

# WEST-CAROLINA RECORD.

THE STRONGEST BULWARK OF OUR COUNTRY—THE POPULAR HEART.

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## WEST-CAROLINA RECORD.

RUTHERFORDTON, N. C.

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#### DR. J. L. RUCKER,

PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON,  
 Grateful for the liberal patronage heretofore received, hopes by prompt attention to all calls, to merit a continuance of the same.  
 1-11

K. W. LOGAN, J. M. JUSTICE.  
**LOGAN & JUSTICE,**  
 ATTORNEYS AT LAW,  
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 Will give prompt attention to all business entrusted to their care.  
 Particular attention given to collections in both Superior and Justice's Courts. 11

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 Collections promptly attended to. 11

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 Is open for the accommodation of the travelling public, and with good fare, attentive servants, and good stables and feed for horses, the proprietor asks a share of patronage.  
 C. BURNETT, Proprietor.  
 11-17

**ALLEN HOUSE,**  
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 Good Tables, attentive Servants, well ventilated Rooms and comfortable Stables.

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 BOARD \$2.00 PER DAY. 161

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 Board per Day, \$1.50  
 " Week, 7.00  
 " Month, 21.00  
 24-11 B. B. FREEMAN, Proprietor.

**McDowell House,**  
 HENDERSONVILLE, N. C.  
 This house is now open for the reception of boarders and all transient custom.  
 C. G. McDOWELL, Proprietor.  
 24-3m

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W. H. JAY,  
 HOUSE AND SIGN  
 PAINTER  
**PAPER HANGER, & CO.**  
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 Gilding, Marbling and Kalsomning executed in the best style.  
 Orders from neighboring towns promptly attended to. 6-3m

**BLACKSMITHING.**  
 Bradley Dalton would announce to his old friends and customers that his Shop is still in full blast on Main Street, South of the Jail, where he may be found at all times. Terms as low as the lowest. Country produce taken in payment for work at market prices. **Give him a Call.** 10-17

**WESTERN STAR LODGE**  
 No. 91, A. F. M.  
 Meets regularly on the 1st Monday Light in each month, Tuesdays of Superior Courts, and on the Festivals of the Six John.  
 J. L. RUCKER, W. M.  
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**BLACKSMITH SHOP.**  
 The undersigned would respectfully inform his old customers and the Public, that his Shop is still going on, and that he is prepared to do all kinds of work in his line at short notice.  
 My terms for work, is "pay down." All kinds of produce taken at market prices for work.  
 All persons indebted to me for work will save trouble by calling and settling.  
 1-11 J. V. WILKINSON.

**The Wilmington Journal,**  
 ENGELHARD & SAUNDERS,  
 Editors and Publishers,  
 Wilmington, N. C.  
 Daily—every morning except Monday at \$8 per year.  
 Weekly—every Friday at \$2. 24 3m.

**We are Growing Old.**  
 We are growing old—how the thought will rise  
 When a glance is backward cast  
 On some long remembered spot that lies  
 In the silence of the past!  
 It may be the shrine of our early vows,  
 Or the tomb of early tears;  
 But it seems like a far off isle to us,  
 In the stormy sea of years.

O, wide and wild are the waves that part  
 Our steps from its greenness now;  
 And we miss the joy of many a heart,  
 And the light of many a brow,  
 For deep o'er many a stately bark  
 Have the whelming billows rolled,  
 That steered with us from that early mark—  
 O, friends, we are growing old—

Old in the dimness and the dust  
 Of our daily toils and cares,  
 Old in the wrecks of love and trust,  
 Which our burdened memory bears,  
 Each form may wear to the passing gaze  
 The bloom of life's freshness yet,  
 And beams may brighten our later days  
 Which the morning never met.

But oh, the chances we have seen  
 In the far and winding way;  
 The graves that have in our path grown green,  
 And the locks that have grown gray!  
 The winters still on our own may spare,  
 The sable or the gold;  
 But we saw their shows upon brighter hair—  
 And, friends, we are growing old!

We have gained the world's cold wisdom now,  
 \*We learned to pause and fear;  
 But where are the living founts  
 Was a joy of heart to hear?  
 We have won the wealth of many a clime,  
 And the lore of many a page,  
 But where is the hope that saw in time  
 But its boundless heritage?

