

The Lincoln Progress.



F. H. DeLANE, J. T. DeLANE, Editors and Prop's.

LINCOLNTON, N. C.

SATURDAY, AUG. 23, 1879.

[Communicated.]

Letter from Brownsville, Tenn.

BROWNSVILLE, TENN., Aug. 14, '79. I am always glad to receive the PROGRESS so I can hear from my old home. Perhaps some of your readers would like to hear from West Tennessee: Our country and town is very healthy. There has been a great deal of excitement about the yellow fever ever since it made its appearance in Memphis. A great many of our citizens have left town and gone to watering places in Middle and East Tenn. Nearly all who remain have built houses, others get school houses, churches or anywhere to get shelter. Just as soon as the fever shuts are heard our town will be deserted. We suffered severely last year, and out of five hundred that remained in town one hundred and sixty-eight died; besides, most every one who remained had the fever. We are living, as it were, just for today and know not what time it may break out. We are doing all we can to keep it out by keeping a strict quarantine against Memphis. The trains are not allowed to stop under three miles of the town, and there is a guard to keep any one from getting off. By a strict guard we may escape the fever, as there are no fears of its originating here.

We have a pleasant little city of five or six thousand inhabitants; have good schools and churches of seven denominations.

Crops are looking well—were never better at this time of year. In conclusion, I extend my best wishes for the prosperity of old Lincoln.

A. S. CARPENTER.

Memphis Cut off from the World.

Dr. B. W. Mitchell, the intrepid yellow fever physician of Memphis, describes the city as wholly cut off from the world. There are no trains running into or out of the town, and nobody leaves the place without authorities knowing it. No steamboats land there at all. The supplies are all brought down on barges which are dropped by the steamboats a couple of miles above the city and allowed to float down. When they arrive at the city men in skiffs or tugs secure them and bring them to the landing. If there is any fever carried abroad, it is done by some daring pedler, who runs his wagon of supplies into the town on a venture, sells out, and then clears out.

Tomato Wine.

Nine bushels of the large, smooth red, or the trophy, and ten bushels of trophy, and ten bushels of the other varieties of tomatoes will make one barrel of wine. The tomatoes are cut into halves and mashed in a barrel after the manner described for the white Scuppernon wine. The mashed tomatoes are left in barrels to ferment for forty-eight hours, stirring them well twice a day. After that time they are pressed with high pressure, so as to extract all the juice from them. To each gallon of juice one pound of the best white sugar is added; the juice and sugar are put into a well sulphured barrel, a vacuum of three gallons capacity is left, the bung hole closed airtight and the fermenting tube adjusted. In eight to ten days the wine is racked and filtered into another barrel, not omitting the sulphur, and again one pound of sugar added for each gallon of wine, the same vacuum is left, the barrel closed airtight, and the fermenting tube adjusted. After the expiration of another week the wine is again racked and filtered, and to every nine gallons of wine one gallon of the best sherry should be added. In this country this will be impossible, as no pure sherry can be procured except, perhaps, in some of the houses, of the upper tents of the North. Make a virtue of necessity and add to every nine gallons of tomato wine one gallon of the best old Scuppernon, and to each barrel one gallon of alcohol and two ounces of tannic acid (worth \$3 50 per pound); leave in the barrel a vacuum of one gallon capacity, close it airtight and adjust the fermenting tube. In four to six weeks after the fermentation has ceased en-

tirely the wine will have deposited its sediment. It is again racked, and, if cloudy, filtered. The barrel is filled quite full and closed airtight. With age the wine will improve and will resemble sherry in taste and color. —Edward Preiss in Semi-Tropical.

STEWART'S CADAVER.

Why the First Story of its Recovery was Started.

[From the Washington Post.] In regard to the story published in a morning paper which reiterates the assertion frequently made of late, that the remains of A. T. Stewart, which were stolen from St. Mark's church on the 7th of November last, have not been recovered, but that negotiations are making for their return by the resurrectionists, who demand a quarter of a million dollars and immunity from punishment, the following has been obtained: The information is based on facts that are incontrovertible, but as far as many newspapers go, it is the most antique of ancient history. It was peddled in a newspaper office three months ago, and the clue to it was afforded by a drunkard, who in his cups babbled about the case to an intelligent citizen, who imparted what he had learned to a reporter. As long as Judge Hilton encouraged the belief that Stewart's body had been recovered, many upheld him in the assertion that he not only did not deny but amplified the reports made shortly after the grave robbery. Then, on hints that impelled respect, the matter was allowed to drop. Some waited, content to abide by the action of the intelligent corps of detectives that were probing the matter to the bottom. The article published to-day so influences the case that secrecy in regard to the movement of those who are unraveling the mystery will in the future be impossible, and it is just as well to strip to-day's article of its anonymous character. It is now possible to assert that some time after the robbery Mrs. Stewart's health and mental condition demanded heroic treatment, and she was led to believe that, according to her wishes, the body of her husband had been ransomed, and there was an end of the matter. The price named was \$60,000, and the negotiations secured immunity from punishment. It was asserted at one time that a box containing the remains was secretly placed in the basement of the Fifth avenue mansion, and that when the mausoleum at Garden City was finished they would be deposited there with great pomp.

