

# THE HIGHLANDER.

Vol. 1. HIGHLANDS, MACON COUNTY, N. C., FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 1886. No. 33.

The trailing arbutus (*epigoea repens*) is coming into bloom in sheltered spots.

We have had beautiful spring weather during this week.

The strikes on the south-western railroads still continue.

The wife of George Bancroft, the historian, died in Washington on Tuesday.

The Albemarle and Pamlico Colonization Co. has purchased 200,000 acres of land in Dare County, having paid \$100,000 for the same.—*Asheville Citizen*.

These beautiful mornings are musical with the voices of the earlier songsters—robins, bluebirds, meadow-larks and sparrows.

At a meeting of the House Committee on March 12, the consideration of the educational bill was postponed until the third Friday in April.

It is not known positively where Columbus was buried. Both Havana and San Domingo claim the honor of possessing his ashes.

It is said that the Carolina Central Railroad is to be at once extended to Rutherfordton, and from thence it will doubtless be extended to Asheville.

A bed of pansies will give about as much pleasure as any bedding plant we know of. It is now time to sow the seeds. Any sunny window will answer.—*Rural New Yorker*.

The pay of third and fourth class postmasters of the United States ranges all the way from \$1,000 to 49 cents per year. The last named is the exact amount paid a North Carolina postmaster last year.

The Normal School begins its summer session in Asheville some time in July. The rates of fare on the W. N. C. R. have been fixed at four cents a mile the round trip, from all quarters.

In another column will be found the interesting article from the *Asheville Citizen* of which we spoke last week. We thank our neighbors for their cordial appreciation of Highlands.

On Friday night last, robbers boarded an express train on the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad between Joliet, Ill., and Morris, killed the express messenger, opened the safe, and took from it \$25,000. The messenger fought bravely, but was at last beaten to death.

Mr. J. A. Goulden, of Pennsylvania, who has been devoting himself for years to settling colonies in Minnesota, Michigan, Dakota, Colorado and Nebraska, announces that he will hereafter turn his attention to Georgia and Alabama, there being a demand for a milder climate, and for the improved agricultural and industrial conditions that must be a necessary accompaniment.

More than two months of the new year have passed. The business situation throughout the United States is perhaps not altogether what many people in the various sections hoped for, but it is on the whole such a decided improvement upon the conditions that obtained at the corresponding time last year, that there is, to say the least, great grounds for encouragement.—*Baltimore Manufacturers' Record*.

THE LOUISIANA LOTTERY.—A lottery has for years controlled the legislature of Louisiana, and it now seeks to control Congress. It has agents in Washington who are trying to prevent the passage of a bill to prohibit the mailing of newspapers containing lottery advertisements. Louisiana is the only State that does not protect its citizens from the baneful effects of this evil agency. But this swindling concern draws the principal part of its earnings from the citizens of other States.

## NARROW GAUGE ROAD TO THE CRANBERRY MINES.

Narrow gauge railroads usually present some peculiar and startling features, but no one this side of the Rocky Mountains is so bold in its construction, nor has so much of wild and grand scenery on its route, as the East Tennessee and Western North Carolina road from Johnson City to the great magnetic iron ore mines at Cranberry, in the mountains of North Carolina.

Firstly, it is one of the best built roads to be found anywhere. Leaving Johnson City at an elevation of 1,600 feet, it drops down into the valley of the Watauga to 1,450 feet of elevation, but at Elizabethton starts up Doe River, and rising with that rapidly falling stream to the beautiful Doe river cove, where is located the thriving little village of Hampton, still follows the stream into the wild and romantic gorge. This Doe river cove is a geological curiosity. It is a valley of limestone rock with large springs gushing up through it, perfectly surrounded by mountains of potsdam sandstone. Wiers and Tuckaleechee coves, in Blount county, are the same, as also is nearly the whole of Johnson county. Doe river cove is worth seeing, and its large springs of brightly clear cold water have a very refreshing look. The water powers on Laurel and Doe rivers are good, and it might be made the seat of several small manufactures. It is the outlet of all the Watauga country of Tennessee and much of Western North Carolina. There is good iron ore and manganese in the neighborhood.

The gorge is where Doe river cuts through a spur of Rip Shin mountain, and the railroad follows up the river with nearly all its winding, in four instances, where the river curve was too short, having tunnels. In several places the curves are 20 degrees on 60 feet grades, and standing on the rear platform of the car, it looks at some points as if one could almost jump on the locomotive. The cliffs on either side rise from 500 to 1,500 feet high, and form some of the grandest river scenery to be found anywhere. Two years ago, going through with the American Association of Mining Engineers, all expressed surprise that such scenery should be found in the Alleghanies, and many who had been in the Rockies said nothing there surpassed it.

