

# The Laurinburg Exchange

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## MAKING PREPARATIONS FOR COUNTY COMMENCEMENT

The Annual Gathering of the Schools of Scotland County, Which is to be Held Here April 7th Bids Fair to be Greatest Event of Its Kind—Every School in County Contesting for Honors.

The schools all over the county are working at white heat, getting ready for County Commencement which is to be held here April 7th. Judging from the intensity of the efforts being put forth, this will be the greatest commencement in the history of the county. Schools that in previous years have had one man in training for each event now have dozens. In almost every school every pupil is challenging the right of every other pupil to represent his school. It is no easy matter to have one's self chosen as a representative this year. Hundreds of boys and girls in the county are exerting their very best efforts to be the excellent one in some field.

In some of the schools local preliminaries have already been held to select representatives for the Township Preliminaries, to be held on next Friday night, March 24th. The preliminaries will be held at the same places this year in all the Townships, except Williamson. The contests in this Township will be held this year at the Laurel Hill School instead of Gibson. The number entering the contest in Williamson is so great, that two nights will be required for recitations and declamations, the girls reciting on Friday night and the boys declaiming on the following Monday night.

Friday night will be a great night in your Township. You can not afford to miss the treat in store for you. Be present and enjoy the contest yourself, as well as show the children that you appreciate their efforts.

### Minstrel Pleases.

The coming of Coburn's Minstrels, which is an annual event in Laurinburg, is usually the high water mark in theatrical circles in Laurinburg, and this year proved no exception. The minstrel came Monday and gave their performance Monday night. It was the usual way as to crowds, the house was filled to its capacity. The advanced sale of seats required every one available and only the "bleachers" were unused when the doors were opened.

The performance was just as promised, better than ever, and this is saying a good deal. Every feature was a real feature, and every moment of the entire performance a delight. Charlie Gano, who is a Laurinburg favorite, was good as usual, and together with Tommy Donnelly, carried the heaviest weight of the comedy parts. Being funny is easy to Gano, and the political skit presenting Teddy and Grape Juice Bill was a success. In the singing parts, Lucas and Prosser of course starred and delighted the largest house of the season.

Mr. Coburn is a successful minstrel promoter and this season has the best show he has ever brought to Laurinburg.

Tonight Billy "Single" Clifford, supported by a strong musical comedy company, will appear presenting "Walk This Way". Mr. Clifford has with him quite a number of successful vaudeville artists including Nick Glynn, who has often delighted Laurinburg audiences with his clever wit, and who is, as Charlie Gano said Monday night, "One of the best black-face comedians on the stage."

### Mr. and Mrs. Correll Entertain.

Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Correll were at home to a party of friends Friday night.

It being the occasion for the celebration of St. Patrick's Day, the home was decorated in appropriate colors, white and green.

When the guests had assembled the pleasures of the evening began with the recital of Irish jokes. Mr. T. J. Gill leading the joke-telling. Following this Progressive Book was in order. At the conclusion of the game, Miss Drawings, of the city school faculty, was declared the most proficient manipulator of the cards and received the prize. The guest prize went to Miss Betty Clark. Then came delightful refreshments, consisting of cream and cake.

The Miancoos Inn, a popular resort hotel near Tyron, was destroyed by fire Friday shortly before noon. The hotel at the time was filled with visitors, although no lives were lost or no one injured.

## THINGS PERTAINING TO LIFE

By Harry M. North.

### REVERENCE, AN ELEMENT OF MANHOOD.

I spoke last week of truthfulness and obedience as being essential in the making of character. Another one of these important elements is reverence. There are those who hold it a mark of greatness to be irreverent. But no man can ever be great in the true sense who has not a deep respect for that which is pure and good. He must honor the Godlike wherever it is found. It may be in the person of some old man, in woman, in a child, in a sacred house, in worship in presence of the dead, at the mention of the Holy One, or at sight of a noble deed performed.

We are living in a time when no great stress is laid on this matter of reverence. How few things are considered sacred by the masses of the people. One day is held by them as another; the persons and reputations of men are held up to ridicule; those in authority are criticized and even jeered; thousands place but a low estimate upon the scriptures, while many take the name of God as a jest or oath. The motto of this practical age is "Uncover everything and let it be dissected, analyzed, talked about." Can you tell me a single thing at which the writing and reading public will balk today? A solid argument is set aside by a joke, a good man is overcome by a cartoon.

