

WITH AUNT BECKY.

Lovely Scenes of Nature—A Strange Little Plant—Medicinal Qualities of the Swamp Alder—Herbs to Heal all Manner of Diseases—A Shooting Affray—Killed by the Kick of a Horse.

Correspondence of The Robesonian.

Old Fork (Maxton, R. F. D. 1), July 8—We had a fine rain in the Fork yesterday p. m. We were glad to see it, as we were getting rather dry. Everything looks refreshed this morning, even the songs of the little birds have taken on a gladder note, and I am sitting on the front verandah enjoying the exquisite music of the sweet little mocking birds as they flit about the elm trees. The crops are just at that stage of verdure and beauty that delight the eye to look upon them.

When I contemplate these lovely scenes of nature so close to nature's God, my heart thrills with adoration and praise to the gracious Author whose works are indeed so great and marvelous, who hath clothed the woods and fields in beauty, hath made the birds to sing and the face of the earth to bloom forth year by year with myriads of sweet flowers. We are surrounded by so much of perfection in the natural world, and "only man is vile."

Mrs. Olmstead was down by the side of the big branch recently and came home with a bunch of "heart leaves" in her hand. This is a plant indigenous (so far as I know) to the swamps and branches of the South. I love it for its sweet pungent odor, and the dark rich beauty of its hue. All my life I've been acquainted with this strange little plant, which lives a near neighbor to us and grows luxuriantly in our branch; but never yet have I seen any vestige of bloom about it, and wonder how it propagates. There are many beautiful flowers in this same big branch the names of which I do not know, but there is one shrub growing there called the swamp alder, which has a white tasselled bloom, drooping in clusters, whose medicinal properties in cases of sores from blood impurities is invaluable, and has in my family cured stubborn cases of "ground itch," and chronic sore feet among my children, when doctors and all else failed. When my children were in the bare-foot age, many visits I made to these alder bushes, getting leaves and twigs which I boiled down to a stronting tea, bathed the affected parts a few times, and the rapid healing was marvelous. Ground-itch of former days is now, I hear, merged into "hook-worm," or said to be caused by a germ. I am not gainsaying this statement, but I have cured many cases of it with the alder. It is a perfect antidote for poisoned feet.

I think when God created the earth and all things thereupon, that he made herbs to heal all manner of disease, many of which have been discovered and utilized, while many others remain as yet unknown. The Indians and early white settlers were well acquainted with a variety of herbs and barks which they used with good results in curing disease, and in my childhood days there was no garden without certain of these useful plants, such as rosemary, rue, aloes, camfrey, wormwood, etc., while snake-root, wild horhound and other things were gathered from the woods and stored away for future use. Our old garden during my grand-mother's life was filled with sweet-smelling odors from beds of thyme, lavender and rosemary, but these dear old friends have passed away, and I see them no more.

The glorious Fourth passed away very quietly in the Fork, save for the passing of many colored people to a picnic near by, and the shouts of the ball players in the p. m. as they engaged in that popular sport.

Our hearts were made infinitely sad on the morning of that day when a neighbor came in and told us that Mrs. Gilbert Patterson was dead. Not having heard that she was sick, the news came as a great shock to us, and we were sorely grieved, because she was our friend and we loved her, and because of the stricken

husband, and the dear little children, of the aged father and sisters, and the multitude who mourn the loss of this sweet-spirited, noble Christian woman whose life was so useful, and so interwoven with the many lives and hearts who admired and loved her. She has gone from us, but the memory of her lovely character will dwell with us always.

A good many of our neighbors attended the big picnic at Alfordville, and heard a good speech from Prof. Stacy.

Our citizens seem well content with the work done by the great Baltimore convention, and they are very hopeful of the election of the Democratic ticket.

Several of our neighbors are in the canteloupe business this season and are busy gathering them for market with the prospect of fair prices.

