

# ONLY A QUARTER.

"Please, sir, will you buy my chestnuts?"

"Chestnuts! No!" returned Ralph Moore, looking carelessly down on the upturned face, whose large brown eyes, shadowed by tangled curls of flaxen hair, were appealing pitifully to his own. "What do I want of chestnuts?"

"Please, sir, do buy 'em," pleaded the little one, reassured by the rough kindness of his tone. "Nobody seems to care for them, and"—

She fairly burst into tears, and Moore, who had been on the point of brushing carelessly past her, stopped instinctively.

"Are you so very much in want of the money?"

"Indeed, sir, we are," sobbed the child. "Mother sent me out and"—

"Nay, little one, don't cry," said Ralph, smoothing her tangled hair. "I don't want your chestnuts, but here's a quarter for you if it will do you any good."

He did not stay to hear the delighted thanks the child poured out through a rainbow of smiles and tears, but strode on his way, muttering between his teeth: "That cuts off my supply of cigars for the next 24 hours. I don't care, though, for the brown-eyed object really did cry as if she hadn't a friend in the world. Having it I wish I was rich enough to help every poor creature out of the slough of despond."

While Ralph Moore was indulging in these very natural reflections the dark orbed little damsel whom he had comforted was dashing down street with rapid footsteps, utterly regardless of the basket of tinsoled nuts that still dangled upon her arm. Down an obscure alley she darted and up a wooden staircase to a room where a pale, neat looking woman was sewing as busily as if the breath of life depended upon every stitch, and two little ones were playing in the sunshine that supplied the place of the absent fire. "Mary, back already? Surely you have not sold your chestnuts so soon?"

"Oh, mother, see!" ejaculated the breathless child. "A gentleman gave me a quarter! Only think, mother, a whole quarter!"

If Ralph Moore could only have seen the rapture which his small silver gift had brought into that poverty stricken home, he would have grudged still less his privation of cigars.

Years came and went. The little chestnut girl passed entirely out of Ralph Moore's memory, but Mary Lee never forgot the stranger who had given her the silver quarter.

The crimson window curtains were closely drawn to shut out the storm and blast of the bleak December night. A fire was glowing cheerily in the grate, and the dinner table was aglitter with cut glass, rare china and polished silver. Everything was waiting for the presence of Mr. Audley.

"What can it be that detains you?" said Mrs. Audley, a fair, handsome matron of about 30, as she glanced at her tiny watch.

"There's a man with him in the study, come on business," said Robert Audley, a pretty boy of 12 years, who was reading by the fire.

"I'll call him again," said Mrs. Audley, stepping to the door. But as she opened it the gaslight fell on the face of a humble looking man in threadbare garments who was leaving the house while her husband stood in the doorway of his study, apparently relieved to be rid of his visitor.

"Charles," said Mrs. Audley, "who is that man and what does he want?"

"His name is Moore, I believe, love, and he came to see if I would give him the vacant position in the bank."

"And will you?" she eagerly asked.

"Don't know, Mary. I must think about it."

"Charles, give him the situation."

"Why, my dear?"

"Because I ask it of you as a favor, and you have said a hundred times you would never deny me anything."

"And I will keep my promise, Mary," said her lover, and, with an affectionate kiss, "I will write the fellow a note this very evening."

An hour later, when the children were tucked snugly in bed, Mrs. Audley told her husband why she was interested in the fate of a man whose face she had not forgotten in 20 years.

"That's what the little wif!" said her husband when the strange tale was finished. "Never forget one who has been kind to you in the days when you needed kindness most."

Ralph Moore was sitting that self

same night in his poor lodgings beside his wife's sickbed, when a liveried servant brought a note from the rich and prosperous banker, Charles Audley.

"Goodness, Bertha," he exclaimed joyously as he read the words, "we shall not starve! Mr. Audley has promised me the position."