It was written of Belshazzar that he was weighed in the balances and found wanting. Did you ever think to ask in what he was wanting? He was doubtless lacking in many things but especially in reverence. There was nothing sacred to this king. He cared nothing for God, nothing for his people. The temple was as any house to him, and he drank to drunkenness out of its holy vessels. I do not wonder that his kingdom was short and his life brief. Have you not noticed that the really great men of the earth have all been reverent? Take the great books of the world; they did not come from the hands of profane men. The great poets, even in heathen lands were men of reverence. The same is true, I think, of the renowned musicians, statesmen, scientists and warriors. The mysteries of the world are shy and do not reveal themselves to the irreverent.

You have wondered at times to see some rough, ignorant man, unused to the ways of polite society, bear himself in company with a kingly grace, and in his own way show politeness and respect to those about him. You wonder where he could have learned all these things, and you call it a native courtesy. I should rather say that deep down in this man's soul is a reverence for everything white and clean, and this imparts to him the power to discern the fitness of things in all relations of life, and to conduct himself as suits every occasion.

Have you noticed how the modern novel and the popular play hold the most sacred things of life in contempt? The betrothal of lovers, the marriage bond, home life, a white-haired saintly minister, these are exploited not for the pity of the thing, but for a joke. The church, the Sunday school, the religion of men come in for their share of ridicule. And the most deplorable part about it is that the people love to have it so. Do you not think that there is something insane in jesting about sacred things?

In the parable of the wicked vineyard keeper the owner had sent servant after servant to get the rent from the vineyard. These servants had been beaten and some of them killed. And last of all he sent his Son. He said, "May be they will reverence my Son." But these men had grown so sordid and ignoble in their lives that nothing was holy to them. The Son in their sight was as any other man and they cast him out and killed him.

When I was a boy I went hunting with my father. We took refuge from a rain in a dilapidated country church. I noticed on entering that he removed his hat with the greatest respect. He told me afterward that he always did this whether weekday or Sunday, whether the house be good or bad, because it was the house of God. He said also that if he should be far away on a desert when Sunday came, he would put on the best clothes he had in honor of the day, although no one should be there to see him. Need I tell you that this spirit of reverence made him strong?

There is holy ground somewhere. There are some things before which we must stand with uncovered head. Moses had to put off his shoes be-

cause the place where he stood was holy. To deny our obligation to sacred things will make us neither great nor good. It will only show the corruption and baseness of our minds. Reverence is the very beginning of wisdom, and shows the fineness of the texture of the soul. Truth and obedience and reverence, these three. Who will say which is greatest?

### Mrs. Covington Entertains.

Mrs. T. T. Covington was hostess to the Thursday Afternoon Book Club last week. The home was tastefully decorated in white and green in deference to the season of His Honor St. Patrick.

The first number on the program was "Responses by Club Members"—Irish Wit. Following this came an interesting paper entitled "Origins of St. Patrick's Day," which was read by Mrs. James L. McNair. Next came "Current Topics" by Mrs. W. H. Neal. Miss Fan Louise Neal then delighted the club with several Irish love songs.

The first item of amusement for the afternoon was the Leap Year Proposals which each member and guest hastily prepared. These were read and naturally caused much merriment. The prize for the best proposal, a green and gold basket filled with mints, went to Miss Julia Stewart, and the consolation, a box in the shape of St. Patrick's hat, which was filled with mints, to Mrs. L. E. Benton.

Then followed a contest, an Irish Love Story, in which the guests were required to arrange jumbled letters into the names of popular Irish songs. In this, a number cut for the prize, a pair of green silk hose, which went to Mrs. W. D. B. McEachin, the consolation, a book-shaped box representing a copy of the history of Ireland, was presented to Mrs. T. J. Gill. The hostess, assisted by Misses Betty Clark and Emma Neal Covington, cream and cake followed by coffee, toasted marshmallows and mints.