I hear of a shooting affray which occurred two miles from here near the Scotland county county line one night last week among the colored gentry. As stated to me, a young negro and his wife parted, which is a common disgrace among them; the husband accused his brother-in-law of harboring and encouraging her to stay away, so he filled up on "booze," went to the home of the accused, drew a pistol and told him he was going to kill him, when McEachern thought it was time for him to do some shooting too, and went at it, emptying his revolver first, and then procuring his shot gun, which he also emptied. The assailant was riding a mule and it is reported that both the rider and the poor innocent beast were wounded. McEachern was unhurt, as the other negro carried a hammerless weapon and was too drunk to manipulate it.

Mr. Walter Bullock and sisters, Misses Ethel and Janie, are visiting their uncle and aunt Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Hamer. I attended church at Smyrna yesterday and was glad to meet with Mrs. Laurin Bethea, a friend from Latta, S. C., who is visiting relatives in this vicinity. Mrs. David Stubbs, an estimable neighbor, died at her home near here on yesterday (Sunday) a. m. at 10 o'clock and will be buried at 10 today at the McLean cemetery near Maxton. Mrs. Stubbs had been in failing health for several months, and a great sufferer. She was a good Christian woman, and for many years a member of the M. E. church. She leaves many friends, an invalid husband, four daughters, one son and several grand-children to mourn her departure.

"Uncle Dock and Hazel Eyes," I can't see why you want me to write oftener, and I am afraid if my letters get more frequent they may become real tiresome. Besides this, you must know that I am a right busy old lady, and oft-times write so hurriedly that I scarcely know what I have sent off until I see it published; but I truly appreciate your kindness. We had a very sad death in our community last week. Mr. Wm. Watson, who was kicked by his horse, died in the Laurinburg hospital just two weeks after the accident occurred and was buried in the Smyrna cemetery on Thursday p. m. Aunt Becky.

Express Rates to be Reduced. Washington Special, 14th, to Baltimore Sun. In an epoch-making order, announced today, the Inter-State Commerce Commission presented a new schedule of express rates to be extended to all points in the United States. It is estimated that the average reduction in these rates from those at present charged by the express companies is 40 per cent on the packages up to 25 pounds, and 18 per cent on all classes of packages carried.

The rates are not to go into effect at once. The commission desires first to hear from shippers and express companies concerning any criticisms they have to make, and for this purpose a hearing will be given by the commission on October 9 next. The burden of proof, however, is placed upon the express companies, which are required to show cause before that date why the new rates should not go into effect.

Thirteen persons were killed and 15 to 20 were injured in a wreck on the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad at Western Springs, a suburb of Chicago, on the 14th.

The Choice of a Husband is too important a matter for a woman to be handicapped by weakness, bad blood or foul breath. Avoid these troubles by taking Dr. King's Life Pills. New strength, fine complexion, pure breath, cheerful spirits—things that win men—follow their use. Easy, safe, sure, 25c. All druggists.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

For State Senate. To the Democratic Voters of the Thirtieth Senatorial District of North Carolina: I hereby announce myself a candidate for the Democratic nomination of State Senator from this district (Robeson county), subject to the action of the regular Democratic Primary to be held on the 10th day of August, 1912. If nominated and elected, I shall serve to the best of my ability, and without fear or favor, the interests of the whole people of Robeson county. Your support will be appreciated. Very respectfully, T. A. McNeill, Jr. 6-17

For State Senate. In accordance with the wish of many voters of Robeson county, I hereby announce myself a candidate for the State Senate subject to the action of the Democratic primary. H. E. STACY. 6-17

For House of Representatives. In compliance with the wish expressed by my many friends, I hereby announce myself a candidate for House of Representatives. B. F. McMillan. 6-17

For Coroner. To the Democratic Voters of Robeson County: I hereby announce myself a candidate for the office of coroner of Robeson county, subject to the Democratic primary to be held August 10. Your support will be appreciated. Geo. A. Barnes. 5-9-3m*

For County Commissioner. I hereby announce myself a candidate for county commissioner of Robeson county subject to the coming Democratic primary. If nominated and elected I will serve the county to the best of my ability. 5-16-tf Rory McNair.

