last week. The encampment of North Carolina State Troops at Asheville, to continue 10 days, begins today. If that story about Ray and Anderson stealing Senator Vance and holding him as a hostage were true, we would be obliged to give ransom for him. There is a little pull between Senator Vance and Congressman Johnston over the Asheville postoffice, each one desiring to name the new man. As it is a sort of deadlock the Administration allows the Radical incumbent to hold over until they can compromise on a man who will please all parties. Mr. G. W. Williams, a Republican general gauger and surveyor at Asheville, was led by some practical joker to believe that he had been re-appointed by Collector Dowd. He reported the fact to the Citizen and said he was "much surprised," and so was the Citizen, poor soul; but it may rejoice for Williams has not been re-appointed. Rev. Dr. J. A. Lefevre, pastor of Franklin square Presbyterian church Baltimore, was elected President of Davidson College recently and accepted. His church declined to receive his resignation as pastor and appealed to the Presbytery of Maryland which sustained the church. So Dr. Lefevre is forced to decline the Presidency of Davidson and a new man has to be selected. We are sorry to learn of the sudden death in New York, of Col. Isaac J. Young, of Henderson. He had gone on to purchase furniture for his new house. He was attacked with apoplexy at the Sturtevant House at supper, and died in a few hours. He was a native of Granville, a gallant Confederate soldier—being complimented on the field of battle at Seven Pines by Gen. Lee. It is said—and a prominent Republican. He was Collector of the 4th Internal Revenue District for 16 years. TIMELY TOPICS. The printing establishment of the Washington Post and several other papers was burned on the 16th. Loss \$150,000. Russia is making demonstrations towards Herat and the news now is that she will demand possession of that fortress. In that event the war-cloud begins to rise again. Zachariah P. Halpin has been appointed postal note agent in New York at an annual salary of \$2,500 per annum. The appointment is said to have been made at the request of the President. The Republican State Convention closed in Richmond on Friday after nominating John S. Wise for Governor and a full State ticket. Mahone bossed the whole convention, though Riddleberger, at the head of about a third of the convention, kicked. When he found it was useless to fight the "Boss" he and Mahone publicly embraced and kissed each other on the stage of the theatre. On the second of April, Howard Cooper, a negro, outraged a Miss Gray in Baltimore county, Md. He was arrested, tried, convicted and sentenced. An appeal was taken to the Supreme Court of the State which affirmed the decision of the court below. An appeal was then taken to the Supreme Court of the United States. The incensed neighbors of Miss Gray felt that the matter had been delayed long enough and, on the night of the 12th, a band of masked men took Cooper from jail at Towson town and hung him to a sycamore tree in the jail yard. Their action is not condemned in Baltimore. Pleasant Words about Mr. Jones. Stateville Landmark. The Washington Post thus takes note of the appointment of Mr. Edmund Jones, of Caldwell, as chief of division in the customs bureau of the Treasury Department: Col. Edmund Jones, a well-known lawyer of western North Carolina, on Saturday last was appointed a chief of division in the customs bureau. Senator Ransom called upon the Secretary of the Treasury and secured the appointment. Senator Vance had also recommended Col. Jones and had written to Senator Ransom in his behalf. Col. Jones is a personal friend of both Senators, and as a member of the General Assembly of North Carolina has supported each of them for the United States Senate. It is an excellent appointment. Mr. Jones is one of the best and truest men in all North Carolina. He has all his days been an earnest, working Democrat, and deserved recognition at the hands of his party. We congratulate him upon the honor which has been done him, and take occasion to add that the government will have in him an honest and capable servant. Persons holding claims against the town for work, lumber or material, for which script has not yet been issued will present the same before Aug. 1st, '85 or become void. J. M. SPAINHOUR, Treas. For all kinds of tin ware, and cheap call at Harper & Bernhardt's. A car load of salt cheaper than ever, at Harper & Bernhardt's. WANTED—To sell \$30,000 worth of Furniture within the next ten days. For bargains call on J. B. Ervin, Lenoir, N. C.

Letter from Wilkesboro.