Will it come again when the violet wakes,  
 And the woods their youth renew?  
 We have stood in the light of sunny brakes  
 \*When the bloom was deep and blue;  
 And our souls might joy in the spring time then,  
 \*But the joy was faint and cold;  
 For it never could give us the youth again  
 Of hearts that are growing old.

### ASTRONOMY.

#### Variable Stars.

BY EMMA M. CONVERLE.

The fixed stars, as their name implies, were regarded in the early ages of astronomy as symbols of immutability. But the progress of modern research reveals to the careful observer many members of the shining brotherhood whose condition is marked by constant change, and which have received from this circumstance the name of variable stars. These changes embrace a wide range, varying from the brilliancy of a star of the first magnitude to complete invisibility. Some of the stars of this class manifest a sudden increase and decrease of brilliancy, plainly perceptible to the naked eye; in others the change is marked by slow and regular diminution of light; while others wax and wane with many gradations of change during a single period. The period of variability—that is, the time elapsing from the maximum brightness to its return—also embraces a wide range, varying from a year, probably a long succession of years, to a few days. The cause of this variation is one of the interesting problems now occupying the minds of the great investigators and deep thinkers, who devote their lives to the study of these sparkling mysteries. Spectrum analysis has thrown its light on the intricate system, and, by detecting the constituents and physical condition of these shining suns, has given strength to theories which wait

for more decisive confirmation. Zollner gives a simple explanation of these changes in brightness, supported by the patient observations of many years. He attributes the cause to the distribution of dark masses of scoriae, like our sunspots, from on the red-hot liquid body of the star in the process of cooling. These masses of scoriae, arranging themselves in a fixed order in consequence of the rotation of the star, produce on its surface an unequal distribution of red hot luminous matter and an accumulation of non-luminous scoriae, whose result is manifest in the fitful gleams that mark the light of these weird stars. Spectrum analysis, as we have said, confirms this theory. Secchi found that the spectrum of a solar spot bears a close resemblance to the spectrum given by several variable stars, and deduces the conclusion that spots on these stars occurring at regular intervals, produce the variations. It is generally allowed that our sun is a variable star, presenting the same strange phenomena to other suns in space as those which have long been favorite subjects of study to terrestrial observers. Another theory is, that the variation is partially caused by the revolution of a dark satellite around the luminous body which, at certain regular intervals, transits the primary and produces the changing light. Observation confirms this theory, and, in many instances probably, a union of both causes effects the result, as may be the case with the sun, where sun-spots and dark planets must produce complicated variations. Among the most wonderful variably stars is ranked Mira, or the Marvelous. It is found in the constellation Cetus, or the Whale, and is marked on the maps as Omicron Ceti. It was first noticed as a variable star by Fabricius in 1596. It takes eleven months to complete the cycle of variations. For 15 days it retains its maximum brightness, that of a star of the second magnitude. Its light then decreases for three months, until it becomes invisible even to common telescopes, dwindling below the eleventh magnitude. It remains in this condition for five months, then, reappearing, its light increases for three months, when the cycle is ended, and it resumes its maximum brightness, to pass again through the same complicated changes. Its period is 331½ days. There are irregularities in this period, and these irregularities are subject to a periodicity that renders the phenomenon still more intricate. In 1799, the maximum brilliancy was equal to a star of the first magnitude, while other maxima have indicated stars of the fourth magnitude. Secchi made a careful examination of this star with the spectroscope, and found the same series of dark bands and strips that are always present in the spectrum of a solar spot. Algol, or the Demon Star, is a variable quite as remarkable as Mira, with a striking contrast in the period of variation. It is situated in the constellation Perseus, and is the brightest star in the head of Medusa. It has been observed from the earliest ages, and received the name of the Demon Star from its weird transformation. Its period is two days, twenty hours, and forty-eight minutes. During two days and fourteen hours Algol appears as a star of the second magnitude. The remaining six or three-fourth hours are occupied by the gradual decline of the star to the fourth magnitude, and then its gradual return to the second, which completes the cycle. These changes can easily be detected by the naked eye, and, as the star is situated between the well-known clusters of Cassiopeia and the Pleiades, its position is favorable for observation. The famous astronomer

Lalande, who died at Paris in 1807, was accustomed in his old age, to remaining whole nights on the Pont Neuf watching its variations, and pointing them out to observers.