For County Commissioner. I hereby announce myself a candidate for the office of county commissioner term of four years, of Robeson county, subject to the coming Democratic primary. If nominated and elected I will endeavor to serve the interest of the people to the best of my ability. Respectfully, John W. Ward, Rowland, N. C. 6-17*

For Sheriff. I hereby announce myself a candidate for nomination for the office of Sheriff of Robeson county, subject to the action of the regular Democratic primary for the nomination of county officers. R. E. Lewis, 4-29 Lumberton, N. C.

For County Treasurer. To the voters of Robeson County: I hereby announce myself a candidate for the office of treasurer of Robeson county, subject to the Democratic primary to be held August 10. Your support will be greatly appreciated. Thos. Kinlaw. 5-20-8-10*

For Register of Deeds. Gentlemen and Fellow Citizens: Allow me to announce myself a candidate for re-election to the office of Register of Deeds. I return my heartfelt thanks to you for the very liberal support you have given me in the past, and I hope to have a continuance of the same in the coming campaign, (subject to the action of the Democratic primary.) 4-18. Thomas N. Higley.

For the Legislature. To the Voters of Robeson County: I hereby announce myself a candidate for the Lower House of the next State Legislature, subject to the action of the coming Democratic primary. If nominated and elected I shall endeavor to serve the interests of the people to the best of my ability. 5-2 H. C. McNair.

For County Treasurer. To the Democratic Voters of Robeson County: In announcing myself a candidate to succeed myself for the office of Treasurer of Robeson county, I wish to express my sincere thanks to the voters of Robeson county for their ever liberal and generous support in the past, and as the days, weeks and years fly by, floating me towards "three-score-and-ten" in life's little race, I will appreciate your support more deeply than ever. I am always subject to the will of the Democratic voter expressed either in convention or primary. If elected I will ever strive to perform the duties of the office honestly, courteously and kindly, to the very best of my ability. 4-15-tf M. G. McKenzie.

For Register of Deeds. To the Voters of Robeson County: I take this method of announcing myself a candidate for the office of Register of Deeds for Robeson county, subject to the coming Democratic primary. All support will be greatly appreciated. I shall endeavor to discharge the duties of the office to the best of my ability if elected. 4-15-1 m* J. E. Carlyle.

For County Commissioner. To the Voters of Robeson County: At the solicitation of some of my friends, I take this method of announcing myself for one of the four-year-term candidates for county commissioner, subject to the action of the Democratic primary. Your support will be greatly appreciated. Respectfully, Franklin P. Humphrey. 4-25-2m*

For County Commissioner. To the Voters of Robeson County: At the solicitation of some of my friends, I take this method of announcing myself a candidate for County Commissioner at the coming Democratic primary. All support will be greatly appreciated. 4-18 J. D. Cobb.

For Sheriff. To the Voters of Robeson County: I hereby announce myself a candidate for the office of Sheriff of Robeson county, and respectfully ask you to vote for me for said office at the election to be held on the 5th day of November, 1912. I promise you that if elected I will serve all parties to the best of my ability, as I did when I formerly held the same office. Respectfully, J. W. Hall, Lumber Bridge, N. C. 7-15

For Register of Deeds. I will be a candidate for the nomination of Register of Deeds of Robeson county at the coming Democratic primary. I will greatly appreciate the support of my fellow Democrats and if elected I will serve the people of the county to the best of my ability. 5-27-tf J. T. Barker.

For Sheriff. I take this method of announcing myself a candidate for the office of Sheriff of Robeson county, subject to the coming Democratic primary. If elected I shall endeavor to discharge the duties of the office to the best of my ability. All support will be greatly appreciated. 4-25-tf J. M. Butler.