The railroad emerges from this gorge into a narrow valley, which slowly widens, until at Roan Mountain station it becomes of considerable size, and has been known for years as the Crab Orchard. At Roan Mountain station, Gen. Wilder has a saw and grist mill and planing mill. The view of the mountains from this point is very fine. The road gradually climbs up until near the State line it reaches a grade of 158 feet to the mile. Then passing over the divide ridge between the waters of Elk and Doe, goes to the mines of Cranberry nearly on a level. Thus it is that this road, intended as a great iron ore carrying road, has a down grade for the loaded car for thirty of its thirty-five miles of distance. Col. Minson is president, and Mr. Ab. Minson is superintendent.

At Cranberry are the great mines of magnetic ore, of which more hereafter. Elk Park, a little village two miles west of Cranberry, is the great timber depot of the road, and millions of feet of walnut, cherry and poplar have been shipped from there, and a half dozen saw mills in the mountains around are still sending in their product. It is well located for residences; has a good hotel, owned by M. L. Banner, one of the most enterprising men of that section, and kept by Mr. Chas. Patton; several good but not large water powers in the vicinity. One pecu-

liar shipment from that region, and one, too, which has been made in large quantities, is ivy roots. Some are still shipped, but the trade is not so active as formerly.—H. E. C. in *Tradesman*.

## BUILDING A GREAT TELESCOPE.

The largest refracting telescope in the world is in process of construction by Alvan Clarke, the eminent telescope maker at Cambridgeport, Mass. The two discs of glass go to form the lens of the great Lick telescope, which will be placed in the observatory on the peak of Mount Hamilton, a bequest of the millionaire, James Lick. The two circular glasses are valued at \$25,000 each, and if destroyed they could not be duplicated within the next six months for millions of dollars. The discs were cast in Paris, the order being given five years ago, but the failures in casting were so numerous that the perfect discs were not received by Messrs. Clark until last September. When finished the lens will be thirty-six inches in diameter. Since receiving them last September, Mr. Clark and his sons have been constantly at work upon them, but they do not expect to have them completed much before next fall. When finished, the two lenses will weigh about 700 pounds. The work of polishing the discs has now reached that stage where the removal of a few grains more or less from the wrong place, would ruin them. The only instrument used is the hand smeared with rouge, a polishing substance finer than the finest emery. Some idea of the power which this instrument will possess may be gained from the statement recently made by an astronomer, that, gazing at the moon 240,000 miles away, that orb will, by this telescope, be brought within less than one hundred miles from the eye of the beholder.—*New York Tribune*.

## ARRIVALS AT THE HIGHLANDS HOUSE.

March 8—Charles C. Foster, Boston, Mass.  
March 15—J. E. Segur, Tracy, Minn. S. E. Gandy, Anthony, Florida.

The Oregon steamship, of the Cunard line, came in collision with a three-masted schooner off Fire Island on Sunday morning at four o'clock, and sank in a few hours. The passengers, 641 in number, and the crew, were saved, and were brought to New York by the steamer Fulda. The baggage, and most of the mails, went down with the vessel. The schooner sank immediately, and all on board were lost.

## HIGHLANDS MARKETS.

Wheat	.....	\$1 25 to \$
Buckwheat	.....	50
Corn	.....	50
Oats	.....	50
Rye	.....	65
Flour, per 100 lbs.	.....	3 50 " 4 00
Western flour	.....	4 50
Butter	.....	15 " 35
Eggs	.....	10
Potatoes	.....	40 " 50
Onions	.....	60 " 80
Apples	.....	50 " 90
Beans, per bushel	.....	1 00 " 1 50
Chickens	.....	10 " 15
Fodder, per 100	.....	1 50 " 2 00
Hay, per 100 lbs.	.....	1 00 " 1 50
Sorghum syrup	.....	40 " 50
Dried apples, per lb.	.....	3 " 8
Dried peaches	.....	4 " 15
Dried blackberries	.....	5 " 10
Pork	.....	6 " 8
Beef	.....	7 " 8
Wood, per load	.....	75
Cabbage, per lb.	.....	1

**BURKE & CUNNINGHAM,**  
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FRANKLIN,  
Macon County, North Carolina.

## Administrator's Notice.

All persons holding claims against the estate of Mrs. Annie C. Dimick, deceased, must present them for payment within twelve months of this date, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. I also request all parties indebted to said estate to settle with me at once, and save expense.

CHAS. L. FROST, M.D.,  
Administrator of the Estate of Annie C. Dimick.  
Highlands, Macon Co., N.C., Mar. 9, 1886

## HIGHLANDS HOUSE,

HIGHLANDS, MACON CO., N. C.

Health Resort for Winter and Summer.

Altitude 3,700 feet—The Land of the Sky.

Pure invigorating air.

Pure cold spring water.

Grand scenery.

Good fare.

Terms low.

JOSEPH FRITTS, Proprietor.

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