This secret was allowed to leak out, and a newspaper reporter, who was furnished for the occasion, caught the valuable information and published it. Then the affair was mystified and the story changed so as to allow the body being secreted in many places. At any rate, it was represented that Mrs. Stewart's health improved when she was informed of the recovery of her husband's body, and in many newspaper circles the mystery was believed to be solved. Judge Hilton's reluctance to tell about the negotiation being ascribed to his unwillingness to relate what part he played in compromising this ghoul felony, shows, as a matter of fact, that Judge Hilton is as uncompromising to-day in regard to the robbery of the body of the man who was the structure of his fortune, as he was on the morning of the robbery, when he made the most unguarded assertion as to his determination to have the robbers bith the body. Mrs. Stewart now knows the truth, and it may be asserted that she is now as uncompromising as her adviser. In the account published the facts are, that Stewart's body has not been recovered; that \$250,000 is the price on it, and that Judge Hilton is in possession of the coffin-plates, handles and casket, and a portion covering, which were taken by the thieves from the vault in St. Mark's churchyard to serve as tallies in the negotiations for the return of the remains. It is also true that the men who stole the body are known, but that there has never been an opportunity to arrest them and secure the body at one swoop. The hard work of the case fell upon Superintendent Walling, who has the full confidence of Judge Hilton, and what one knows the other is cognizant of. Neither Walling, nor the officers who are in his confidence, are to blame for the present leak, and know of the commencement of it with a down-town lawyer, and they or their agents have never lost sight of him for a moment. Either officer could take a pencil and paper, write down certain names, put the paper in an envelope, and then offer to wager any odds that the envelope placed in the safe would, on the day the full history of the crime is made public, contain the names of the robbers and their accomplices.

BOB McCORKLE EXECUTED.

Vengeance of the Law Upon a Negro Murderer.

[Correspondence Charlotte Observer.] STATESVILLE, August 15th. To-day Bob McCorkle, colored, suffered the death penalty at Taylorsville, Alexander county. The case is one of which the general public knows very little. Brief mention was made in the Observer of the 9th of November last of the murder of J. Wesley Wycoff, in Catawba county, on the night of the 7th of that month, but the full facts were never discovered until the case underwent legal investigation, and hence the story which follows will be new to your readers.

HISTORY OF THE CASE.

Wycoff, with his wife and three or four children, lived near Catawba Station, Catawba county, N. C. They were ignorant people, with no very nice ideas of the ways of the world. Wycoff himself was an honest, unoffending man, and the character of his wife will be pictured in the progress of the story. Near them lived Bob McCorkle, colored, a hunter, farmer and carpenter, a coarse, black, burly, worthless negro, about sixty years of age. His wife had died about six months prior to this murder and at that time he lived alone with his children. He was occasionally employed to work with and for Wycoff, and on these occasions he ate with Wycoff's family and received other evidences of distinction, usually conferred by white men upon blacks. He was frequently invited to Wycoff's house, and always on these occasions received treatment of a neighbor upon perfect equality, and thus there grew up between the families a familiarity for which all were made the worse off.

Wycoff was a farmer and carpenter and was often away from home engaged in working at his trade. During these absences McCorkle was a frequent visitor at his house. The negro's treatment warranted him in making advances which under other conditions would not have been thought of, and these being met, relations of an illicit and shameful character began between these two—and one and ugly, repulsive negro, of three score good years; the other a rather good-looking woman, perhaps thirty-five years of age, with blue eyes, fair complexion, and light hair—a woman who had sprung from a respectable stock of people. This intimacy began eight years before the tragedy to which it led was enacted, and was continued through all this period. Wycoff was told of it but did not believe it. Conviction was finally forced upon his mind, and then it was that, instead of taking a gun and shooting the monster down like a dog, he merely remonstrated with his shameless wife telling her that she must not allow McCorkle to visit the house thereafter in his absence; if he did he (Wycoff) would kill him. This remonstrance was, of course, of no effect, except that the woman repeated to her paramour the threats of her husband, whereupon he asked her for a pistol of his which was in her possession receiving which he remarked that he didn't want to kill anybody, but "if Wycoff crowds me he will get hurt."

