

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY BY THE LENOIR PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION. Subscription—In Advance, per year, \$1.00 Single copies, five cents.

Advertising Rates: per line, per month, 7.00 per line, per quarter, 19.00 per line, per year, 50.00 per column, per month, 30.00 per column, per quarter, 80.00 per column, per year, 100.00

The Topic

VOL. VII.

LENOIR, N. C., WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 1882.

NO. 43.

WALLACE BROS.

STATESVILLE, N. C.

Invite the attention of the trade to their

SPRING STOCK,

which is now complete. Carrying as they do the

LARGEST GENERAL MERCHANDISE STOCK IN THE STATE

Merchants visiting them will certainly have

SUPERIOR ADVANTAGES

in making selections. Our terms and prices are in competition with any jobbing house in the country.

Parties finding it inconvenient to call will please favor us with their orders through our traveling salesmen. Soliciting an early examination, we are, very truly, WALLACE BROS.

NEW STORE! BETWEEN THE CENTRAL HOTEL AND THE JONES HOUSE. NEW GOODS!

R. G. COURTNEY

Having just received from the NORTH the full line of NEW GOODS consisting of a beautiful line of spring and summer prints, Cassimers, Flannels, Shaws, Alpacas, Bleached and Unbleached Domestic, Apocas, Boots and Shoes, Men's and Boys' Wool and Fur Hats, Ladies' Hats and Hosiery. Groceries of all kinds, Especially the Best COFFEE, SUGAR, TEA, RICE, CRACKERS, OYSTERS, Mackerel, Molasses and Candy. Also Drugs.

Hardware, Tinware and Groceries

all of which will be sold at HARD TIME prices for cash or barter. Thanking our Friends and Patrons for their liberal support in the past, we hope to merit a continuance of their patronage in the future by Fair Dealing and Low Prices. EXAMINE OUR STOCK AND PRICES.

J. T. Webb. C. B. Webb.

STATESVILLE MARBLE WORKS.

J. T. WEBB & SON. With many years experience in the MARBLE business, we are enabled to furnish all kinds of MONUMENTS, HEADSTONES, TOMBS & MARBLE FURNITURE of all description furnished at short notice and at low prices. SATISFACTION GUARANTEED. Work securely boxed, and delivered free of charge, at any distance. Send for price list and designs. Statesville, N. C. July 10, 1882.

WHOLESALE LIST

TURKEY SEEDS! MERCHANTS! SEND US YOUR BUSINESS CARD FOR TRADE LIST.

A NORTH CAROLINA LAKE. [It is a fact to be deplored, and still it is a fact that North Carolinians, as a rule, are more familiar with the natural features of New England than those of their own State, know more of the White Mountains than of the Blue Ridge, and know more of the lakes of northern New York than of the beautiful inland seas that lie embedded in the ever green forests of eastern Carolina. The Charleston, (S. C.) News and Courier gives the following description of the Waccamaw lake, which our readers will find of interest:]

This is one of the most beautiful of all the Southern lakes. It is situated in Columbus county, North Carolina, near the line of the Wilmington, Columbia & Augusta Railroad, fifty miles from Marion and about forty miles from Wilmington, and although it was described one hundred and fifty years ago by a young Englishman who was making a tour of America as "the pleasantest place I ever saw in my life," it is comparatively unknown to the pleasure seeker of to-day. The lake is oval in shape, and covers about twenty-seven thousand acres of ground, and is five and a half miles broad and eight miles long. It is almost entirely surrounded by a magnificent growth of forest trees which bathe their hoary feet in the beautiful flood, and with their charming colors of leaf and branch, festooned by fragrant honeysuckle vines and gay colored flowers, draped with bright trailing moss, present a panorama of exquisite beauty and loveliness. The lake is supplied by a number of creeks which empty into it and springs which send up their never-failing currents from the bottom of the basin.

The water near the shore is shallow, but elsewhere reaches an average depth of thirty feet, the greatest depth being about thirty-five feet. By the course of the Waccamaw river, which is said to form the eastern boundary of the republic of Horry, the lake is one hundred and eight miles from the Atlantic ocean. In an air-line the distance to the sea is not more than twenty miles. The water is perfectly fresh and is strongly impregnated with the juniper berry. This whole section of country is on an almost dead level of slight elevation above the sea, and no reasonable account of the origin of this inland sea has ever been given. One theory is that in the remote past there was an immense deposit of vegetable mould which was burned out and formed a basin for the lake. This is not a reasonable theory, and the origin of the lake can only be attributed to those tremendous convulsions of Nature which elevated the mountain ridges and hollowed out the seas. These can be but little doubt, however, that this entire section of country was at one time covered by the waters of the great deep. Oyster shells and sea shells of almost every variety have been found in excavations which have been made for wells, and only a few days ago in digging a well near the lake an immense block of marl filled with sea shells was brought up thirty feet from the surface of the earth. Immense beds of marl have been found all through this section, and those who have given the matter a great deal of attention are satisfied that there are rich phosphate deposits underlying the lake, which could be worked to very great advantage. Several analyses of marl have been made showing that it contains a large percentage of the most valuable fertilizing properties, and experiments have fully established its value as a cheap manure for all the crops that are cultivated. The marl is found in regular strata, and is ready for use as soon as it has been mined. Surrounding the lake are immense swamps, filled with forest growths of cypress, oak and hickory. On the north-east side lies the Great Green Swamp, which covers an area of two hundred square miles. This swamp is an evergreen jungle, containing, however, many patches of lighthouse, which are called islands, and are bordered with hickory, oak, juniper, long leaf pines, birch, and other forest trees. These swamps have been penetrated in many directions by train