Recent investigators claim that the passage of a dark planet of huge dimensions can be traced around the star, and thus they account for its varying light. Algol is a sun like our sun, only immensely larger, and has a proportionately large planet revolving around it. For two days and fourteen hours the star is of the second magnitude, its normal size. Then commences the transit of the satellite over its disk, occupying six and one-half hours. For three and one-half hours the light diminishes as the satellite advances on the star's disk, until reaching the minimum it appears as a star of the fourth magnitude. The light then increases for about three and one-half hours, until the planet no longer obscures our vision, and Algol shines again with its maximum brightness. It is found that the planet obscures seventeen twenty-fourths of the disk, and occupies in its transit, a tenth of the time required for a revolution. Calculations have been made based upon these data whose results introduce us to a system of marvellous dimensions. They give to Algol a diameter of 40,000,000 miles, to the planet a diameter of 41,000,000 miles, and make the distance between them 280,000,000 miles.

Interesting observations have been made on the density of Algol and the planet, making their united density only one-fifth of that sun. The vaporous condition of the elements may account for the gigantic size. We have one more point to notice in the history of this stranger star. The attendant is slow approaching it. Since 1784 there has been a constant diminution of the period. This can be accounted for on the supposition that Algol possesses the larger share of the density and that the satellite is all a ball of vapor, which, contracting as it draws nearer to the primary. A powerful study is thus presented to us: Algol, a sun more than fifty times the diameter of our sun, and giving out 2,500 times the light and heat, with an attendant planet, a mass of fiery vapor, covered with cloud and fog, which, in the progress of infinite time is to cool down, condense, and develop by the same laws that have made the earth a habitation for the human race.

Betelgeux, in Orion, is a variable, with a period of nearly 200 days. This star has been carefully examined by spectrum analysis, and develops a spectrum closely resembling that of the sun. The Swan contains three variable stars. Chi, discovered in 1686, has a period of 405 days, and Sad'r varies from the third to the sixth magnitude in a period which is thought to embrace ten years or more. Among the variable stars of a short period, one in Cepheus is distinguished for the regularity of its changes in a period of five days, eight hours, and forty seconds. There is also a number of variable stars whose periods have not been accurately determined, or they are thought to be so long that they can not be computed with certainty. Some of the temporary stars are thought to be variables, with periods of many hundred years.

But the variable double stars are among the most curious belonging to the class. One of these is in the Virgin. The two stars composing it have changed in brightness, the most brilliant being now the fainter of the two. Cassiopeia also contains a variable double. Some stars are gradually increasing in brightness, like Alcor, in the Great Bear, which was once so small as to form a test for eyesight, but can now be seen in the presence of the moon. If this is variable, its period must embrace many hundred years. These are some of

the facts and theories in regard to variable stars, which are no longer looked upon as demons or marvels, but as proofs of the action of physical laws, and as evidence of internal commotion in the seething globes of fire of which they are composed. They have for us a powerful personal interest, for they belong to the same class as our own sun; are marked with the dark spots so familiar to solar observers; and, like the sun, are the centres of planetary orbs whose dark passage over their disks is made manifest by varied gradations of light.

As nearly as we can judge, variable stars are our "next of kin" among the myriad shining points gleaming with friendly light from the infinite depths of stellar space. It may be that, while we are watching our distant neighbors, noting their changing luster, and striving to elucidate the mystery, thousands of celestial telescopes are studying the complicated phases of our solar orb, which, to their distant vision, is only a tiny, variable star, sometimes shining in undimmed lustre, and sometimes waxing and waning in brilliancy from the spots which darken its surface, or the planets which cross its disk.—Appleton's Journal.

### Life in the Tropics.

The idea generally entertained of the tropics is that they are Eden-like regions, abounding in the most brilliant flowers, the most magnificent birds, as well as the most varied and abundant animal life. To compare them with temperate regions in these particulars, to declare that the temperate zones are, in fact, the abundance, would have sounded to our ancestors like the language of a madman. Yet the voice of discovery has dispelled this idea, as it has destroyed a dozen other strongholds of ancient belief, and our fancies must veer to a new conception of the realms of perpetual summer.