The disgraceful status of affairs became well known throughout the entire neighborhood. Indeed, it appears that all the parties interested talked of it quite freely. Certain it is that Bob and Mrs. Wycoff did, and therefore when the murder was committed there were no two opinions as to the guilty hand. On the evening of the 7th of November, 1878, Wesley Wycoff sat by his fireside. About 8 o'clock one of the two dogs in the yard barked furiously and Wycoff got up and went out. A gun was fired; Wycoff exclaimed, "Lord have mercy upon my soul!" Fell prone upon his face and died. When the report of the gun died away Mrs. Wycoff turned to her eldest child and said, "Jake your pap's killed." The child of course would not go into the yard and the depraved woman would not. She did not retire that night, however, but sat by the fire until morning occasionally dozing in her chair. It was after sunrise when she passed beyond the door-step, and even then she would not go nearer than within ten steps of the body. Meantime the murder had been discovered and the news spread like wild-fire through the neighborhood. Warrants were at once sworn out for McCorkle and Mrs. Wycoff and they were quietly arrested. A preliminary examination followed and the prisoners were taken to jail at Newton.

The fall term of Catawba court was held soon thereafter and upon affidavit the cases were transferred to Alexander county. Here they came on

for trial at the June term 1879. His Honor Judge Graves presiding. A jury was secured and the trial commenced on Wednesday of the first week of the term. Solicitor Adams was assisted in the prosecution by Messrs. H. Z. Linney of Alexander, and Theo. H. Cobb, of Lincoln; the prisoners were represented by Col. M. L. McCorkle and Mr. W. G. Burkhead, of Catawba, and Col. G. N. Folk, of Caldwell. Twenty-five witnesses were examined and the case was heard patiently. It may be well to summarize the State's evidence:

In the first place the illicit relations between the defendants were fully established. It was in evidence that McCorkle had said prior to the murder that if Wycoff ever crossed his path he would "get a blue pill." He had told different people that he frequently laid around Wycoff's house at night to see if Wycoff treated his wife badly on account of her relations with him (Bob), intending, if he ever caught him beating her, to "drag him out." He had discussed with a colored preacher the possibility of a man's getting forgiveness for murder; he had said to a friend, the morning after the murder that he had "rolled and sweated" all night, not being able to sleep. Several witnesses swore that they knew the report of McCorkle's gun and it was that which they had heard in the direction of Wycoff's house on the night of the murder. A piece of brown paper wadding had been picked up in the yard near the dead body and had been found to correspond with paper in McCorkle's shot pouch. Bob had often told people that he loaded with ten shot, and ten shot were taken from Wycoff's body, these corresponding with shot in McCorkle's pouch. Tracks had been discovered near the dead body; these led in the direction of Bob's house and were identified as Bob's tracks. The dog which had barked on the night of the murder was a small dog which Wycoff had but recently gotten and which did not know McCorkle; the other, the larger dog, knew McCorkle; the other, the larger dog, knew him well, had hunted with him frequently, and this dog did not bark. On the 6th Mrs. Wycoff and Bob had been seen together in the woods in earnest conversation; on the evening of the 7th—the evening before the night of the murder—they were again seen in conversation. Various threats which McCorkle had uttered against Wycoff were proved, and it was in evidence that Mrs. Wycoff had said on one occasion that if she could get rid of that husband she would never have such another.

The prisoners' counsel sought in vain to break this chain of evidence. There was not a flaw in it. Messrs. McCorkle and Folk for the defence; Linney and Cobb for the State. Friday evening at 8 o'clock the judge delivered his charge and the jury took the case. Saturday morning at 4 o'clock they returned with a verdict of guilty as to both defendants—McCorkle as principal, the woman as accessory before the fact. At 10 o'clock of the same day the prisoners were brought out to be sentenced. The court asked counsel if they had any reason to assign why sentence of death should not be pronounced upon Bob McCorkle. Counsel responded frankly that they had not. Their clients, it was stated, had had a patient and impartial trial, and there were no grounds upon which they could base an appeal. The most they had to ask was that the prisoner at the bar be given as much time as possible in which to prepare for death. At this juncture the prisoner himself arose and exclaimed, "May I please your honor, put me through right off; don't keep me here no longer'n you kin help, I am ready to face death; other men has foteh me to dis." So he rambled along for some little time, neither confessing nor denying the murder.