railways, and a very large lumbering business has been developed in cypress, oak and hickory, and sawed lumber of oak and hickory. Col. H. B. Short owns about 60,000 acres of at the lake and does an immense business. He employs 200 Lands and ships his lumber to New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and largely to West Indies and South America. About one half of his products are sold in foreign markets by direct shipment from Wilmington.

The "Islands" which are located in the swamps are very fertile and yield large crops whenever they are under cultivation. The earliest vegetables in this section are raised on these islands, only a few of which, however have any population. It would pay well to develop the business of truck farming for the Wilmington and Northern markets. The lake is well stocked with fish, and some almost fabulous stories are told of the wonderful catches that have been made in its waters. All varieties of perch are to be found, and the white perch is peculiar to this lake. In addition there are trout in abundance, black-fish, pickerel and catfish, and Col. Short is now experimenting with German carp and the land-locked salmon. To give some idea of the great number of fish in the lake it is stated upon good authority that a party consisting of three went out last week and in about one hour's time caught 263 white perch with the hook, "and it wasn't a good day for fishing either.."

The swamps around the Lake are filled with game of all kinds—squirrels, raccoons, deer, black bear, beaver, otter, &c. Two hundred deer have been killed here within sixty days, and an old man named Hudson, who lives on "Crusoe's Island," has for years done a very profitable business in trapping. There are also a great many wild cattle in the swamps and many of the people who live around here winter their cattle in these swamps, which furnish an inexhaustible supply of green food the year around.

There are many romances connected with the lake. It is said that Osceola, the great Indian chief, whose modest tomb may now be found beneath the frowning walls of Fort Moultrie, on Sullivan's Island, was born on the banks of Waccamaw Lake, and that his father was a white man named Powell. Other stories are told of many terrific encounters between the old Indian tribes upon the shores of this lake and several mounds may be seen where the dead were buried. During the war a great many deserters found a safe hiding place in the swamps around here, but the wilderness is as dense almost as it was a hundred years ago, and the solitude as grand.

FRUIT EVAPORATION.

Among the many recent improvements in the line of preserving food, there is none which promises to add more to the revenue of the farmer and gardener than the evaporation of fruit.

Of the benefits of this new process, J. O. Bennett says in an interesting paper in the Rural New Yorker: "In a properly evaporated fruit there is no loss of pleasant or valuable properties, but an actual increase of fruit sugar, from the fact that evaporation is essentially a ripening process. The development of sugar ranging from 10 to 25 per cent, in different fruits, as determined by chemical analysis. Instead of a retrograde transition, awaiting our really unsurpassed fruits, berries and vegetables at their full stage of ripening, we have in the use of the evaporator a culmination of the same organic forces, and in a few hours the juices which heretofore formed and perfected the fruit (but which after this hasten decay), are quickly matured, and the maximum development of sugar secured and the water evaporated, the change being analogous to the transition of the grape to the sweeter raisin or the acid green apple to ripeness, with corresponding delicacy. The cell structure remains unbroken and the articles when placed in the rejuvenating bath of

