

The Lenoir Topic.

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ITS' AN ELL-WIND

That Blows No One Good.

In the midst of the Panic which has just passed over the money centres of this country our buyers were on the market placing orders for

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SALES.

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Spring Trade

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New Year

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Wallace Bros.

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THE GREAT HENRY M. STANLEY:

Ten Minutes with the Most Famous Man in the World.

AUMURN, Ala., April, 3.

To the Editor of the Lenoir Topic:

In one of my last visits to the Pioneer Library in Lenoir I noticed that among the many volumes it contained there were but few showing more evidence of having been read than the works relating to modern explorations in Central Africa. The revelations of travellers in strange lands have always been interesting to most readers; but the cloud and the mystery that have hung over the lands of Ethiopia have had an abiding interest ever since the days of Herodotus—ever since the days of Oriental Legends that this great apostle of civilization went to Central Africa and there founded a city. It was one of the great disturbing dreams of Dr. Livingstone that it would be his fate to discover the ruins of that Mosaic City—Meroe or Hermopolis. But the poor man died—away in the heart of the dark continent—without realizing a single one of the dreams nearest his heart; he was not permitted to see the healing of the "open sore of the World"—the vile slave trade of the Arabs—nor did he solve the mystery of the Nile, nor the source of the Congo, nor the receptacle of the Lunatic, upon whose banks he sank down in prayer and died in a despair and desolation of hope that can be revealed only in the great day when the leaves of the Judgment books unfold.

The interest that Lenoir and Caldwell people generally appear to have manifested in Central Africa literature has prompted me to tell them something about Henry M. Stanley, the greatest explorer and writer on Central Africa that the world has ever known. I have recently had two interviews with Mr. Stanley, and I propose to tell my old friends of THE TOPIC something about the man personally, in the belief that what I say may be of interest or pleasure to some of the old friends I have left behind in my removal from their midst. What I shall say in this article shall have of course, but little of great value—for I often interest us more than "weighty matter"—and the "weighty matter" gleaned by me in my interviews with the famous traveller are reserved for other articles.

Mr. Stanley lectured in Atlanta on Thursday night 2nd inst. I was in the city purposely to see him, as I had special business with him. I sent up my card soon after his arrival at the hotel—the Kimball House. In a few moments I was met in the office by the special interlocutor who came down holding my professional card in his hand—for I had not written the "special" on the card. The interlocutor was prepared with his gentle "No." He "regretted a great many things—all of which I was prepared for;—in fact, as he stated, Mr. Stanley is a very hard man for anybody to get to see except by paying the admission fee at the door! I didn't care for that. I had the complimentary ticket already in my pocket—thanks to the guild. But I did not tell Mr. S. that much. I simply stated that I was a newspaper man, connected with the Atlanta Constitution, and that Major Pond, the manager, and I were acquaintances, &c. So I got "Yes" the meeting could be arranged. My introduction came—in good time. I had the great honor of being presented duly by a great editor;—in the interval of a discussion which Mr. Stanley was conducting with a city official, I had an opportunity to look at the famous explorer, and then go through the process of what is called "sizing up" the man.

I was somewhat disappointed in Mr. Stanley's personal appearance. While he is unquestionably one of the greatest men the world has ever seen, he does not prepossess you with his greatness. There is a compact massiveness about the man when you look at him sitting at ease in his chair; but when he arises his odd physique dispels the ideas of grandeur. I have never seen exactly such a physique; in some respects he reminds me of Stephen A. Douglas, whom I saw in Washington in 1860. Stanley is small and somewhat below the ordinary size of man. But he has a fine and splendidly shaped head, this now covered with close-cropped hair of almost snowy whiteness; yet his face shows a genuine youthful vigor, although the man has passed fifty. He has a light grey moustache that sticks slightly over his upper lip, yet not concealing the mouth. He has a blue-grey eye that looks like it could flash fire and gentleness all in a minute. His complexion was very florid—showing generosity in his diet and drink. While he is a temperate man—as the world calls it—he is not averse to the rich old wines which his ample fortune now enables him to use. There is one man in Caldwell who has Stanley's face and neck in their outline, and he is Jim May; from the shoulders

down your Clerk, M. E. Shell, could wear his clothes—in a fit. In conversation Mr. Stanley appears rather indifferent unless you have a theme in which he is interested. Nothing touches him like subjects which are related to Central Africa. Fortunately for me, I won the famous traveller's interest in a few moments after our first meeting—for I had two interviews with him for many years I have been engaged in studying and writing about pre-historic nomenclature—some articles of mine on the subject having been already published in different Northern periodicals. At the time I was in Atlanta, I was preparing a magazine article on the nomenclature of Central Africa. When I made mention of the fact, and gave Mr. Stanley the results of some of my recent discoveries touching his own African revelations, I at once caught the interest and favor of the great man; and as his face lit up in a glow, he invited me to a seat beside him, and we were soon in that rapport which is always gratifying to both talker and listener.