### That Job Printing.

The prices on paper, inks, rollers and everything that goes into the work of job printing have advanced considerably within the past few weeks and the manufacturers give no promise of any reduction soon. It will therefore, be advisable to have that printing done now. The last quotation on paper, received within the past few days, announced an increase of 33 1-3 per cent in prices on all paper stocks.

Job printers will either have to charge more or get out of business. We are holding prices down as best we can and will always name lowest prices possible, but can not guarantee the prices we are now quoting to apply indefinitely.

You can get your printing cheaper now than later. Better look over your stock and get your supply before prices take another shot upward.

### To Leave Laurinburg.

The Exchange regrets to record the fact that Mrs. D. G. Caldwell, mother of Mr. John L. Caldwell, is to leave Laurinburg.

Mrs. Caldwell came here from Due West, S. C., to take up her residence in Laurinburg, and although she has lived here but a short while, she has attracted quite a number of admiring friends who greatly regret that she has decided to return to her home at Due West.

### Gets New Trial.

Lead Quick, who was tried in Bennington last week for the murder of Emerson Wright, was convicted of manslaughter.

The presiding judge refused to admit certain evidence for the defense during the trial, and after the case had been passed on by the jury and a verdict of manslaughter returned, he ruled that he had committed an error in refusing to admit the evidence, and set the verdict aside.

This means that the case will be tried again. The defendant was required to give bond in the sum of \$5,000.

Attorney W. H. Cox, of the local bar, handled the case for the prosecution.

## GROWING CANTALOUPE IN SCOTLAND COUNTY

Something of the History of the Cantaloupe Industry in Scotland—We Have the Soil, the Knowledge and the Experience, and our Product the Reputation.

(The following interesting sketch about the cantaloupe industry of Scotland County, was prepared by Mr. Arnold A. McKay, and appeared in the Sunday edition of the News and Observer.)

Mr. McKay is a son of Mr. and Mrs. A. McKay, of Maxton, R. F. D. No. 2. He was born in Laurinburg and remained here until quite a youngster, moving to the country near Maxton with the family about 15 years ago. He graduated with honors from the University of North Carolina, later was Professor of English there, and during the past year accepted the professorship of German and Greek History at Staunton Military Academy, Staunton, Va., which by the way, is one of the old and most aristocratic schools in the South, and has the honor of having tutored President Woodrow Wilson.

We feel sure that our readers will appreciate and enjoy this interesting though lengthy article about one of our pet industries. Editor.)

"A writer in the current issue of a popular magazine asserts that a Scotchman lives 'to speak the truth, to pay his debts, and to vote the Democratic ticket.' This is rather fulsome praise, because any one of these virtues is redemptive. But he might not have stopped with that; he could easily have added another quality; an interest in anything agricultural. Probably the last is really the most distinguishing characteristic after all, for who has ever seen a Scotchman who was not, directly or sympathetically, interested in farming? It is true that many of them who are reared in the friendly, ennobling art seek fortune in the storied

hives of business and sit among the money changers; but it is hard to find even one of these prodigals who does not recognize a good crop of corn when he sees it or is not vitally concerned about how the garden grows. The preacher in the pulpit by droning may hypnotize himself and hearers into a state of coma, yet when he catches through the window a glimpse of waving grain he is forthwith transformed into a fiery Martin Luther. The Scotch lawyer calloused to recitals of crime, somnambulistically awakes the bullet-headed negro witness; but if the season is spring and the sweet, earthy scent of fresh soil comes stirring through the courthouse, he immediately becomes conscious, then hope, like love, returns with the spring. Probably this is a trifle over-drawn. Avarice is in all of us. Nevertheless the Scotch are really farmers; they are distinctly rural if not rustic.

This seems to be a digression from the central theme of this article. It is, but it is going to be a necessary digression. Here is one more and then we are ready to let the story be unconfined. We have heard a great deal about the one-crop system of the South. We have raved about the tyranny of old King Cotton. We have discussed cotton as the only money crop at church, on the streets, behind the plow, in our neighbor's parlor with his eligible daughter—everywhere have we discussed the fact that we must stop raising so much cotton, stop depending on the time merchant, stop doing everything but talking, talking, talking! Windy by so much discussion, we have at last come around to the same conclusion on this subject that Mark Twain reached regarding discussions of the weather—what's the use of talking about the weather, nothing's been done about it yet!