fresh water return to their original form, color and consistency. Thus a few ounces of pumpkin flour make sauce or custard at all seasons, and rarely can any one distinguish pie or a pudding of evaporated apples from that made from fresh fruit by sight or taste. The summer squash becomes an all-the-year vegetable for every climate and market on the globe. A large load of pumpkins may be driven in from the field in the morning, and the next morning shipped to the antipodes, in a barrel. The sweet potato, which perishes so rapidly as to be unknown to most of the market of the world, is reduced to an imperishable condition by pneumatic evaporation, and will soon become a familiar luxury on the tables and markets of the world and at all seasons of the year alike. Its slices, placed in cold water and brought to a boil for thirty minutes, are ready for the table or frying pan, and are in no respect inferior to the original vegetable. The northern potato, like the turnip, improves by evaporation, and for spring use, for ship stores and for exportation, leaves its original out of sight, occupies little room, and is proof against decay. Sweet corn is rejuvenated. If taken strictly in the milk and treated before wilting, it will be as tender and sweet at the world's end as at the start. Green currants and goose berries retain their favorite characteristics of flavor sealed up in them for travel and time. Forty pine apples have been compressed into a small cake which an infant might hold in its hand, and afterwards resurrected as 40 pine apples. The evaporated tomato is a remarkable product. No successful attempt has ever before been made to remove the condition of fermentation (water) from this fruit. The pneumatic evaporator reduces the whole pulp of the tomato to a condition like that of the dried fig. A bushel of the fruit after evaporation is compressed into a solid cube like plug tobacco, measuring four or five inches each way. Every pound of it makes eight quarts of tomatoes in the original state. Tomatoes may be raised to advantage, like so many other things, whenever there is an evaporator at hand. The manufacture of evaporated fruit by the individual farmer and orchardist has popularized the industry the future of which would be difficult even to anticipate. With an apparatus of universal adaptation and suited to the wants of the large or small orchardist and fairly managed, the business is made both remunerative and pleasant. Few farm implements can be so continuously employed, beginning with the early summer berries, vegetables and fruits, extending its usefulness through the winter upon the fall crops, the daily waiving products of the farm suggesting its use and inculcating the maxim, "It is not what we make but what we save that accumulates wealth."

THE GUILTY WITNESS.

"Do you know the prisoner well?" asked the attorney. "Never knew him, sick," replied the witness. "No levity," said the lawyer sternly. "Now, sir, did you ever see the prisoner at the bar?" "Took many a drink with him at the bar." "Answer my question, sir," yelled the lawyer. "How long have you known the prisoner?" "From two feet up to five feet ten inches." "Will the court make the—" "I have, judge," said the witness, anticipating the lawyer. "I have answered the question. I knew the prisoner when he was a boy two feet long and a man five feet ten." "Your honor—" "It's a fact, judge; I'm under my oath." The lawyer arose, placed both of his hands on the table in front of him, spread his legs apart, then he leaned his body over the table, and said: "Will you tell the court what you know about this case?" "That's not his name," replied the witness.

LENOIR TOPIC... A careful selection of advertisements... For a full description of the paper, and a list of subscribers, apply to the publishers...

"What ain't his name?" "Case." "Who said it was?" "You did. You wanted to know what I knew about the case—his name's Smith." "Your honor," yelled the attorney, plucking his beard out by the roots "will you make this man answer my questions?" "Witness," said the judge. "You must answer the questions put to you." "Land of Goshen, judge! haven't I been doing so? Let him fire away—Am ready!" "Then," said the lawyer, "don't be beating about the bush any more. You and the prisoner have been friends?" "Never!" promptly responded the witness. "What! wasn't you summoned as a friend?" "No, sir; I was summoned as a Presbyterian. Neither of us was ever Friends. He's a Baptist, without one drop of Quaker in him." "Stand down!" yelled the lawyer in disgust. "Hay?" "Can't do it. I'll sit down or stand up." "Clerk, remove that man from the box?" "Witness retires, muttering, "Well, if he isn't the thickest headedest our I ever laid eyes on."

TOLD IN HIS OWN WAY.

"A colored man named Bob Tompkins was on trial last week before an Austin justice for assault. Old Uncle Mose was one of the leading witnesses for the State. The main point was whether or not Tompkins had given any provocation for bringing on the row. "Now tell this jury all that you know about this affair," said the justice. "Kin I tell de jury all I knows in my own way?" asked old Mose. "Tell the jury what you know in your own way." Old Mose turned solemnly to the expectant jurymen. "Gemmens ob de jury, you am de meanest lookin' crowd I eber seed out—" "Stop!" balled the attorney for the State. "Your honor will incarcerate the witness for contempt of court!" said the attorney for the prisoner. The foreman of the jury got up and asked the court to protect the jury from insult. "Witness, if you insult the jury again I shall resort to extreme measures." "I'm not gwine to consult nobody ef you don't interfere wid me, said old Mose sullenly. "Proceed." "Gemmens ob de jury, you am de meanest lookin' crowd eber I seed outside ob a jail—" The prosecuting attorney jumped up and down. The foreman of the jury howled "Your Honor." The constable laid his heavy hand on the coat collar of old Uncle Mose, when the latter calmly repeated to the jury: "Y'u am de meanest lookin' crowd eber I seed outside ob a jail. Dem was de berry words de prisoner ober dar said when he fust come inter de bar room, and which led to de row." The foreman sat down quick. The attorneys doubled up like jack knives with suppressed laughter. His honor smiled. The spectators roared, while old Mose, with a surprised look of childish innocence, once more said emphatically to the crowd of jurymen: "Y'u am de meanest lookin' crowd eber I seed outside of a jail." Frankfort on the Main, containing a population of about 100,000, is said to be the richest city of its size in the world. If its wealth was equally divided among its inhabitants every man, woman and child would have, it is said, 20,000 or some \$4,000 a piece. Mummies are the only well behaved persons who are now left in Egypt. A toothache is always a pain investment.