Finding that I had interested Mr. Stanley; I gave him a copy of one of my articles—as he had expressed a desire to see it. On his arrival at Chattanooga, after leaving Atlanta, he wrote me a most gratifying letter, which I consider one of the highest honors and compliments I have ever received. In this letter he says he has read my "able paper through with absorbing interest and genuine admiration. I wish you all success. You have convinced me—"him"—as to who planted the earliest civilization in Central Africa." The entire letter to me will be published.

Mr. Stanley on the stage is easy and graceful, though there is a little of the John Bull cockyness in his tongue. "While he does not read his lecture, he keeps the written matter continually before him on a stand made specially for holding the portfolio. He waxes warm and eloquent at times; yet generally his manner of delivery is in the conversational style of talk. His attire is in the regulation dress suit—swallow-tail coat, with diamond shirt amply exposed at the bosom—with a white necktie around a stylish standing collar. His audience in Atlanta is said to have been the largest ever seen there of the city's elite; it represented many millions in dollars and mountains of fashion and style, sprinkled with a few of us poor folks." The vast opera house was filled to overflowing. People had come from hundreds of miles simply to see and hear the most famous of living men.

I would like to tell you something that Mr. Stanley said in the lecture, but it would take up too much of your space. There was nothing in it, however except what you can find in my printed books—with perhaps a new paragraph or so personally. But I will tell you one thing he said to me in one of my interviews with him—for that much is not in the books, and I consider it a lesson which may do some good in the world.

I asked the great traveller—whose cup of fortune and happiness had appeared to have been so often filled to the overflowing after all his sufferings and sacrifices—I asked what was the very happiest moment of his life? Was it when he had found Livingstone? Or was it when he had emerged triumphantly from Darkest Africa after settling problems that had vexed the world of civilization for more than thirty centuries—after solving mysteries older than christianity? or was it when he was being honored and feted by the highest nobility and rank in the world of powers? or was it at his marriages? or was it on some other occasion? I reminded Mr. Stanley that the same question had been once asked of Napoleon Bonaparte, the greatest soldier the world ever saw, and who had drunk of every cup of earthly happiness;—and now—while I had Napoleon's answer by heart—I wanted to hear what the greatest explorer of all ages had to say in reply to the same question—for he too doubtless had held the cup of happiness on many brilliant occasions.—Mr. Stanley hung his head in thoughtfulness and interest at my question. Here is what he said, after a moment's reflection:

"Well, that is a subject upon which I have thought but very little. Yes; I have drunk of many cups of pleasure.—Yes I am a happy at my marriage. But really, I believe I have always experienced most happiness whenever I have had the consciousness of having best done my duty! "This is a lesson to be taught: "Deriving the highest happiness in doing one's duty best."

Mr. Stanley, in another connection, showed that, in his allegiance to "duty," he was governed first by these three:

Commerce, Civilization and Christianity.

In his lecture he does not advance the belief that Central Africa will ever be the theatre of great achievements universally by the white race. The negro alone will flourish there. We must send him the Gospel of Jesus—this first—and civilization

and commerce will follow. He closed his picture by a sublime peroration in which he pictured the unborn millions of the Dark Continent singing, in joyous praise, the song of the Stars and the Seraphim in the morning of time: "Glory to God in the highest! Peace on earth and good will to men!" M. V. MOORE

ON THE JURISDICTION OF MAGISTRATES.

Another Case of Legislative Intent Not Legally Expressed.

The supreme court holds that the act giving magistrates jurisdiction of assaults with deadly weapons is not operative.

NORTH CAROLINA—SUPREME COURT. [No. 285]

State (appellant) vs. Fesperman. Appeal from Stanley Superior Court. Attorney General for State: no counsel contra. Clark, J.

