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### THE CROWS.

Who knows
The humor of the crows,
As forth they fly in bands
Marauding o'er the lands?

They lurk, they lie in wait,
They ponder, they debate;
I hear their laugh of scorn
Among the sprouting corn.

Do they despise mankind
As creatures of weak mind
Who plant good corn in rows
To feed the crows?

—Ida Whipple Benham in Youth's Companion.

## WHO WAS HE?

A New Year's morning in the little mountain hamlet of A——. The town church was filled with worshipers. The rector had just ascended the pulpit to deliver his sermon and to remind his parishioners of the importance of the day, when suddenly his sharp eye made the discovery that a stranger was seated among his audience, a man, whom—he was sure of that—he had never seen there before.

Whether from design or accident, the stranger had seated himself on the bench reserved for the town officers and men of rank and was curiously gazed at by his neighbors. Nobody had taken a seat close beside him, as though fearing to molest so distinguished appearing a man, in spite of the fact that the little edifice was crowded.

A strange face among his parishioners was a very rare thing for the good rector, who had baptized and confirmed the majority of them, and, while not in the habit of judging people by their looks, he could not help noticing from his vantage ground on the pulpit that the man was very becomingly and richly attired.

However, the rector did not allow the stranger's presence to interfere with his duties. He delivered his sermon, admonishing his hearers not to be forgetful of the teachings of Christ, the lesson of his coming and sufferings, and the joys and miseries which are our portion in each succeeding year.

By the time he had reached his house the rector had almost forgotten the existence of the stranger. But the man had also been noticed by his wife, who did not fail to mention the circumstance to him. They exchanged a few casual remarks about the probable cause that had brought the stranger to their out of the way little mountain town on New Year's day of all days. Surely it was not the architectural value of their little church, for it posessed none; therefore the rector's wife formed the pleasing conclusion that he had somehow heard of the oratorical talent of her husband and had come to hear him preach the New Year's sermon. He may have been, so she argued (the wish is ever the father of the thought), sent by the synod to satisy himself from personal observation of the rector's abilities, and so forth, all of which her husband modestly refuted.

Pretty soon New Year's callers began to put in their appearance, and once more the rector discarded all thoughts of the fascinating stranger. Later the sexton arrived, having some commissions to execute and business matters to talk over.

This done, he remained at the door, twisting his hat in his fingers, making sundry unsuccessful attempts to say something. He cleared his throat and finally summoned up sufficient courage to ask, "Pastor, have you noticed that we had an 'incognito' living and in the flesh in our church today?"

"Certainly, I have," responded the rector. "I dare say you mean a stranger, clad in a silver gray great coat?"

"Yes, yes—something truly noble!"

"What, the coat or the stranger?"

"Both."

"Do you mean to insinuate that the stranger is traveling under an assumed name?"

"That is just it! An assumed name that nobody knows."

"You mean a name that you do not know?"

"Well, I dare say. But our count is apt to know it."

"Our count? What do you mean? Why our count?"

"Our count and this stranger are very timid acquaintances."

"'Timid?' you fool; 'intimate,' not 'timid.' But I hardly think so. He was not in the count's pew."

"What of it, rector? There is a secret connected with his appearance here, I tell you. They did not come to church together, it is true. First came Mr. Incognito, and three minutes later the count. When he beheld the stranger, he looked somewhat surprised and taken aback, as though he meant to say, 'Keep it dark!' He then smiled very pleasantly and passed by to his pew. Mr. Incognito smiled also, no doubt meaning, 'All right, count; we understand each other.' After the service the count smiled again when passing the stranger, who, in return, made a polite obeisance, looking knowingly at the pulpit and vestry, as if to say, 'Our judgment agrees, count.' * * * Well, you are aware that the count thinks a great deal of your reverence!"

"Not so fast, you sly fox. Tell me first how you have discovered that our count knows more of this mysterious stranger. A mutual exchange of greetings alone may be purely accidental, you know."

"It was no difficult matter to ferret that out, rector. The mysterious stranger remained behind after the congregation had dispersed and asked me to show him the few things worth seeing. He had nothing to say and merely glanced at everything in a superficial manner, with the exception of the covers of our pulpit and baptismal font, which he inspected very closely. Finally I summoned up courage to tell him that, while there was not much to be seen in the church, the count's castle contained many gems of art, whereupon he answered that he had had a consequence with the count an hour ago."

"'Conference,' you idiot; not 'consequence.'"

"Well, then, conference. He gave me a bountiful douceur and asked the way to the station."

"All right, I understand now."

The sexton left. Hardly had he disappeared when the station master was announced. The rector was surprised that the busy officer should have found time to pay him a New Year's call, but he received him affably.

