

**North Carolina Superstitions.**

If one would learn the popular superstitions of North Carolina he must go into the rural districts. Below are some of the common sayings:

If, in washing the dishes or cleaning the table before a meal, the cook drops a dishrag, some one is coming in hungry.

The crowing of a rooster before the front door early in the morning foretells the visit of a stranger.

If a red bird flits about the front yard and chirps merrily, a young girl gaily dressed and light hearted may be expected soon.

The crowing of a rooster early in the night is the sign of hasty news. Thus many a chicken rooster, by a single crow, has cast a gloom over an entire family.

The howling of a dog at night foretells some dire calamity, such as a tragic death.

If a dog lies on his back, with feet extended upward, in the front yard, some member of the family in which he belongs is sure to die soon.

The screaming of a screech owl three nights in succession in or about the front yard is the sign that some one in the house is in danger of death. To drive the owl away stick the shovel in the fire.

The crowing of a chicken hen portends bad luck. It certainly means a death, for no good woman would permit a crowing hen to live any longer than it would take to bring an axe across its neck.

In ironing a garment if the smoothing iron is dropped the owner of the garment will never live to wear it out.

Friday is an unlucky day. If a piece of work is begun on that day, the one who begins it will not live to see it finished.

If the individuals of a hunting party in crossing a fence go over the same section luck will be good, but if several sections are crossed the hunt will be a failure.

If in strolling two persons go on opposite sides of a tree, one or both of them will meet disappointments before the day is over.

Looking at the new moon for the first time through obstructed space as through a tree top, foretells misfortunes during the moon. To see it over the right shoulder and in clear space brings good luck.

The rabbit always carries omens of ill fortune. If you meet him on going from home you may look for trouble before you return; if going toward home, there will be trouble in your family.

Ashes must not be taken from a fire-place in a sick room. The death of the patient would follow. Nor must the bed of a sick person be turned over.

No one ever saw a negro meet a corpse. The most courageous negro would go out of his way to avoid such a calamity. It is said that if you meet a corpse your time will come next. If the corpse is stopped on the way to the grave, another member of the family will soon follow.

Kraut must be made in the dark of the moon if it is to be sour.

It is the height of folly to cut a child's finger nails before it is a year old, for then it will steal. The nails must be broken off.

If a child is allowed to look in a mirror before it is a year old teething will be difficult.

The tying of a small sack, containing

the four feet of a ground mole, around a baby's neck assures a full set of pretty teeth. If in teething the child's gums are sore that may be cured by rubbing them with rabbit brains hot from the head. The writer has seen both of these remedies practiced.

To remove a wart from the body steal a piece of meat, rub the wart with it and then bury it. Say nothing about what you have done and the wart will soon disappear.

A stray black cat in the back yard foretells good luck.

If a woman is making soap and a man comes up and stirs it, all will be well and the soap will be fine, but if a woman comes, the soap will spoil in making.

If you sing in bed you will cry next day.

If a railroad engineer sees a black sheep cross the track in front of him he expects trouble. That is an omen of ill luck.

If you want a cat to stay at your home rub its paw on the stove.

To keep a new dog measure his tail with a cornstalk and bury the latter under the front door steps.

If you sleep with your feet toward the door you will soon be carried out a corpse.—*Exchange.*

**Proctor's Solemn Wit.**

One day, in the Senate, Senator Vest, of Missouri, in the midst of an impassioned speech recited one of Milton's poems in a very tragic manner.

"The author of that great poem," said Vest, in an impressive undertone, "was John Milton—and it has been set to music by the great Beethoven."

There was a religious silence all over the Senate, when Senator Proctor, whose face had assumed the forlorn and forbidding expression of a professional mourner, arose and remarked in a deep bass voice that was heard all over the Senate chamber:

"Vest, sing it!"

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