"You have dropped something from the note, Ralph," said Mrs. Moore and pointed to a slip of paper on the floor. Moore stooped to pick it up. It was a \$50 bill neatly folded in a piece of paper, on which was written:

"In grateful remembrance of the silver quarter that a kind stranger bestowed on a chestnut girl 20 years ago."

Ralph Moore had thrown his morsel of bread upon the waters of life, and after many days it had returned to him.—Chicago Herald.

One or the Other.

"How Percy Perkins does avoid Miss Hopkins!"

"Yes; he's either hopelessly in love with her or she's been picking him up on pronouncements."—Indianapolis Journal.

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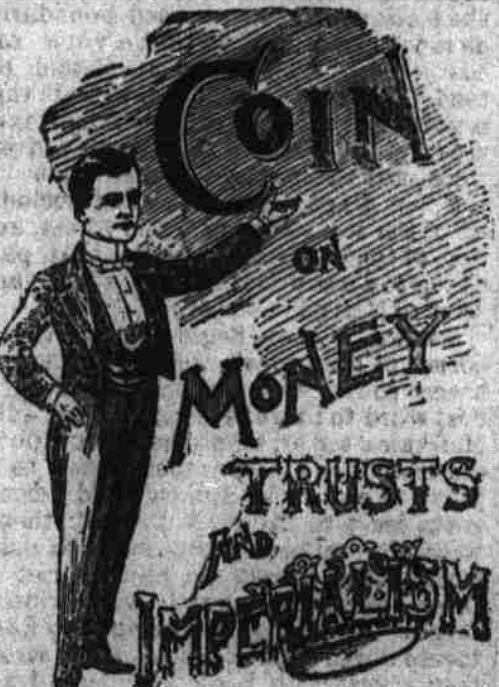
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## WILMINGTON AND WELDON RAILROAD

CONDENSED SCHEDULE

TRAINS GOING SOUTH.

DATED Jan. 14th, 1900.	No. 28, Daily		No. 29, Daily		No. 30, Daily		No. 31, Daily	
	A. M.	P. M.	A. M.	P. M.	A. M.	P. M.	A. M.	P. M.
Leave Weldon	11 50	8 58	12 30	7 17	1 50	12 30	8 58	11 50
Ar. Rocky Mt.	12 55	9 52	1 30	8 12	2 30	11 50	1 30	8 12
Leave Tarboro	12 31	9 28	1 06	7 53	1 50	12 30	8 58	11 50
Lv. Rocky Mt.	1 00	9 52	1 27	8 30	2 30	11 50	1 30	8 12
Leave Weldon	1 55	10 47	2 17	9 30	3 30	11 50	1 30	8 12
Leave Selma	2 55	11 03	3 17	10 00	4 30	11 50	1 30	8 12
Lv. Fayetteville	4 30	12 30	5 30	11 50	6 30	11 50	1 30	8 12
Ar. Florence	7 25	2 24	8 25	1 24	9 25	1 24	10 25	1 24
Ar. Goldsboro								
Lv. Goldsboro								
Lv. Magnolia								
Ar. Wilmington								

TRAIN NORTH.

No. 1, Daily	No. 2, Daily	No. 3, Daily	No. 4, Daily	No. 5, Daily	No. 6, Daily		No. 7, Daily	
					A. M.	P. M.	A. M.	P. M.
Lv. Florence	9 45	10 45	11 45	12 45	1 45	2 45	3 45	4 45
Lv. Fayetteville	12 30	1 30	2 30	3 30	4 30	5 30	6 30	7 30
Leave Selma	1 50	2 50	3 50	4 50	5 50	6 50	7 50	8 50
Arrive Weldon	2 25	3 25	4 25	5 25	6 25	7 25	8 25	9 25
Lv. Wilmington								
Lv. Magnolia								
Lv. Goldsboro								
Ar. Rocky Mt.	8 25	9 25	10 25	11 25	12 25	1 25	2 25	3 25
Ar. Weldon	8 30	9 30	10 30	11 30	12 30	1 30	2 30	3 30
Arrive Tarboro								
Leave Tarboro	12 21	1 21	2 21	3 21	4 21	5 21	6 21	7 21
Lv. Rocky Mt.	3 30	4 30	5 30	6 30	7 30	8 30	9 30	10 30
Ar. Weldon	4 35	5 35	6 35	7 35	8 35	9 35	10 35	11 35