After an exchange of the usual commonplaces the railroad man remarked in an offhand manner, "Are you aware, rector, that a princely personage has honored our humble place with a short visit this morning, returning to the capital after a hasty consultation with the count and a visit to the church?"

This information almost startled the good rector out of his wits. He could not forbear asking for more details.

"The prince," answered the station master, "arrived on the morning train and proceeded on foot to the castle. There he and the count had been in consultation. Later he had been to church, returning to the city on the 11:30 o'clock train. I heard these details from one of the count's servants, who took the same train for a visit to his sister. This servant, be it understood, has the aristocratic habit of traveling second class for short distances, which, I must confess, was an impertinence, considering the august presence of the prince. But what could I do? Pacing up and down near the ticket office, the prince could not help hearing what was going on. He stepped up to the window and asked me to exchange his second class ticket for one of the first class, offering the money for the difference. This I was not in a condition to do, as the train in question does not carry first class compartments. The prince was greatly annoyed, and, though I am innocent, I know he will make me suffer for his inconvenience. All I could do was to order the conductor to place his highness in a reserved compartment by himself."

The rector allayed the apprehensions of the frightened station master.

At the dinner table he communicated the observations of the latter and of the sexton to his astonished wife. The more both compared notes the more grew the importance of the mysterious stranger, and his wife insisted that the prince had come to convey momentous news to the count from the court, where the latter was greatly liked. Even the usually calm and collected rector finally agreed that this unexpected journey on a New Year's morning must have been of consequence. He brought to mind again the contents of his sermon, but his conscience was clear and he could detect no sentence nor word that might be construed against the court or the reigning house. One thing only troubled him. Had the prince in the silver gray greatcoat been a messenger of peace or war for their little borough?

When his official duties of the day had been discharged, the rector, accompanied by his wife, paid the usual New Year's call at the castle to offer the compliments of the season.

Though they tried hard to appear unconcerned the count and his countess were preoccupied. In spite of all efforts dictated by their innate delicacy of feeling both would now and then show an unusual absentmindedness, nor were they always able to hide their suppressed excitement. The count would look through the window toward the road leading to the station, as though anxiously expecting something, and the countess would now and then stop in the middle of a sentence or lose the thread of her conversation and then try hard to collect herself. Hosts and callers felt the awkward situation. It was as though the spirit of the mysterious stranger was present with them, clad in his ominous silver gray greatcoat, putting to flight their usual conviviality.

At length the rector's wife could stand this unnatural state of affairs no longer. As unconcernedly as possible she asked, "Is it true, countess, that you have had a visitor from the capital early this morning?"

The countess exchanged a questioning look with her husband before she replied, "No, not I, at least the visit was paid to the count, but then—I don't'—"

"The prince left you before luncheon?" added the rector.

"The prince? What prince?" This from the count.

"Why, your caller, to be sure!"

The count smiled his stereotyped smile. "A prince, my dear rector, yes, if you please, a prince, and one who serves an all powerful, autocratic mistress!"

"Perhaps an English nobleman," thought the rector's wife.

"In fact," resumed the count. "His serene highness has done you more honor than myself, rector, for he spent an entire hour listening to your sermon, while to me he gave but 15 minutes."

"Then I suppose I owe it to you, count, that the prince visited our little church during his short stay?"

"If you like, yes, rector. He ascertained accidentally from one of my servants that I would go to church, and, I dare say, he also meant to set a good example. But, what is of more importance, your prince brought me good news, and I would gladly satisfy your curiosity."

"Not at all, not at all, gracious sir. Do not misinterpret my query."

"It is not that, rector. We would not keep you waiting were we not ourselves still on the anxious seat, as it were."

Just then a servant appeared, presenting a telegram to his master, who opened and read it, handing it to the countess.

"At last," she exclaimed after glancing at its contents. "But it is strange that this gentleman—this prince, I beg his pardon—should have heard of it before your father knew anything about it."

The rector and his wife were preparing to leave. They had no indelicate desire to impose their presence upon the noble couple, perceiving there was a secret. Undoubtedly the stranger, having in the meantime reached the capital, had sent that message.

"No, indeed," remonstrated the count. "You stay right here. There is no more necessity for secrecy, if ever there was any. My father's telegram merely confirms the glad tidings which I had received early this morning unofficially. I have been made a court chamberlain."

"Permit us to offer our heartiest congratulations," quickly exclaimed the rector. "The new year begins auspiciously for you, count."

"I am highly honored," responded the latter, "and greatly pleased."

"No doubt your new dignity has worries and troubles of its own that will keep you from home a good deal."