WILKESBORO, N. C., July 17. To the Editor of The Lenoir Topic: It may interest some of your readers to hear from "the State of Wilkes," so I will give you a few items of news. There is a better prospect for a big corn crop than has been for many years in this county. Fruit trees are very fruitful, apples abundant and peaches superabundant. Our people are about to change their minds in regard to railroad matters. Those men who, heretofore, have been most friendly to the A. T. & O. extension, having become disheartened and disgusted at the dilly-dallying style of the Charlotte, Columbia & Augusta Co., and the manifest opposition of their bosses (the R. & D. syndicate) to our road, are now turning their attention to the C. F. & Y. V. Co., and are writing letters to Julius A. Gray and his colleagues, inviting them to visit our beautiful valley, and see for themselves how much to their advantage it would be to extend their road to this point at the earliest opportunity. It is now thought that the subscription which the county voted to aid in the extension of the A. T. & O. road, will be transferred as soon as practicable, to aid in the extension of the C. F. & Y. V. road to this place. Will W. Barber left this place yesterday en route for the mountains. He seemed to have mal(ice) in his heart when he left, said he would make a trip to Ashe and Watauga, and even go so far as to gaze on the beauties of Haywood before he returns. (He believes it the prettiest county in the State anyhow). DAJUCK. The best line of mens and ladies shoes, sandals, slippers &c. H. & B. Now is the time to buy your plows for breaking hard ground, and at Harper and Bernhardt's is the place to find a large assortment. For the cheapest and best sewing machine on the market buy the Royal St. John of Harper and Bernhardt. STOP AT THE CENTRAL HOTEL, LENOIR, N. C. FIRST CLASS HOUSE, \$1.50 and \$2.00 per day. W. H. Ramseur, Prop'r. BINGHAM'S Established is the only in this school, for Boys in the South with GAS LIGHT, a first-class OIL NARIUM, and a first-class BATH HOUSE. Special terms to young men. I can guarantee. The 1885 Session begins Aug. 1st. For Catalogue, address: MAJ. R. BINGHAM, Bingham School, N. C. DAVENPORT COLLEGE. A High Grade Home School for Girls. LENOIR, CALDWELL COUNTY, N. C. Term Opens Thursday, Sept. 3rd, 1885, with a full corps of Teachers. Charges for Day Scholars. Kindergarten alone, per term, \$ 5 Primary and Kindergarten, 10 Preparatory from \$12 to \$18 Music from \$15 to \$30 Art from \$10 to \$25 Higher English, \$15 The charges for the next session have been reduced and the advantages increased. This school is Pre-eminent in Point of Location, in Higher English, Music, Art, and in Refining Influences and Home Life. A new Chapel is in process of erection and the equipment and outfit will be largely increased. Will H. Sanborn, Pres't. Globe Academy, Globe, N. C. J. F. SPAINHOUR, Prin. Rev. R. L. Patton, A. B., Amherst College, Mass. Prof. of Latin and Greek. Mrs. S. A. Spainhour, Music and Calisthenics. TUITION, \$1 to \$3 per month, MUSIC, \$2.50. BOARD, including everything, \$7 per month. TABLE fare \$5. Contingent fee 50 cents per term. Large boarding house for girls, kept by the Principal. Rooms for boys rent at \$1 per month. FALL TERM opens Aug. 31, 1885. Address the Principal. Wilson Academy. High Grade School for Boys, LENOIR, CALDWELL CO., N. C. Term opens Monday, July 27, 1885. COURSE OF STUDY—will include the branches usually taught in a First Class school of high grade. TERMS—Tuition will range from \$3 to \$3 and \$4 per month, according to the course taken, whether it be Primary, Intermediate or Academic. For further information apply to the undersigned, E. F. WAKEFIELD, PRINCIPAL.

GLAD TIDINGS

FROM THE FURNITURE STORE! F. WIESENFELD. Not Having time to Write out an Advertisement. And one at Length, would say that he is ready for Every Kind of Trade in its Season. Line, Call on J. B. ERVIN, Lenoir, N. C., June 23. Read & Remember! He Will Give Good Prices and Sell GOOD GOODS At Reasonable Prices. We can buy this Season Highest Prices. For the same that the market will allow. Owing to the "hard times" we are now selling our LARGE STOCK OF General Merchandise At Extremely Low Prices. Either for cash, or good merchantable produce. SEWING MACHINES, Bar Iron, &c., &c., &c., Always on Hand. Respectfully, F. W. WIESENFELD. Buying and Selling. Every legitimate advantage of the market. Hoping by honest effort and fair Dealing to merit your continued patronage, we are, Respectfully, CLOYD AND NELSON.

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