

MACON LETTER.

Our Correspondent Takes a Trip Through Jackson County.

WEBSTER, N. C.,
Jan. 2, 1891.

DEAR DEMOCRAT:—The snow being over and the sunshine giving promise of return, in company with our genial democratic friend, Mr. J. L. West, we place Selim in the harness and leave that usually quiet and unpretending and embryonic little village of West's Mills to take in the energy, thrift and prosperity of the surrounding country. Our trip was almost without incident till we had traveled over the Cowee mountains and were mingling with the unpretending yeomanry of our neighbor county of Jackson. Situated on a very pleasant elevation we find the pleasant little village of Webster surrounded by very auspicious surroundings.

The mineral excitement of this section is running at a very high ebb. Several concerns are represented here and various industries are receiving quite an impetus. Kaolin or clay seems to supply the long felt need of a circulating medium, so much so that if we owe any one anything and offer him clay-kaolin, and he refuses it; we call the debt paid here. The nickel mines are about changing hands again. Indeed, they change hands so fast as not to admit of operation. The price continues to advance and the demand is firm. We can see no good reason why this most quiet mountain town may not put on city airs in the very near future. Within easy reach of railway, with her unbounded mineral resources, with the various industries backed by very many natural advantages, she surely will soon lay aside the gown of a sylvan Miss and don the "royal turban" of a city madame.

Prof. E. B. Webster, a wealthy dealer of Ohio, and president of the West Farmington College of that State, is here negotiating a deal preparatory to the building of a first-class college which will greatly enhance the value of town property, as well as develop some of the more sacred interests of the community. If the citizens of this section fail to co-operate heartily with Mr. Webster in this matter they will stand greatly in the way of their own interest as well as that of the development of the most sacred of all interests—the intellectual development of their children. But they are not the people to let such golden opportunities pass by unimproved. While here we enjoy the abundant hospitality of our greatly appreciated friends of former years, Rev. B. G. Wild and family. One enjoys as much welcome and as good fare around Mr. and Mrs. Wild's table to the square inch as anywhere we have ever been. That coffee she makes has no rival in point of aromatic deliciousness, and Miss Lou can rival the world for a palatable biscuit. The table verily does reel under the weight of good things when you go to take meals there. Miss Lou is the fortunate possessor of a very charming face and a most sunny disposition, and her very easy and affable manners, and genial disposition and easy grace make her truly a most desirable—well we could not censure some clever young gentleman very severely if he were to become infatuated with her smiles and quit the haunts of his accustomed civilization and go Wild.

One can afford any sort of a compromise for a boon like that. Hastening on from here we note the various points of interest, and giving Dillsboro, a very thriving railroad town, a hearty hand shake as we pass, we next stop over with our jolly and hustling old friend, Rev. P. P. McLean, at Whittier on the W. N. C. R. R. This town bears the name of its founder, Dr. Clark Whittier, whose remains sleep peacefully on a small eminence that overlooks the town. The doctor certainly made some very liberal investments and some quite substantial improvements here and we do think the people here ought to thank their lucky stars for his having located among them. If we had more men of like public spirit this world would go on much better.

Brother McLean has a most pleasant family indeed. He managed in the outset, as a wise business calculator that he is, to inveigle one of the most estimable ladies we ever knew into becoming his wife, and she has certainly, good woman-like, made her impress upon her family and its head so that our clever friend is truly an excellent fellow. He stated to us that he had injured himself—being a minister—in taking a bold stand for the democratic ticket in the last election. We told him if that was the worst sin he had committed that he would enter the "pearly gates" with a clean record, which we considered the next thing to a clear conscience. He is living at home like a king and boarding at the same place. Here we met one of old Macon's charming young ladies, Miss Angie McFerson, who has had charge of the Whittier School for several sessions. She is quite liberally educated and is a very successful teacher. Next we pay that rapidly growing, energetically prosperous, thrivingly enterprising, wide awake and moving, embryonic railroad city—Bryson City—a flying visit.

This place is throwing off its old clothes and putting on new and more elegant attire very fast indeed. It is spreading all over the hills and valleys and shows more signs of real enterprising city life than any place west of Asheville perhaps. Its inhabitants are a most enterprising, energetic, liberal-hearted, whole-souled, wide-awake people indeed and of a truth. They are just the people to boom a town and lay the foundations for a very rapid, though permanent growth and development. One cannot mingle with them without wishing to become one of them. We were pleased to meet among them our greatly esteemed friends, A. M. Fry, Esq., Capt. E. Everett, Col. D. K. Collins, Messrs. W. T. and J. B. Couley, Clerk Snow, Register Thompson, Capt. Wm. Cooper of the Cooper House and many others whose names space will not allow us to mention.

We will note the presence of our old friend Dr. E. M. Scruggs, coroner-elect, but if the doctor never holds an inquest till he is called to hold over the corpse of Bryson City his official life will be a most signal failure, his ability to the country notwithstanding, for Bryson City, surrounded as she is with so many favorable circumstances and auspicious surroundings, will never be found dead and will only lose her present existence amid the upheavals and development of a more advanced life. Our old friend Mr. D. K. Collins is as happy a man basking in the smiles of his new wife—a fine looking woman, too, a thing of beauty as well as goodness and a joy forever—as one would wish to see. But our Franklin companion, Mr. West, the clever hearted and good natured Jesse informed us that we must be on the road again, and so we leave all of our friends hoping their lives may be characterized by their deserving prosperity and that the New Year may bring them many comforts.

With compliments of the season to all we are
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