"I dare say, and the first among them the important question where to get the required uniform for my immediate appearance at court, where I have been ordered for an audience."

"I understand perfectly that such official dignities are not without their inconvenient formalities that one has to put up with. But the prince"—

"Has called on me just on account of this very chamberlain's uniform. He must have left home in the middle of the night to be in time."

"Did he really come for the sole purpose of instructing you in the new ceremonies to be observed by you? How very considerate of him!"

"He came solely on account of my new uniform, I tell you. His aim was not to be outdone by anybody else. Yes, very kind of him."

"Was he a messenger from court?"

"No, not exactly that, my dear rector. He came on his own responsibility."

"But, count, if I may make so bold as to ask, who in the name of all that is mysterious was this prince of yours?"

"I will not keep you in suspense," replied the host. "The mysterious stranger has left his card behind. Here it is."

The pastor took the elegant piece of pasteboard and read aloud, "Fridolin, tailor to the court of * * *."—From the German.

### The Yukon Miners.

The United States does not recognize, protect or control these mining communities in any way. No geological explorations or surveys have been undertaken, and there are no official reports upon the location, formation, development or yield of this rich placer region. There are no military posts and not a territorial or federal officer in Yukon, Alaska, save one customs inspector and postmaster. There is no law, save as the miners maintain their own unwritten code. Church missionary societies have provided for the few peaceable Indian tribes, but even spiritual comfort is withheld from the miners. "Heaven is high, and the czar is far off," despairing Russian colonists used to say long ago. Since the military occupation of Alaska ceased in 1877 frequent appeals have been made for the establishment of a garrison at Chilkat and the construction of a military road over the pass traversed by Yukon miners for the last 16 years. General Miles once considered the matter to the extent of detailing an officer to make a reconnoissance.—Eliza R. Scidmore in Century.

### A College Reminiscence.

Perhaps the greatest social success which was achieved by any of us was that of one who was invited to tea early in our course at the house of a member of the faculty. When the tea was being served the hostess said to Mr. Blank, who sat next her, "Shall I pour you a cup of tea, Mr. Blank?" "No, I thank you." After serving the rest of the company hospitality prompted the lady to make a second proffer. "Won't you allow me to pour you a cup of tea, Mr. Blank?" "You may pour it if it will do you any good, but I won't drink it."—Dartmouth.

### The Old Ways.

"McBorril can't get over his old haberdashery manner now that he is a house builder."

"What has he done now?"

"Sold a man a house the other day, and asked him if he wanted it sent."—London Tit-Bits.

There are chords in the human heart—strange varying strings—which are only struck by accident which will remain mute and senseless to appeals the most pasionate and earnest and respond at last to the slightest casual touch.—Dickens.

A native switch tender in Bengal gets about 15 cents a day.


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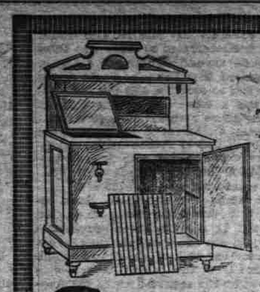

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|---|---|---|---|---|
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| | 3 00 | Lv...Mulberry street...Ar | 12 40 | |
| 7 00 | 3 10 | Lv....Surry street....Ar | 12 30 | 3 05 |
| 9 50 | | Ar...Jacksonville.....Lv | | 12 05 |
| 11 00 | 3 55 | Lv " Ar | 10 45 | 10 35 |
| 11 55 | 4 50 | Lv...Maysville.....Lv | 10 00 | 9 35 |
| 12 50 | 5 44 | Lv...Pollocksville.....Lv | 9 05 | 8 40 |
| 1 30 | 6 2 | Ar...Newbern.....Lv | 8 30 | 8 05 |
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DAILY 7.15 P M — No. 40—Passenger—Due Magnolia 8.55 p m, Warsaw 9.10 p m, Goldsboro 10.10 p m, Wilson 11.16 p m, †Tarboro 6.45 a m, Rocky Mount 11.55 p m, Weldon 1.44 a m, ‡Norfolk 10.30 a m, Petersburg 3.32 a m, Richmond 4.30 a m, Washington 7.41 a m, Baltimore 9.05 a m, Philadelphia 11.45 a m, New York 1.00 p m, Boston 8.30 p m.

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DAILY 3.25 P M — No. 55—Passenger—Due Lake Waccamaw 4.22 p m, Chadbourn 5.14 p m, Marion 6.05 p m, Florence 6.45 p m, Sumter 8.27 p m, Columbia 9.50 p m, Denmark 5.20 a m, Augusta 8.00 a m, Macon 11.00 a m, Atlanta 12.15 p m, Charleston 10.20 p m, Savannah 12.50 a m, Jacksonville 7.00 a m, St. Augustine 10.50 a m, Tampa 4.55 p m.

