

Advertising Rates:

Table with advertising rates: One inch, first insertion \$1.00; six months 7.00; twelve months 12.00; Half column, six months 35.00; twelve months 60.00; One column, six months 65.00; twelve months 100.00

The Topic.

ADVERTISERS.

A schedule of advertising rates will be furnished on application. Transient advertisements payable in advance; year advertisements payable quarterly in advance. Professional cards, five lines or less, ten dollars per annum—payable half yearly in advance. Remittances may be made by check, draft, post office money order, or registered letter. If advertisements are not paid for before the time contracted for has expired, charges for transient rates for the time actually published. Communications containing items of local or general interest respectfully solicited. Manuscripts intended for publication must be written on one side of the paper, and accompanied by the name of the writer, as a guarantee of good faith.

OFFICE of WALLACE BROS., Statesville, N. C., August 1st, 1882.

To the Trade:

As it is our purpose to thoroughly organize our wholesale business in all its branches for the coming fall trade, immediately, we shall, for the next 30 days, close our Spring and Summer stock,

in all departments, at SWEEPING REDUCTIONS,

and as it is a class of goods exactly suited to the fruit season, if merchants can find it convenient to call on us at once we are sure they will find jobs that will amply repay the visit. Very Respectfully, WALLACE BROS.

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

R.G. COURTNEY

Having just received from the NORTH a full line of NEW GOODS

consisting of a beautiful line of spring and summer prints, Cassimers, Flannels, Shawls, Alamance, Bleached and Unbleached Domestic, Alpacas, Boots and Shoes, Men's and Boys' Wool straw 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 Crockery 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. CALL AND 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 do all kinds of work in MONUMENTS, HEADSTONES, TOMBS & MARBLE FURNITURE of all description furnished at short notice and at the lowest prices.

Work securely boxed, and delivered free of charge, at any depot on the W. N. C. Railroad. Send for price list and designs. C. B. WEBB will continue as traveling agent. Statesville, N. C. Feb. 1st.—17.

LANDRETH'S PEDIGREE SEEDS

SEEDS For the MERCHANT or the MARKET GARDENER SEEDS For the PRIVATE FAMILY SEEDS Crown by ourselves on our own farms

DAVID LANDRETH & SONS, SEED GROWERS, PHILADELPHIA

Our New York Letter.

Correspondence of The Topic.

NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 2, 1882.

THE USE OF USELESS THINGS.

Modern invention is utilizing a multitude of hitherto waste materials and bringing up repeated arguments to prove the old adage that nothing is made in vain—although the wildest dreams of the most chimerical inventor have not yet evolved the purposes of divine Providence in creating the Jersey musquito or the ant which gets into the pic-nic ice cream. For years the coal mining and transportation companies have been piling up great heaps of coal dust and refuse, to their own inconvenience and from which no income could be derived. The Philadelphia and Reading Railroad have been experimenting upon appliances for using their refuse and have had their coal dust heaps surveyed, resulting in an estimate that these heaps contain 60 millions of tons of dust of which 40 millions tons can be used as fuel.

Another illustration of the use of waste materials was shown me a few days ago in a substance called "mineral wool." In appearance it resembles raw cotton, but with the difference that when compressed it does not return to its former "fullness" as cotton does, but will pack down to nearly a solid mass. It is made from the "shock" refuse from iron furnaces, hitherto thrown out whenever it can be got rid of, and at the service of any body who will take it away for roads and ballast. The shock as it issues from the furnace is subjected to a powerful jet or steam system by which it is driven like snow before a gale. The effect is to send out a multitude of miniature meteor like streamers each with a metallic head or nucleus with white fibers streaming behind it. The heads are afterward cleaned out by machinery, leaving only the woolly or cottony fibres. This substance is absolutely incombustible and an admirable nonconductor of heat and sound. It is used in packing around steam pipes and boilers for casing for railroad cars, filling in walls and roofs and many other purposes where its special qualities are desirable. So, day by day, we are utilizing the waste things of the earth and finding many in dust and ashes.

A PRACTICAL CHRISTIANITY.

I heard, a day or two ago, of a style of christianity which strikes me as being worth more in practical worth and kindness toward our fellow citizens than spending time in moralizing and reproaches. There was a clergyman who was invited to take charge of a mission church and school in the eastern part of the city where tenement houses abound and refined pleasures are few. He consented upon two conditions: first, that the congregation should raise a salary for their minister in order that they should feel that they had some duty to perform, and, second, that he would accept none of this salary for himself but would spend the whole for the benefit of the Church and the Sunday School. The congregation were to know nothing of the second condition, lest it should neutralize the effect of the first, but he has faithfully fulfilled arrangement, and has stocked the school with a library, improved the church edifice &c. and labored incessantly for the good of the parish. That is a noteworthy fact but, that is not all. This summer he has been with his family to the sea shore during the week, coming in to town to teach and work on Sundays, and asking no vacation like the pastors of more fashionable churches. He has a fine conservatory of flowers and he regularly every Saturday or Sunday gathers every blossom from his plants and sends or carries to the poor families within his district, choosing the sick if there are any. Now this is a beautiful christianity which is good all through, and every bud that goes from that minister's hot house to the bedside of a sick child in the top of a tenement house, should blossom out into a decoration for the crown of glory which the donor is hoping for when other flowers may bloom upon his grave.