When he had finished the court sentenced him to be hanged on the 15th of August, between the hours of 10 a. m. and 2 p. m. Turning to Mrs. Wycoff the court sentenced her to imprisonment in the penitentiary for the remainder of her natural life. Shaking hands with their counsel the prisoners were led back to jail. A week later Mrs. Wycoff was landed in the penitentiary at Raleigh and the last act of the drama was witnessed to-day.

The execution was made public, and when I arrived at Taylorsville this morning I found the streets crowded with people from all the surrounding country. There were fully three thousand people present. The prisoner was interviewed in his cell and denied any knowledge of the murder of Wycoff, confessing nothing except criminal relations with Mrs. Wycoff. He was led out at 12:10, seated on his coffin

and driven to the gallows, at the foot of a hill, a quarter of a mile east of the village surrounded by a guard of one hundred men, around with every imaginable weapon. On the scaffold he joined in the singing of a hymn and two prayers were then said. McCorkle then sang alone two hymns and arising threw his coat into the wagon and harangued the crowd. He made no reference to the murder, talking only of his own happiness and urging his hearers to forsake evil ways. When he had finished this he sang another hymn, then drew off his boots and said he was ready. The sheriff severed the rope with one blow of an ax, and at 1:35 the drop fell. There were convulsive movements of the hands and legs, and the body then turned around and around. The drop was four feet, and the tips of the criminals' toes touched the grass. In thirteen minutes Dr. J. R. Campbell, of Newton, pronounced life extinct.

The only reference made at any time on the scaffold to the murder of Wycoff was when a friend asked the prisoner if he had killed him. To this he replied that he did not, but he had an idea who did.

A Southern Exile's Character.

A few days ago, in an article on the Tehuantepec route, we related the incident of Butler's seizure of the bank boy and appropriation, thereof, as constituting the whole property the then Secretary of State of the Confederate States. The contents consisted of Tehuantepec bonds, and the Confederate Secretary, when informed of Butler's exultation over his capture remarked with the loss of those bonds he would be left without a dollar in the world. This confession was made at a dinner at which a dish of rusty bacon, cooked with cow peas and washed down with corn coffee, composed the whole menu. A gentleman over fifty, who had for thirty years enjoyed an income of over 20,000 per annum, was reduced to this condition in two years by his devotion to duty, to principle and to the demands of honor and patriotism. It was a grand sacrifice, worthy of conspicuous record among the many other similar examples of self-sacrifice and sincerity of conviction and duty on the part of those who have been so grossly maligned as interested and designing politicians in the late war.

In 1857 the impeached Secretary of State of late Confederacy, after the downfall of the Confederacy and the dispersion of the government, tramped on foot from central Georgia and escaped in an empty boat to Nassau, with a single ten dollar gold piece in his pocket which he gave the negro who rowed the small boat that so safely carried him beyond the reach of the pursuing foe. In 1879, fourteen years afterward, this fugitive becomes the recognized head of an institution of all others the most difficult in which to attain prominence and success—the bar of England. One gratifying proof of the reality of this achievement is furnished by the fact, which we learn authentically, that Mr. J. P. Benjamin, Queen's counsel, recently purchased a very elegant residence in Paris, giving therefor 300,000 francs cash. It is added that this large sum does not exceed one-half of his yearly income from the highest courts of Great Britain. To these courts the large pressure upon his time and labor has compelled Mr. Benjamin to limit his practice. The briefs declined by him would double his income. But, always accustomed to do well and completely everything he undertook, he has been forced to reduce the amount of his labor within the compass of his wonderful capacity and industry. We doubt if these have ever been equalled by any other aspirant for distinction and success at the English or American bar. From gentlemen who have recently called on him in London we learn that his labors are incessantly prosecuted in his office for at least twelve hours of the twenty-four, and that he still has a few hours to spare for enjoyment and recreation with his friends, to whom he is always welcome as one of the most genial and vivacious of companions. So far from being affected by this intense labor his physique exhibits a scarcely perceptible change from that which he exhibited when he was a leader at our bar, and at that of the United States Supreme Court from Louisiana and the most brilliant and effective orator and debator in that body twenty years ago, or when Secretary of State of the Confederate States fourteen years ago. His hair still maintains its raven hue, unfrosted by sixty seven years of trial and labor, his flashing eyes have all their brilliancy, needing no aid of glasses to perform their work, and his handsome face wears still that winning smile which is rarely preserved by

masculine countenances and is one of the happiest constituents of womanly beauty. The only perceptible change observable in his manner is in the greater gravity and precision on his utterance, and is the restraint of a vivacity which, in his middle age, might be properly described as boyish in its freedom and gaiety. —New Orleans Democrat.