ARRIVALS AT WILMINGTON—FROM THE NORTH.

DAILY 5.45 P M — No. 49—Passenger—Leave *Boston 1.00 p m, New York 9.00 p m, Philadelphia 12.05 a m, Baltimore 3.50 a m, Washington 4.50 a m, Richmond 9.05 a m, Petersburg 10.00 a m, Norfolk 8.40 a m, Weldon 11.50 a m, Tarboro 12.12 p m, Rocky Mount 12.45 p m, Wilson 2.12 p m, Goldsboro 3.10 p m, Warsaw 4.08 p m, Magnolia 4.16 p m.

DAILY 9.30 a m — No. 41—Passenger—Leave Boston 12.00 a m, New York 9.30 a m, Philadelphia 12.09 p m, Baltimore 2.25 p m, Washington 3.46 p m, Richmond 7.30 p m, Petersburg 8.12 p m, †Norfolk 2.35 p m, Weldon 9.44 p m, †Tarboro 6.05 p m, Rock Mount 5.40 a m, leave Wilson 6.15 a m, Goldsboro 7.00 a m, Warsaw 7.51 a m, Magnolia 8.03 a m.

FROM THE SOUTH.

DAILY 12.15 p m — No. 54—Passenger—Leave Tampa 7.40 a m, Sanford 1.45 p m, Jacksonville 7.10 p m Savannah 12.10 night, Charleston 5.30 a m, Columbia 5.50 a m, Atlanta 7.15 a m, Macon 9.00 a m, Augusta 2.25 p m, Denmark 4.37 p m, Sumter 7.12 a m, Florence 8.55 a m, Marion 9.34 a m, Chadbourn 10.35 a m, Lake Waccamaw 11.46 a m.

†Daily except Sunday.

Trains on Scotland Neck Branch Road leave Weldon 4.10 p m, Halifax 4.25 p m, arrive Scotland Neck 5.30 p m, Greenville 6.55 p m, Kinston 7.55 p m. Returning, leaves Kinston 7.20 a m, Greenville 8.22 a m. Arriving Halifax at 11.00a m, Weldon 11.30 a m, daily except Sunday.

Trains on Washington Branch leave Washington 8.00 a m and 2.00 p m, arrive Parmele 8.50 a m and 3.40 p m; returning leaves Parmele 9.50 a m and 6.30 p m, arrives Washington 11.25 a m and 7.20 p m. Daily except Sunday.

Train leaves Tarboro, N. C., daily at 5.35 p m, arrives Plymouth 7.40 p m. Returning, leaves Plymouth daily at 7.30 a m. Arrive Tarboro 9.10 a m.

Train on Midland N C Branch leaves Goldsboro, N. C., daily except Sunday, 7.10 a m; arrive Smithfield N. C., 8.8 a m. Returning leaves Smithfield 9.00 a m, arrive Goldsboro, N. C., 10.35 a m.

Train on Nashville Branch leaves Rocky Mount at 4.50 p m, arrives Nashville 5.05 p m, Spring Hope 5.26 p m. Returning leaves Spring Hope 8 a m, Nashville 8.35 a m; arrive Rocky Mount 9.05 a m, daily except Sunday.

Train on Clinton Branch leave Warsaw for Clinton Daily except Sunday at 11.10 a m and 9.15 p m; returning leave Clinton at 7.00 a m and 3.00 p m.

Florence Railroad leave Pee Dee 9.10 a m, arrive Latta 9.30 a m, Dillon 9.45 a m, Rowland 10.07 a m, returning leaves Rowland 5.38 p m, arrives Dillon 5.56 p m, Latta 6.09 p m, Pee Dee 6.30 p m, daily.

Trains on Conway Branch leave Hub at 8.30 a m, Chadbourn 10.40 a m, arrive Conway 1.00 p m, leave Conway 2.25 p m, Chadbourn 5.10 p m, arrive Hub 6.05 p m. Daily except Sunday.