STRECHING IT.

It has been a popular delusion that the ordinary capacity of the human stomach is one pint. If so the elastic membrane must be as elastic as the membrane of a Congressman. A New Yorker was accosted, a day or two ago, by a seedy looking tramp who begged for a dime to get a bite to eat to keep him from starving. The gentleman chose to be sure that his charity took the form of food and not of whiskey, so, instead of giving him money, he wrote an order to a nearby restaurant to "give the poor fellow a dinner and charge to me." Armed with this note the tramp canvassed the situation, studied the bill of fare and settled down to business. Beginning with a mutton stew he followed it with roast veal, corned beef and cabbage, roast lamb with mint sauce, two plates of salmon lobster salad, boiled eggs, vegetables of all kinds, pie, pudding, cheese, three bottles of Scotch ale and cigars. There was nothing mean about him. His benefactor paid the bill of \$4.20 when it was presented and then invested the rest of a \$5. bill in a stout and trustworthy cane, with which he walks abroad, looking for that hungry tramp. The bystanders will hear some remarks when he meets him once more—"The tramp is probably laying off waiting for the stomach-ache to blow over."

BESSIE.

AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF SENATOR HILL.

Atlanta Constitution.

The following brief but interesting autobiography of the late Senator Hill was written and given by him to his friend, the late Dr. W. H. White, in 1879, and it was found among his father's papers by Mr. W. Woods White, who has kindly consented to its publication. It is as follows:

I was born in Jasper county, Georgia, September 14, 1823. I was the seventh of ninth children and the fifth of six brothers.

My father was a small farmer, owning a few slaves only. All his sons, therefore, did all farm work and all his daughters did all household work. My mother cut and wove the clothes we wore, and most of them were spun and wove on the plantation.

I worked in the farm from the time I was eight years old, and black and white came and went alike in all work.

My father was a man of common education, but was extensively read and of great influence in his neighborhood.

When I was ten years old, (in 1833,) my father moved to the county of Troup, a new county, and his lands were all in the woods, and I helped to clear them.

I walked the entire distance from the old to the new home, over 100 miles, helping drive the cattle.

My father would always have a school-house, a church and a temperance society near his house. He was always trustee of the school, class-leader and steward in the church and president of the temperance society.

Some of my earliest and sweetest recollections are connected with these institutions and my father's zeal in them.

The black people always attended church with the whites; and all of us, black and white, were encouraged to become members at very early ages. The rule was for the children to work on the farm until the crop was made and then go to school until it was gathered. After the crop was gathered, go to school again until planting time for another crop.

This was my life until I was sixteen years old. I was then continued at school all the time with a view to a collegiate education.

My father was not able to send all his children to college, only one beside myself desired a college course and I alone graduated.

After I was pronounced prepared to enter college, my father decided he was not able to send me.

A family consultation was held. My mother insisted on my going. She had always had what was called her "patch," which was near the house, and was cultivated by her house hands when not needed at house work. This patch had always

been my mother's pin money amounting from \$50 to \$100.

My mother said she would contribute this to my college expenses and would make my clothes at home besides.

An old aunt of my mother's, who lived in a small house in my father's yard, and had some means (small) and no children, agreed to contribute as much more. My father agreed to add the balance, and I promised that my college expenses of any kind should not exceed \$300 per annum. I promised my mother I would take the first honor in my class. I redeemed this promise.

The proudest day of my life was, when I wrote to my parents that I had taken the first honor in my class and all the honors of the literary society of which I was a member.

HOW I BECAME A SLAVE-HOLDER.

The cook, Mariab, came by my mother, and was near her age. She also raised nine children, just the number my mother raised. One of the cook's children from birth was assigned to one of my mother's children. From our childhood we played together, worked together and would fight for each other against all the world. It was an alliance offensive and defensive.

I married in 1845. My wife had seven slaves, large and small, left her by her father, who died when she was an infant. We thus began life with eight slaves.

When my father and mother died, the slaves selected their owner among the children and I had to take two more, who would go with no other child, and paid for them.

My wife had one other brother left an orphan with her. He married several years after we did, and determined not to keep his slaves. They were not willing to go out of the family and I bought them. I now had fourteen slaves.