The indictment charges an assault "with a certain deadly weapon, to-wit: a shovel of the weight of five pounds." The special verdict finds in fact the assault was made by the defendant with his fist and within six months before the true bill was found. It has been repeatedly held that when the indictment in the superior court charges an assault with a deadly weapon the court retains jurisdiction although in the proof, simple assault only shall be shown. State vs. Ray, 89 N. C. 587; State vs. Beaves, 85 N. C. 553; State vs. Cunningham, 94 N. C. 824; State vs. Ernest, 98 N. C. 740. The cases in which the jurisdiction of the superior court is ousted by showing that the assault was within six months (now 12 months) before indictment found is limited to those in which the charge in itself is of a simple assault. State vs. Porter, 101 N. C. 713, and cases there plainly in error in holding as the law stood at the time of the trial, 1890, that the superior court did not have jurisdiction.

It is insisted, however, that by virtue of chapter 152, acts of 1891, a magistrate has now jurisdiction of an assault with deadly weapon, if no serious damage was done. There is in the act no exception as to pending actions and the present case differs in that respect from State vs. Watts, 85 N. C. 517. But if it is conceded that the act applies to pending cases we are of opinion that it does not confer jurisdiction of assaults with deadly weapons upon magistrates in any case.

The constitution restricts the jurisdiction of magistrates in criminal matters to cases "where the punishment cannot exceed \$50 or imprisonment for thirty days." It is not competent, therefore, for the legislature to confer jurisdiction upon magistrates of any offences of which the punishment affixed by law may exceed that limit. The Code, section 987, which was not amended, still prescribes that the punishment for assaults with a deadly weapon may be by fine and imprisonment, in the discretion of the court. It is true that the Code section 892, acts 1881, purports to give magistrates exclusive original jurisdiction of all assaults "in which no serious damage is done and of all criminal matters arising in their counties where the punishment prescribed by law shall not exceed a fine of fifty dollars or imprisonment for thirty days." We might surmise that the intention was to confer jurisdiction upon magistrates in cases where, though a deadly weapon was used, no serious damage was inflicted. But the punishment for assaults with a deadly weapon in all cases whether serious damage is not inflicted, being left unchanged, "fine and imprisonment in the discretion of the court," whatever may or may not have been the legislative intent in amending the code, sec. 892, the amendatory act could not confer upon the justice's court jurisdiction of an offence the punishment affixed to which may exceed the constitutional limit of such court. The judgement is reversed and the case remanded that the court below may pass sentence upon the special verdict in accordance with this opinion. Per curiam. Reversed.

The County Alliance Meeting and Picnic.

To the Editor of the Lenoir Topic:

The Alliance picnic and county meeting that came off at Hibriten Academy the tenth inst., was notwithstanding the mud and lowering clouds—a success. Early in the day people began pouring in from all quarters, and all bearing carefully preserved burdens in the shape of baskets, boxes and trunks which were afterward returned by actual experience and much inward satisfaction contained many of the good things of the land. At half after ten o'clock the ringing of the school house bell called the Alliance called the Alliance to secret session on the second floor of the building, where considerable business of importance was transacted leaving the juvenile crowd and many older persons outside. But the rules of school being suspended for the day the young lady pupils and young gentlemen put in the time pretty well and everything went on lovely.

At twelve o'clock a number of ladies and gentlemen (previously appointed) spread the dinner over a temporary table prepared for the occasion and everything being ready the Rev. Isaac Oxford, Chaplain of the county Alliance came forward and in elegant and appropriate language asked the blessings of Almighty God upon the same to the good of the people, after which all hands went to work. And here we would say that language is a poor medium by which description of the quality and quantity of the fat things that lay before us. Suffice it to say, that the dinner was first class, gotten up with an eye to please and satisfy showing task, and does credit to the good wives and daughters of the farmers of the neighborhood. Every body was filled and many baskets full taken up. And here if we may be pardoned we would like to speak—

Changes in the Laws.

(The numbers are the chapters of the Acts of 1891.)

News and Observer.

MISCELLANEOUS.

14. To amend the law relating to agriculture and geology—taxes fertilizers 25 cents a ton; each bag to have a tag; railroad companies to make monthly statement of shipments of fertilizers, &c.

24. Changes the name of Western N. C. Asylum to State Hospital, and provides for the care of inebriates there.

35. Amends election law, registration to cease at noon on second Saturday before the election.

32. Provides the qualification for membership in the N. C. Pharmaceutical Association.

55. Penalty for carrying concealed weapons to be not more than \$50 nor less than \$30, or imprisonment not more than 30 days.

65. Makes it unlawful to employ and carry a minor out of the State.

86. Makes January 19, birthday of General Lee, a holiday.

96. Makes it unlawful to allow hogs with cholera to have access to a ditch or water course; or to throw dead hogs in any water course.

