

LETTER FROM OXFORD.

Oxford, N. C., Aug. 10, 1878. Editors News:—This brings my first attempt at newspaper correspondence. I feel my utter incompetency to please a critical public but I feel a deep sympathy for my female friends who are sometimes forced to travel without an escort as I was not long since, which compels me to write this. I desire to mention some facts in connection with some of our Railroads. I think I will commence in the middle of my journey, and state first, my only grievance. Arriving in Weldon two hours behind the schedule time, we were taken aboard the Raleigh train by the gentlemanly, and exceedingly polite and attentive, Conductor of the Petersburg Road, Capt. E. B. King. Without a moment to spare, in a crowded coach with two young ladies and two small children, and of course many little trunks and baskets, it was just impossible for me to purchase tickets. Much to my surprise, I was repaired by the Conductor, to pay extra fare for the entire party and the distance being short, it amounted to at least half fare extra. The amount, as it is true, was small, but there justice to it. I would most respectfully suggest to all Railroad authorities the propriety of so far amending such rules, as under some circumstances, to leave this matter to the discretion of the Conductor, and I should be not possess that virtue, why, discharge him and employ one who has. To Mr. E. Clarke and to Capt. Scott of the Petersburg Road, and to Capt. King of the Raleigh road, my little party are under many obligations, for unusual attentions and great kindness in our traveling troubles, and I feel it a duty I owe—my sex to recommend them to the care of these gentlemanly officers, with the assurance that they will want for nothing in their power to bestow.

The Editor of this paper is in no way responsible for the views or statements of Correspondents. No communications of an anonymous character will be published. The real name of the writer must accompany all communications. Any one who may feel aggrieved at statements made by correspondents can obtain the name of application to the Editor.

OUR AGENTS.—The following gentlemen will act as agents for the ROANOKE NEWS: Captain A. B. Hill, Scotland Neck. E. D. Dickens, Fancotes. Geo. T. Simmons, Halifax. Major N. E. Jenkins, Littleton. J. C. Hill, Palmyra. Dr. P. M. Garrett, Ringwood. Rev. C. M. Cook, Warrenton. F. Eugene Foster, Northampton Co. J. D. Boone, Jackson, N. C. E. A. Batchelor, Enfield, N. C. John H. P. Leigh, Petersburg, Va.

LOCAL.

SEND your Job Work to J. W. Sledge. In playing archery young women don't mind the heat.

RAY windows are safe harbors at night for little snatches.

THE hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that spans the world.

The woman with her hand tied up is an index of the preserving season.

THE bright black eye, the melting blue; I cannot choose between the two.

A bad marriage is like an electric machine; it makes you dance, but you can't let go.

THE woman who doesn't forget to date her letters should be cherished above rubies.

A LADY TRAVELER.

FROM ASHEVILLE.

ASHVILLE, N. C., Aug. 8, 1878. MESSRS EDITORS:—We still make Asheville our place of headquarters, and from our convenient situation, the other places of interest can be visited most easily, having within a day's journey some of the most picturesque scenes and places of Western North Carolina. Here we are with mountains on every side, and what it is, a position for those who seek health and its attendant, happiness, for we have nothing at all to disturb the peace and quiet of the town among the hills. The voice of the locomotive has not been heard in the land yet, and I must confess, Mr. Editor, that it causes a feeling of loneliness to take possession of me at the absence of such an instance, with whom I have been so intimately associated.