I was a professional man living in town and did not need them. I was not willing to hire them out. The result was I bought some land near the town and moved on it with the slaves and told them to support themselves under my protection.

The slaves increased and married wives and husbands and raised children and to keep them together I bought them all.

I also bought several others who had to be sold and who selected me as their owner.

In a few years my small place was insufficient for them, and rather than part with them I bought a larger plantation in the county and placed them on it, and removed with my family back to town.

I was thus a slave-holder from 1845 to 1865, just twenty years.

My slaves increased from eight to sixty seven, and during that time there were but two deaths among them.

I realized no profit from them, and all of them will testify that I cared better for them than they have been able to care for themselves "since freedom came."

AN INCIDENT OF VANCE AND MERRIMON.

Reidsville Times.

In the days that Merrimon ran for Governor, while Vance was Executive of the State, the two chanced to meet at a commencement at Trinity college where Merrimon was to deliver the address. They were out on the green, also a large assemblage of ladies and gentlemen, and the crowd pressed Vance for a speech. He refused, but they would take no refusal. Finally he mounted the stand and said:

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: I was raised in Buncombe county with a boy named Alfred Merrimon, we went to school together, and I remember one day we had a fight and after a sharp rough and tumble I got him down and gonged him good. After it was over and we had proposed to make friends Merrimon said he was willing if I would only assure him one thing, and that was that I didn't intend to gouge him. I assured him I didn't and we made it up. I often heard Alf say he wanted to be a great lawyer, he wanted to be a great jurist, and his greatest ambition was to be Governor of North Carolina. Well, my fellow citizens, he has been both a great

lawyer and a great jurist, and Providence permitting we will the 7th of next November make him our next Governor."

With a speech something of this sort, said with telling effect as only Vance can do it, he descended the stand and hadn't more than touched ground when a beautiful girl about sixteen ran recklessly to him from the crowd and throwing both arms around his neck she gave him a kiss. Vance started back in amazement, but she said, loud enough to be heard by all:

"Gov. Vance! when my dear father was mortally wounded in the war, it was to your tent he was carried, and you nursed him like a brother; he wrote us about it and sent home a blessing on your name, and this is the first time I have ever seen you to thank you for it."

"Well, come," said Vance, quickly recovering and spreading both hands, "let's have it over again!"

Never was a crowd so curiously impressed. The ladies brought to tears, almost hysterics, but quick as a flash Vance's manner smoothed all sensation into solid reality. This was just after the war. James W. Reid of Wentworth, our talented young countrymen, was but a youth, he witnessed it and will never forget in.

A CLOSE CALL.

Charlotte Observer.

Last Sunday morning when the train from Charlotte on the Statesville road was within eighteen miles of this place, the engineer saw a man lying prone on the track a short distance ahead. He reversed the engine and applied the air brakes, but the train was running at such a speed that it looked almost impossible to check it in time. Yet it did. The pilot of the engine touched the man and pushed him forward a few inches. The passengers, excited by the sudden slowing up the train, rushed out and gathered around the engineer, who was standing in front of the engine, quietly contemplating the scene of a negro man, dead drunk, lying across the track with the pilot of the engine pressed against him. The engineer waked up the negro, who was so drunk that he showed no signs of consciousness, and tossed him to one side. Besides what the negro had in him, a quart bottle of liquor was found in his pocket.

AN OLD DEBT PAID.

Greensboro Patriot.

An old and most worthy citizen of this county, who visited Virginia about fifty years ago, borrowed a pair of saddle-bags from a neighbor to carry his extra wearing apparel in, as the most convenient way of taking it with him on his long horse-back journey. He was gone some months, and when he returned his neighbor had moved away. He laid the saddle bags away, intending to return them to their owner should he ever have an opportunity to do so. About five years ago he learned where he was and immediately sent for a friend, to whom he showed the borrowed property, and asked him the value of such an article forty five years ago. His friend gave his opinion as to their value at the time referred to, and was told to count the interest on that amount, payable annually. He did so, and the old gentleman sent him a postal order for nearly fifty dollars.

THE CLAIMS OF GARFIELD'S PHYSICIANS.

The \$35,000 to be paid to Garfield's physicians won't hold out. Dr. Bliss wants \$25,000. Drs. Hamilton and Agnew \$15,000 each, and Dr. Reyburn \$10,800. Dr. Reyburn charges \$100 for each day he was in attendance, and \$100 additional for each of the alternate nights that he was on duty. Dr. Susan Edson, who was at the bedside of the President almost all of the time, day as well as night, by this calculation, will be left without a dollar for her services, as will also Dr. Boynton. Of course, the commission having the settlement of the bills can reduce them to suit themselves. The commission has, however, decided that Drs. Boynton and Edson, being technically nurses, they cannot receive anything under the appropriation. They will therefore have to appeal to Congress for special pay as may be given them. How could