Train on the Kinston Branch Road leaves Weldon 8:25 p. m., Halifax 4:15 p. m., arrives Scotland Neck at 5:05 p. m., Greenville 6:57 p. m., Kinston 7:55 p. m. Returning leaves Kinston 7:50 a. m., Greenville 8:52 a. m., arriving Halifax at 11:18 a. m., Weldon 11:38 a. m., daily except Sunday.

H. M. EMERSON, Gen' Pass Agent  
J. R. HENLY, Gen'l Manager  
H. M. EMERSON, Traffic Manager

## Atlantic & N. C. Railroad

TIME TABLE No. 11.

MARCH 11th, 1900.

EASTBOUND TRAINS.

STATIONS.	Passenger, Daily	Mixed P. M. and Pass. Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday	Daily except Sunday, Mixed Solid P. M. Cars and Pass.	Passenger, Sundays Only	
				P. M.	A. M.
Goldsboro	8 40	7 10	7 30	7 40	7 40
Best's	4 00	7 45	7 58	8 00	8 00
LaGrange	4 00	8 11	8 10	8 09	8 09
Falling Creek	4 20	8 28	8 27	8 26	8 26
Kinston	4 32	9 14	9 10	9 09	9 09
Caswell	4 45	9 25	9 20	9 19	9 19
Dover	4 55	9 35	9 30	9 29	9 29
Cove Creek	5 07	10 40	10 02	10 01	10 01
Tuscarora	5 19	11 15	10 20	10 21	10 21
Clark's	5 25	11 31	10 30	10 30	10 30
Newbern	5 50	1 30	10 50	10 50	10 50
Riverdale	6 15	1 31	10 55	10 55	10 55
Croatan	6 18	1 32	10 58	10 58	10 58
Havelock	6 30	1 33	11 00	11 00	11 00
Newport	6 45	1 35	11 05	11 05	11 05
Wildwood	6 54	1 36	11 08	11 08	11 08
Atlantic	6 59	1 37	11 10	11 10	11 10
Morehead City	7 07	1 38	11 11	11 11	11 11
Morehead City	7 15	1 41	11 15	11 15	11 15

WESTBOUND TRAINS.

STATIONS.	Passenger, Daily	Mixed P. M. and Pass. Monday, Wednesday & Friday	Daily except Sunday, Mixed Solid P. M. Cars and Pass.	Passenger, Sundays Only	
				A. M.	P. M.
Goldsboro	11 05	6 00	6 00	7 40	7 40
Best's	10 45	5 58	7 05	7 15	7 15
LaGrange	10 35	5 52	7 00	7 07	7 07
Falling Creek	10 22	4 53	6 57	6 57	6 57
Kinston	10 12	4 48	6 49	6 47	6 47
Caswell	9 50	4 18	6 15	6 35	6 35
Dover	9 45	3 50	6 00	6 20	6 20
Cove Creek	9 35	3 30	5 37	5 37	5 37
Tuscarora	9 25	3 20	5 30	5 30	5 30
Clark's	9 15	3 10	5 11	5 37	5 37
Newbern	8 57	10 47	4 50	5 37	5 37
Riverdale	8 15	10 10	4 50	5 37	5 37
Croatan	8 00	10 00	4 50	5 37	5 37
Havelock	7 40	9 40	4 50	5 37	5 37
Newport	7 30	9 37	4 50	5 37	5 37
Wildwood	7 20	9 37	4 50	5 37	5 37
Atlantic	7 10	9 37	4 50		