It was my fortune a few days ago to witness a sunrise from a mountain which is very near to us. The name of the mountain is Chimney-Catcher, and how it came by such a designation I am unable to tell, but I think it very expressive, and I have no doubt but that it means a great deal to me part of my recreation. It had been Indian in its origin, I would have searched up all the old legends of that historic race, and told you some beautiful story of adventure and love, but unhappily I am entirely disarmed and all of us can very well see that the meaning is implied in the term. But I am afraid that I am leaving my first subject, which is a sunrise as viewed from Mount Chimney-Catcher. In order to witness this beautiful sight we were obliged to rise very early in the morning, and after a very pleasant ride of a mile and a half, we reached the summit just in time to see the sun as it was coming over some distant peak. Asheville was entirely hidden from our sight by a thick mist and fog, and it seemed as if we were above the clouds, for the appearances above are the same that one finds underneath. I can only describe this sea of fog to you by associating it with the ocean and, indeed, the resemblance was very striking. There were the waves driven below the wind, and as they would reach the mountain-sides, they would dash against the rocks and cliffs and scatter their spray in every direction, and all that was needed to make it a counterpart of the ocean itself were the noise and roar that always attend the movements of its ever-renewed waves. While we are absorbed in the beauty of the scene and the sublimity of this noiseless mountain-sea, the sun will climb up its way to the top of all its windless splendor, and as the sun and hill and mountain have caught the heavenly light, and every point beams with a glory that is almost blinding in the intensity of its brilliancy. Then I wished for the talismans of some great patriot of Nature, that I might transfer upon canvas a scene fraught with so much that is interesting, grand, and sublime. By this time the mist has been scattered and Asheville can be seen lying snug and still, guarded by its surroundings so strong and seemingly impenetrable. But we have to leave at last and we slowly go down the side of the mountain to a drive along the banks of beautiful Swannanoa, we often look back at the thought of the impressions that have been indelibly stamped upon the tablets of our memories. In about a week I will bid adieu to the City among the Hills in order to spend a short time in Henderson county before returning to Weldon, and if I see anything of interest or note, I will acquaint you with it in a short time.

Yours truly, TRAVELER.

LAST JUDGES DRAWN at the Special August Meeting of the Board of Commissioners for the Fall Term Superior Court to wit:

FIRST WEEK.

- 1 Archie Holt. Geo M Somers. 19
2 Alvin Wills. H H Daniel. 20
3 Wiley Wills. Henry Johnson. 21
4 Knock Gaskins. Benton Brantly. 22
5 J T Cole. Ambrose Green. 23
6 Bradford Avenet. Sam Smith. 24
7 R C Rogers. J E Anderson. 25
8 W B Stamer. W Reid. 26
9 J T Gooch. A White. 27
10 R E Morecock. Jordan Lawrence. 28
11 S B Henton. A M Inge. 29
12 J E Roe Jr. B F Cullum. 30
13 Berry Draughn. T H Christie. 31
14 Virgil DeBerry. Robert Thornton. 32
15 J B Boseman. B C Dann. 33
16 Daniel Conigland. Jeff Jones. 34
17 Hanly Jones. David Jones. 35
18 Richard Brinkly. Neptune Anthony. 36

SECOND WEEK.

- 1 Howell Pritchett. Robert Savage. 10
2 R C Whitehead. Oscar Anthony. 11
3 Henry Par. B P Crowell. 12
4 Sandy Fenner. Ned Hockaday. 13
5 Isaac Johnston. Daniel Kimball. 14
6 Edward Wills. Robert Ferrer. 15
7 John Briggis. J T Bowers. 16
8 Hillard Lawrence. W H Smith. 17
9 J L DeBuele. Simeon Long. 18
R. J. LEWIS, Clerk.

THE 9th Weldon Fair begins on the 28th of October and continues five days. The Fairer part of it comes brilliantly to time. It is a home institution. Our fair. If an Eastern man can only patronize one, let it be Weldon. News anon.—Tar. Southerner.

TINKER is a decided letter down in the thanks of the Radical papers with regard to the pending elections. They began with "We shall;" soon dropped to "We expect," and are now humbly piping, "We ought to be able to."

IT is folly to pretend that one ever wholly recovers from a disappointed passion. Such wounds always leave a scar. There are scars I can never look upon without emotion; there are names I can never hear spoken, without almost starting.—D. F.