For the Legislature. In announcing my candidacy as one of the Representatives of Robeson in the next General Assembly, I want to state my position on the questions that are before the county. I am in favor of changing the road law to suit the wishes of the people—they pay the taxes and should say how the money should be spent. I am in favor of reduction of taxes consistent with the progress Robeson county is making. I am opposed to any division of Robeson county and favor adjusting our difficulties inside the county lines and inside the Democratic party. If the above meets with the approval of the Democrats of the county, I will appreciate their support in the primary, assuring them if elected I will serve the people of the whole county to the best of my ability. 5-23-tf G. H. Hall.

For County Commissioner. In accordance with the wishes of many of my friends of Robeson county, I hereby announce myself for one of the four year term candidates for county commissioner subject to the action of the Democratic primary. 7-1 J. B. McCormick.

For County Commissioner. I hereby announce myself a candidate for re-nomination as county commissioner, subject to the action of the Democratic primary. If elected I shall endeavor, as in the past, to serve all the people of the county to the best of my ability. 7-4 A. J. Floyd.

For County Commissioner. I desire to announce my candidacy for county commissioner subject to the action of the Democratic primary. If elected it will be my aim to administer the business of the county in a business way. The public business should have the same attention at the hands of public officers as has their private interests. Four year term. 7-4 M. L. Marley.

For County Commissioner. To the Democratic voters of Robeson county, I hereby announce myself a candidate for the office of county commissioner for the four years' term, subject to the action of the primary to be held on the 10th day of August. If I am elected it will be my pleasure to look after the interest of the county to the best of my ability. J. F. McKay.

For County Commissioner. This is to announce that I will be a candidate before the Democratic primary for re-election to the office of county commissioner. Thanking you for the confidence reposed in me heretofore, I would again ask you for your suffrage promising you to conscientiously discharge the duties of the office to the best of my ability. Obeyingly yours, W. P. Barker. 7-8

For County Commissioner. I hereby announce myself for one of the four-year term candidates for county commissioner, subject to the action of the Democratic primary. All support will be greatly appreciated. 7-8 C. A. Oliver.

For County Commissioner. I hereby announce myself a candidate for county commissioner of Robeson county, subject to the Democratic primary to be held August 10. All support will be greatly appreciated. E. C. Nye.

For County Commissioner. I hereby announce myself a candidate for county commissioner of Robeson county, subject to the action of the coming Democratic primary. Any support given me will be greatly appreciated. 7-11 Spurgeon Jones.

For County Commissioner. I hereby announce myself a candidate for county commissioner of Robeson county subject to the action of the Democratic primary to be held August 10. All support given me will be greatly appreciated. 7-11 J. A. McCormick.

For County Commissioner. I hereby announce that I will be a candidate for one of the two year terms for county commissioner, subject to the action of the Democratic primary, to be held on August 10th. If nominated and elected I pledge myself to use my best efforts to reduce taxes and to bring about a more economical administration of the county affairs. This the 10th day of July, 1912. D. Z. McGougan, Lumber Bridge. 7-11

For Register of Deeds. To the Democratic Voters of Robeson County: I take this method of announcing myself a candidate for the office of Register of Deeds of Robeson county, subject to the action of the coming Democratic primary. If elected I shall endeavor to execute the duties of the office to the best of my ability. Your support will be greatly appreciated. 5-2 W. Austin Smith.

For County Commissioner. I hereby announce myself a candidate for a four year term county commissioner, subject to the Democratic primary. If nominated and elected I promise my best service. C. B. Townsend.

For State Senate. To the Voters of Robeson County: I hereby announce myself as a candidate for the State Senate, subject to the Democratic primary to be held August 10. I shall appreciate the support of every voter, and I assure you that if nominated and elected I will use every honest effort to secure such changes and reforms as may be consistent with the best interest of the County. Geo. B. McLeod. 7-15

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