We are now assured that there is no special abundance of flowers in the tropics. Wallace tells us that equatorial landscapes are marked by fine foliage and a rarity of flowers. The large and magnificent flower which we know to be of tropical origin are rare, and are gathered from widely-separated districts. The short period of bloom usual in these regions also causes a paucity of floral adornments, and as a rule temperate landscapes far exceed tropical in variety and abundance of flowers. The same may be said in regard to bird and animal life, the tropics in this particular also falling far below the temperates. Strain wandered for weeks through the woods of Central America without seeing any animal, and rarely a bird, and, so far as he could judge, the rivers contained no fish. Even the frigid zones appear to surpass the tropics in this respect. Thus, in Alaska animal life is abundant in summer, and the rivers swarm with fish; the white hare, the moose and beaver abound. The Kamtschadales have thousands of reindeer, and as a rule the short summer of the extreme North is marked by a great animal abundance. So in regard to the song of birds. It is almost entirely a temperate phenomenon. Song is indeed rather an exceptional feature than an attribute of birds. The singers are comparatively few, and these few dwell chiefly outside the tropics. Why these few sweet-voiced tribes have been so far favored above their contemporaries is one of the questions in natural science which yet await a solution. Yet, in the tropics around the largest and finest beasts, the most brilliant birds and flowers. The carnivorous fierceness may be one principal reason of the paucity of life, as it needs a wide district to support each of these rapacious animals. So there may be a lack of food necessary to support other gentle creatures. We have an in-

stance of this in the temperate zones in the absence of bird life in the pine forests. The great woods of Russia are strangely silent from this cause, the pine seeming incapable of sustaining the smaller animal life.

The character of life in the tropics is in remarkable accordance with the intensity of solar light and heat to which they are subjected. The fire of the sun seems to impart fierceness to the animals, its rich hues to give intense brilliancy to birds and flowers, its production of malaria to fill with venom the insects and reptiles. The equatorial regions are thus truly the lauds of the sun, whose warmth and brilliancy is typified throughout the tropics in a thousand symbols, even the human race there gaining an impulsive and passionate character which is foreign to the cooler yet more enduring dwellers within the temperate zones.

### A professor of Cornell University recently published a number of hints as to "What to do in cases of accident. One of these was as follows: "If you choke, get down on your all fours and cough." One of our neighbors—Woodward—read this, and determined to remember it. Day before yesterday he was eating his dinner alone, and he choked upon a piece of beef. Instantly he got down upon all fours and began to cough. Just then, Mrs. Woodward came in, and the impression made upon her by Woodward's extraordinary attitude and his barking was that he had suddenly been attacked with hydrophobia. So she first seized the pitcher of water, and then she sent one of the girls up stairs for the mattress, which was thrown over Woodward, while Mrs. Woodward and the family sat on it and held him down. The madder he got the more alarmed was Mrs. Woodward; and the more he swore and foamed at the mouth, the more she insisted on the hired girl giving an extra turn of the clothes-line around his leg and tying him to the stove. When the doctor came, he pulled Woodward's arm from under the mattress and bled him, and put flyblisters on his feet, and promised to come round in the evening and shave his head, in order to cup his scalp, so as to relieve his brain. When the doctor called that night, Woodward had a prize-fight with him in the parlor, and after sending the medical man up to the bath-room to wash the blood from his nose and cool his eye, Woodward went out to hunt for the Cornell professor. There will be pain and anguish in that institution of learning when Woodward arrives. He means war to the knife.—Max Alder

### Healthfulness of Fruits.

Fruits and berries at this season of the year are not only precious luxuries, but great promoters of health. They act upon the liver, promoting that secretion naturally which many are in the habit of obtaining only by means of artificial medicines. They thus avert many a disease resulting from a torpid condition of the liver. Another way in which they act beneficially is in the mechanical effect their little seeds produce in passing through the bowels, very much the same as the watering of an irritated eyeball when any hard substance touches that delicate organ, and this water, by dissolving the hardened contents of constipated bowels, keeps them in a healthier state than any pill or purgative invented by the apothecary.—There can be no doubt that in the summer and fall seasons, people who live mainly on fruits and berries and coarse bread can almost ensure exemption from sickness, while those who eat heartily of solid meats and vegetables two or three times a day are liable to all the disease that flesh is heir to.