A girl in Kentucky struck her croquet partner on the head with a mallet, brain fever set in, and the young man nearly died. The girl was kept under arrest until his recovery, and when he got well, she married him, and now he's sorry he didn't die.

NOTES OF THE WEATHER FOR THE PAST TWO WEEKS.—Highest Temperature 100° Lowest 75° Mean 84° Prevailing Wind Southerly. Amount of Rainfall 6.79 inches.

FOR the information of the "Private" who complained of the officers of the military company, for not attending the drills of the same, we will say that Mr. Batchelor was appointed Drill Master at the organization, and but few drills have taken place, without the presence of, at least, one of the officers, and when absent, it has always been a valid excuse.

AT last we have resisted temptation. The excursion from Richmond to Beaufort made up of a lot of the cleverest gentlemen in Richmond and Petersburg passed here Monday and Major Sully took us in the baggage cars waved his hand in the direction of the groceries and said "Come with us." It was like tearing out heart string to refuse, but duty bade us and we resisted.

AT the recent election in Alabama 80,000 votes were polled for the Democratic State ticket. There was no opposition, and the Legislature will be almost entirely Democratic. It will elect a United States Senator to succeed Mr. Spencer. The names mentioned most prominently in connection with the senatorship are those of Hon. George S. Houston, the present Governor, and Hon. L. Pope Walker, for while Confederate Secretary of War.

THE District Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Rev. B. F. Woodard Presiding Elder is progressing at Rehoboth church near Jackson in Northampton county. We learn the attendance is very large. A large number of visitors from a distance are being entertained by the neighbors, whose doors, we learn, are thrown open for their accommodation.

WE call attention to the advertisement of Mr. H. Whitehead announcing the opening of a branch office at Enfield with our old friend Ellis Levy as agent. Also to the card of Mr. W. T. Davis of "Southern Female College," located in Petersburg. Mr. Davis has a reputation second to none in the South as an instructor of young ladies, and has an experience of many years.

MR. J. F. W. DORMAN of Baltimore, manufacturer of rubber stamps and printing presses, offers as a premium to the boy not over fourteen years of age who can show the best printing, executed by himself, a number 3 self-inking press. Said press and samples of printing offered by contestants, to be on exhibition at the next Fair of the Roanoke and Far River Agricultural Society. Come in boys and take your chances.

WE have just received a letter from an officer in the Edgemont Guards, saying that his company had voted to attend our Fair and compete for the handsome flag offered by the Society. From present indications we are to have a magnificent military display, several other companies having already decided to come. As the contest is open to all the States, we expect to have quite an army, and with the thousands of visitors that always attend our Fair, it will be a gala time in Weldon.

AMONG the editorial corps accompanying the Beaufort excursionists we met Maj. R. H. Glass of that excellent paper the Petersburg Post, and Mr. Taylor of the Richmond Star, one of our favorite exchanges. Maj. Glass and ourselves were "boys together" a few years ago, and spent several pleasant summers in the Virginia mountains. We recalled many pleasant little incidents of the past and spent the short time we were together most agreeably.

HAYES shed tears over the "poor African," and then promptly withdrew the army and left him to be "cheered up" by his former master. He determined to reform the civil service, and then promptly provided all the titled thieves with offices. He announced "no removals except for cause," and then laid low and bounced Arthur and Corbell, flinging after both of them a good recommendation but no charges. He set himself up as a pious statesman, and then told more lies to applicants for office than he ever made prayers. He earnestly wrote to John Sherman not to do any crookedness in the count business, and then sustained every rascal who lied or forged, or sick—Ez.

WE have often feared we were living to no purpose and that we would some day lie down and die without leaving behind us a single good work, but yesterday we changed our mind as a gentleman hurried into our office with a formidable looking document in his hand and wanted to know if we would publish it, and fellow-townsmen! What do you think it was. One of our commissioners, actually had the energy to get mad and write a letter in reply to some of our recent strictures on the town government. We may now expect a great work, for "Whom the gods wish to destroy they first make mad," and then we will be beloved of our townsmen and future generations will rise up and bless us.