97. Where a mortal wound is given on the high seas without the State, the offence may be prosecuted where death ensues.

101. Amends school law, 1889, section 2676, line 27, by substituting "may," instead of "shall."

102. Re-enacts section 2766. Code about surveys.

119. Bird law amended by fixing the dates from March 15th to Nov. 1st.

124. Extends the time for funding old State bonds to July 1st, 1892.

125. Sales and rentals by guardians to be by public auction, unless upon petition and sufficient evidence before clerk shall permit private renting.

132. County commissioners may increase bonds of clerks and registers at any election of county officers.

135. Practising physicians to appear before clerk and register before Jan. 1st 1892.

134. An act relating to chattel mortgages. Mortgages of household and kitchen furniture not good unless the privity examination of the wife is taken.

137. Made a misdemeanor to obtain false registration of breed of cattle, fowls, etc., or to obtain money by misrepresenting any breed of cattle or fowls.

138. Unlawful to hunt birds with a net in the land of another in Durham county.

143. If any trustee of the University neglects to attend meeting for four years, his place made vacant.

179. To incorporate the Soldiers' Home Association.

224. The names of the poor houses in this State changed to "Home for the Aged and Infirm."

214. To establish a Normal and Industrial School for white girls.

231. Allows a person, after ten days' notice at court house, to apply to clerk to change his name—can only be changed once.

though we will try to do so in a suppressed tone of voice of the shameful waste of provisions, and abuse of the Academy floor indulged in by careless persons while at dinner. It is to be hoped that such persons will exercise better judgment and manifest a higher regard for the feelings of the ladies on like future occasions than was shown on this. Dinner being over the Chaplain returned thanks, after which Esq. Gwyn in his mellow, pleasant style of speaking came upon the rostrum and in behalf of himself and the people expressed his pleasure at having an opportunity to thank the good ladies for the nice dinner so much enjoyed on this and a previous occasion at the same place. The people now gave audience and Sheriff J. V. McCall was called upon for a short speech, and we must say that the sheriff spread himself. He said we had a great country and the price of this country is the blood of our fathers. He thought we should use with care the privileges that cost so much. He thought it ill-timed for the Alliance to talk or think of a third party. He fell on Wall Street brokers, trusts and combinations all spraddled out, rounding up his periods with gems of thought and snatches of history that gave his speech a professional ring, closing with appropriate remarks.

The Rev. G. D. Sherrill was then called out for a speech which call was responded to by the opening remark that it was hardly a fair tote to be called out on such an occasion without a moments notice. But in that cool, deliberate way peculiar to himself he spoke at some length of the failures upon the part of the farmers and laboring classes of the country. He thought that there was one great cause of failure among the people outside of class legislation that was as bad perhaps worse than any other, a remedy for which was within the reach of almost every man, and while he would not have anybody get mad, he believed he would risk the assertion that it was ignorance. He thought that opportunities were away below par that the people might be better informed if they would. He believed in educating the people but he did not believe in that kind of education that made a boy ashamed to be found in the back-yard cutting wood with his coat off.

But here his time is up and the Alliance is again called to business which time continues for an hour and a half after which everybody goes home full of oaks and happiness to dream of the pleasant hours of the past, and the now drawing glorious future when the glad song of the laboring class shall be heard ringing out from the thousands of throats throughout the length and breadth of this great country. When the farmer shall have become successful and satisfied and his occupation be looked upon with that degree of honor that it justly merits.

Now in conclusion we must not forget to speak of the school at Hibriten which is under the control and supervision of Prof. E. B. Phillips, a scholarly, high-toned gentleman, trained in school work and well fitted for the important and responsible duties of shaping the heads and hearts of the girls and boys upon whose shoulder must rest the future honor, prosperity, and destiny of the nation. The school is becoming and the people are well pleased with the thorough work that is being done there. We think it is due the young ladies at Hibriten to say that we found the building and grounds in nice condition. A certain taste exhibited in the arrangement of things that is peculiar to, and characteristic of young ladies of taste and refinement. Of course Prof. Phillips and the boys will come in claiming their part of the credit, all of which we cheerfully grant. Thanks to the Professor for the use of his school house, and a word of apology in behalf of those careless persons who had so little regard for the feelings of the ladies, and so little thought of the amount of hard work it would take to clear the Academy floor of the grease and pie and other rubbish that was thrown around in such profusion.

J. L. KIRBY.

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