This is the end of our loading on the job. Now for the story. Something really has been done to break the tyranny of cotton in one section, and that section is composed largely of Scotchmen who have not lost their zest for farming. Were the two paragraphs above so irrelevant after all? Let us see.

Scotland county has, within the last fifteen years, established a national reputation as the section where cantaloupes grow best. If you do not believe this, take a crate of the fruit which is Scotland's product and compare it with any other crate as to uniformity, type, and flavor. If there is no difference—but there is a difference in favor of Scotland's representative, too. Today cantaloupes growing in such an important part of the work down there that, in good years, it probably brings as much revenue into the county as any other

one crop. At any rate, the crop has helped tremendously in the recent financial unpleasantness. All of which is gratifying to those who wish to see the sturdiest element of our population well and hearty and free from the one-crop hallucination.

Three factors are responsible for this success—soil, culture, and experience. The soil comes first, because without the quality of the sandy loam and Norfolk sandy loam in this section it would be impossible to grow cantaloupes of such excellent flavor. The soil of the county has been compared with that of the famous Rocky Ford region in Colorado, (which region as everyone knows is the native home of the luscious cantaloupe), and has been found to be remarkably similar in texture and composition. The fruit does not thrive well on heavy, undrained land, but does excellently on fresh, well-drained soil rich in humus. For this reason, and for the additional advantage that there is hardly an acre of unimproved cleared land in the county, Scotland county has succeeded with the cantaloupe.

Culture has something to do with it, too. The seed is usually secured direct from Rocky Ford as there is deterioration in quality when the same variety is planted year after year in this section. Three varieties find readiest sale on the northern markets—Rocky Ford, Notted Gem, and Burrell's Gem. The period of ripening for these varieties is about ten days apart and they are usually planted in such order as to give succession. The Rocky Ford is ready for the market about ten days before the Notted Gem, and when the best fruit of the former has been picked, the latter is just beginning to ripen. The last named variety, Burrell's Gem, is an improved strain of the Notted Gem, and is a late maturing variety. It has never been grown as extensively as the other two varieties, yet its superior flavor and excellent marketing qualities have made it a favorite with shippers of fancy stock. The land is usually broken deep, broadcasted with stable manure, harrowed, and prepared for a firm, mulched seed bed. Heavy fertilization with a fertilizer strong in nitrogen and potash has given best results. From \$50 to 1,400 pounds of such a fertilizer is used at planting while the growing crop is often given a top dressing of nitrate of soda. Distances of planting varies as much as methods of cultivation. Most rows, however, are five feet apart. The seed is planted on a carefully prepared bed, sown in drills like cotton. The plants are later thinned to a consistency of about eighteen inches. It does not take long for the young vines to begin crawling and for this reason only two or three ploughings can be given the crop. At the last ploughing cow pens are sowed between the rows.

But the making of the crop is not even half the battle. The harvesting, packing, and marketing end of the business is the place where experience and care count most. The cantaloupe is a fruit that will spoil on the slightest provocation; hence the greatest care must be exercised in picking only such fruit that will reach the market in prime condition. One over-ripe or green cantaloupe in a crate may ruin the sale of a whole carload. There are three grades—standards which run 45 to the crate; extras or "jumbos," with about 35 to the crate; and small or "ponies," about 54 to the crate. The standards, of course, command the top of the market prices; the others are irregular and are therefore not so salable. Labels are used to give the fruit a certain distinctiveness and many of the shippers of extra fancy stock wrap each cantaloupe in tissue paper like oranges. Some growers who have been shipping cantaloupes for years have built up a select trade for their product and their name on a crate is a guarantee of quality. The extra care that is taken in making the article attractive has paid.

When packed in crates, the fruit is placed in lead cars and sent by fast freight to the northern markets. New York gets the bulk of the crop, but Philadelphia, Baltimore, Boston and Pittsburgh are also supplied. Such excellent centers of consumption like Scranton, Buffalo, Cincinnati, Milwaukee, Detroit, and other manufacturing cities receive their share, but the

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