THIS week has been prolific of Pic Nics. We had invitations to four, which were, no doubt of the most enjoyable character if we are allowed to judge from those having them in charge. We sincerely thank to our considerate friends for invitations to Diamond Green, Hicks-Ford, Ringwood and a place near Littleton, and regret that a pre-arranged absence prevented our attendance, otherwise it would have afforded us much pleasure to have enjoyed the whole lot. We believe fun is like trouble, it never comes singly, and hope it may last one more week, that we may have yet a chance. A great press of matter prevented our mentioning last week a delightful day spent at the plantation of Mr. W. H. Gray in Oconee Neck. It was a stag party, and the absence of the ladies was the only drawback to our enjoyment. Certainly it was a good long time before there was any draw back from the table. The dinner, consisting of fish, barbecue, lamb, Brunswick stew and vegetables was prepared by direction of a connoisseur, Mr. Nat Mason and was pronounced by all to be excellent. The Brunswick stew was the favorite dish particularly with — who was helped four times, and ate with a spoon. We were accused of eating half peck of fish, but we don't believe, it as we were not very well that day. Another fish fry is promised at the same place, when we hope to be able to eat more and say less about it.

THERE was an excursion from Petersburg to Old Point and the Capes on Tuesday the 13th under the management of that prince of excursionists, Mr. T. J. Jarratt. It was our good luck to be among the number and we can truthfully say, we never spent a more pleasant day. The train left Petersburg at 6:30 o'clock, with about 500 people on board, reaching Norfolk about 10:30, when we were transferred to the Steamer Accomack, which took us to Old Point in perhaps one and a half hour, when most of the party remained sight-seeing bathing &c., while the rest went out to the Capes. During the afternoon quite a severe blow was experienced and just about the time of leaving the waves were running very high, causing many cases of seasickness, while the efforts of parties to change their positions on the boat, were amusing and of the most ludicrous character. Our attempt to conduct a party of ladies through the boat was attended with much danger to some of the passengers who were stretched on the floor and our passage was by no means expeditious, for instance we met another small party, and for the space of ten minutes, we engaged in the innocent amusement of bumping each other, greatly to the detriment of the ladies' head fixings and our special pets, several nice little corsets, but as it is our philosophy to laugh rather than cry, we enjoyed the row exceedingly, even now we smile, though embarrassed. Nothing of an unpleasant nature occurred to mar the enjoyment of the day, but the narrow escape from drowning of a gentleman by the name of Hughes, who was carried out by the surf, and I was almost excited before he was discovered, when a boat was manned by three people, and with great risk to themselves he was rescued just as sank for the third time. He was soon restored to consciousness and no doubt, went home grateful to the brave men who saved him from a watery grave. The party reached Petersburg about 10:30 P. M. and all expressed themselves pleased with the day's enjoyment and feeling under obligations to the manager, for his untiring efforts to please every body. For Mr. Jarratt has such a clever way of doing things that each one felt that he was the recipient of his special attention. We are, certainly obliged, for many little attentions shown us, though we did feel a sort of gratification, that he was a married man and will pray that he will never be a widower, at least, while we are on the carpet.

AN HISTORICAL FACT.—Every agent who has been steadily selling the Improved 80 Homestead Sewing Machine for three years, owns his dwelling house, has a good account in bank, is clear of debt, and has money at interest—the natural consequence of securing a good agency for superior goods at the lowest prices. A good first-class Sewing Machine, most useful—reliable at all times, easy to understand and control, the same size and does the same work as any machine that sells at four times the price. There is no machine at any price better, or that will do finer or more work, and certainly none so low in price by many dollars. The HOMESTEAD is widely known and used in thousands of families in the Eastern and Middle States, and daily becoming popular in the West. It will save its cost several times over in one season, doing the work of the family, or will earn four or five dollars a day for any one, or agency for superior goods at the lowest prices. 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