Trains on Cheraw and Darlington Railroad leave Florence 8.55 a m, 9.40 a m and 3.00 p m, arrive Darlington 9.26 a m, 10.20 a m and 3.20 p m, leave Darlington 9.31 a m and 10.40 a m, arrive Cheraw 10.40 a m and 12.30 p m, leave Cheraw 12.45 p m, arrive Wadesboro 2.25 p m. Return leave Wadesboro 3 p m, arrive Cheraw 4.45 p m, leave Cheraw 4.45 p m and 5.15 p m, arrive Darlington 5.15 p m and 6.21 p m. Leave Darlington 7.15 p m, 6.27 and 7.45 a m, arrive Florence 8.40 p m, 6.55 p m and 8.15 a m. daily except Sunday. Sunday trains leave Florence 7.30 a m, Darlington 7.45 a m, arrive Florence 9.10 a m. Returning leave Florence 9 a m, Darlington 9.30 a m, arrive Florence 10.40 a m. Trains leave Gibson 6.15 a m, Bennettsville 6.41 a m, arrive Darlington 7.40 a m Sumter 9.25 a m. Returning, leave Sumter 5.45 p m Darlington 6.55 p m, arrive Bennettsville 9.20 p m, Gibson 9.55 p m.

Central of South Carolina Railroad leave Sumter 6.37 p m, Manning 6.53 p m, arrive Lane's 7.37 p m, leave Lanes 8.08 a m, Manning 9.05 a m, arrive Sumter 9.35 a m. Daily.

Georgetown and Western Railroad leave Lanes 9.30 a m, 7.10 p m, arrive Georgetown 12 m, 8.30 p m, leave Georgetown 7 a m, 3 p m, arrive Lanes 8.35 a m, 5.35 p m. Daily except Sunday.

Wilson and Fayetteville Branch leave Wilson 2.05 p m, 11.15 p m, arrive Selma 2.50 p m, Smithfield 3.55 p m, Dunn 3.35 p m, Fayetteville 4.15 p m. 1.07 a m, Rowland 5.35 p m, returning leave Rowland 10.00 a m, Fayetteville 11.25 a m, 10.20 p m, Dunn 12.07 a m, Smithfield 12.48 p m, Selma 1.00 p m, arrive Wilson 1.42 p m, 12.10 p m.

Manchester & Augusta Railroad train leaves Sumter 4.10 a m, Creston 5.2 a m, arrive Denmark 6.20 a m. Returning leave Denmark 4.37 p m, Creston 5.32 p m, Sumter 6.30 p m. Daily.

Pregnalls Branch train leaves Creston 5.45 a m, arrive Pregnalls 9.15 a m. Returning leaves Pregnalls 10 p m, arrives Creston 3.30 p m. Daily except Sunday.

Hightowville Branch train leave Elliott 11.10 a m and 7.35 p m, arrive Lucknow 1 p m and 8.35 p m. Returning leave Lucknow 6.05 a m and 2.00 p m, arrive Elliott 8.25 a m and 3.20 p m.

†Daily except Sunday. *Sunday only.

H. M. EMERSON, Gen'l Passenger Agent.
J. R. KENLY, Gen'l Manager.
T. M. EMERSON, Traffic Manager. dec 15 tf

## Atlantic & North Carolina Railroad

[Time Table.

In Effect Wednesday, May 27th, 1896

| GOING EAST. 3 Passenger Daily Ex Sunday. Arrive | Leave | STATIONS. | GOING WEST. 4 Passenger Daily Ex Sunday. Arrive | Leave |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| P. M. | P. M. | | A. M. | A. M. |
| ..... | 3 30 | Goldsboro | 11 25 | ..... |
| ..... | 4 12 | Kinston | 10 30 | ..... |
| 5 18 | 5 23 | Newbern | 9 17 | 9 30 |
| 6 27 | 6 42 | Morehead City | 8 01 | 8 57 |
| P. M. | P. M. | | A. M. | A. M. |

Train 4 connects with W. & W train bound North, leaving Goldsboro at 11 25 a m, and with Southern Railway train West, leaving Goldsboro 2.00 p m., and with W. N. & N. at Newbern for Wilmington and intermediate points.

Train 3 connects with Southern Railway train, arriving at Goldsboro 8.00 p m., and with W. & W. train from the North at 3.05 p m. No. 1 train also connects with W. N. & N. for Wilmington and intermediate points.

S. L. DILL, Sup't.
ma 27 tf


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## Cape Fear & Yadkin Valley Railway Co.

JOHN GILL, Receiver.

CONDENSED SCHEDULE.

IN EFFECT NOVEMBER 15, 1896.

| SOUTH BOUND DAILY No. 1. | MAIN LINE. | NORTH BOUND DAILY No. 2. |
|---|---|---|
| 7 45 p. m. | Ar...Wilmington...Lv | 7 10 a. |
| 6 35 " | Lv... Fayetteville...Ar | 11 00 a m |
| 4 18 " | Ar .. Fayetteville ... Lv | 11 21 " |
| 4 12 " | Ar