COMMERCIAL.

Lincolnton Market.

[Corrected by P. D. Hinson.] Friday, 21 Aug., 1879.

We quote selling price from wagons

Flour, Family,.....	2 50
Extra,.....	40¢
Corn,.....	80¢
Oats,.....	50¢
Peas,.....	65¢
Butter,.....	12 1/2
Chickens,.....	8 1/2
Eggs,.....	7 1/2
Yarn—American,.....	25¢
Yarn—per bunch,.....	9 1/2
Sheeting,.....	7 1/2
Bacon—Hams,.....	9 1/2
Shotliders,.....	7 1/2
Sides,.....	7 1/2
Pork,.....	4 1/2
Lard,.....	7 1/2
Tallow,.....	6 1/2
Bees Wax,.....	25¢
Apples—Dried,.....	3 1/2
Apples—Green,.....	4 1/2
Peaches—Dried,.....	4 1/2
Blackberries—Dried,.....	4 1/2
Meal,.....	7 1/2
Wheat,.....	90 1/2
Potatoes—Sweet,.....	10 00
Irish,.....	10 00
Beef,.....	4 1/2
Hides—Green,.....	5 1/2
Dry,.....	8 1/2

Professional Cards.

JOHN D. SHAW. THEO. H. COBB. SHAW & COBB, ATTORNEYS AT LAW LINCOLNTON, N. C. Office in Henderson House, feb 12-17

R. J. SHIPP, Attorney at Law, AND Real Estate Broker, Lincolnton, N. C. Sept. 19-17

LAWING & M'BEE, Druggists, (Corner of Main and Academy Streets) Lincolnton, N. C. 119-2m

B. C. COBB, ATTORNEY AT LAW LINCOLNTON, N. C. sept 19-17

BARBER SHOP. I RESPECTFULLY INFORM THE public that I have opened a first-class barber shop in the office formerly occupied by the late Dr. M. L. Brown, deceased, who will be pleased to wait upon all who may favor me with their patronage. Open till 11 o'clock at night, and on Sundays till 9 o'clock. JOHN CONNOR.

Non-Resident Notice. STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, LINCOLN COUNTY.

J. L. McLean administrator of George E. Heavner, deceased.

Georgiana Heavner, Augustus Heavner and John Heavner.

IT APPEARING TO THE SATISFACTION of the Court that summons issued in the above stated case for Georgiana Heavner, Augustus Heavner and John Heavner, and directed to the Sheriff of Lincoln county, N. C., and said summons having been returned, and it appearing by the return of the Sheriff of said county of Lincoln that decess has been made for the said defendants and that they cannot be found: It is therefore ordered by the Court that publication of the said summons be made in the LINCOLN PROGRESS, a newspaper published in the town of Lincolnton, N. C., for six successive weeks, and that the publication of said summons shall be adjudged legal service thereof.

Given under my hand and the seal of said court, July 8th, 1879. W. M. REINHARDT, Clerk Superior Court, Lincoln Co.

LINCOLN COUNTY: In the Superior Court

Summons for Relief.

J. L. McLean administrator of George E. Heavner, deceased.

Georgiana Heavner, Augustus Heavner and John Heavner.

THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, To the Sheriff of Lincoln County—Gent.

You are hereby commanded, to summon Georgiana Heavner, Augustus Heavner and John Heavner, the defendants whose names are named, if they be found within your county, to appear at the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court for the county of Lincoln, within twenty days after the service of this summons on them, exclusive of the day of such service, and to answer the complaint, a copy of which is filed in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court for said county, and let them take notice that if they fail to answer the said complaint within that time, the plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief demanded in the complaint.

Hereof I do not, and of this summons make due return. Given under my hand and the seal of said court, this 7th day of July, 1879. W. M. REINHARDT, Clerk Superior Court, Lincoln Co. July 12-6t

SMOKE BLACKWELL'S DURHAM TOBACCO