

# The Rutherford Star AND WEST-CAROLINA RECORD.

"BE SURE YOU ARE RIGHT AND THEN GO AHEAD."—DAVEY CROCKETT.

VOL. VII.

RUTHERFORDTON, N. C., JUNE 13, 1874.

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Go and Learn a Trade.

[Sung by a little blind boy—a pupil of the N. C. Deaf & Dumb and Blind Institute, before the N. C. Press Association, on Wednesday, May 13, 1874.]

I'll sing a little song to night,  
And every word is true,  
You'll find that every line is meant,  
Young gentlemen, for you!

I've no intention to offend,  
In what is said or said,  
The sum and substance of it is,  
To go and learn a trade.

Chorus:—The coming man, is he,  
Who lives,  
To see his fortune made,  
When everybody will respect,  
Because he learned a trade.

Your education may be good,  
But time is flying by,  
Instead of working, don't be fooled,  
For a man may not die;  
And if he should the chances are,  
The will may be mislaid,  
Or you cut off without a cent,  
So go and learn a trade.

Chorus, &c.

This country's full of nice young men  
Who from their duty shirk,  
Who think 'twould crush their family pride  
If they should go to work;  
Take off your coat, (your father did),  
And find some honest maid,  
Who'll help you make your fortune when  
You've learned an honest trade.

Chorus, &c.

Be temperate in all you do,  
Be faithful to your boss,  
You'll find the more you do for him,  
Will never prove a loss,  
You'll find in fifty years from now,  
When fame and fortune's made,  
The best step that you ever took,  
Was when you learned a trade.

Chorus, &c.

Jones, of Nevada, as a Speller.

In the days when "boiled shirts" were a Sunday luxury, the owners of those articles had their names stamped on the bands below the plaits, and as the fashion of vests was not tolerated at that time (this was not in the earlier years of the reign of George III), the name of a man could be easily ascertained by glancing at the wristband, which was fully exposed to view. On one occasion Mr. Jones had attire himself hastily, and in the hurry had put on a shirt stamped with the name of his room-mate—J. Owens. "Hello!" said a friend, "you've borrowed a boiled shirt for your holiday." "Oh, no," said Jones, "this is my shirt." "Well, there's another man's name on it," pointing to the convincing proof, "J. Owens." But quick as a flash, when Jones saw his mistake, he turned it to his advantage: "Oh, this is the way our Welsh folks spell the family name, J-o-w-e-n-s, Jowens or Jones, as you call it. D'y'e see?—*Alta California.*

## Patents and the Patent Office.

BY F. A. LEHMANN.

Perhaps a few words in regard to patents, and a short description of some of the most important inventions patented from month to month, may interest the readers of the Republic. People are beginning to thoroughly understand the importance of patents, and each year the interest of the whole country is becoming more and more centered around the Patent Office. There is nothing that we use in mechanics, science, or art that has not at some time been, either directly or indirectly, the subject of a patent. To such an extent have inventions been carried in many classes that there seems to be little or nothing left to be invented, as far as can now be seen, except small details of construction which tend to add something to the usefulness of the article, or cheapening its manufacture; and yet improvements will continue to be made and patented as long as one of the articles are used. Over three thousand patents have been granted upon washing machines alone, and the cry is, "still they come;" upward of twelve hundred upon churns, and yet the dairymen "are not happy;" about twenty-five hundred upon stoves, while those upon plows, cultivators, and other agricultural implements are almost numberless.

To such a perfection have some machines been carried that it is said there are moving machines which will go into the field, cut the grain, bind it, take it home, and pack it in the barn, all one motion; burglar alarms are so near perfect that a thief has only to look at the house, and the alarm will instantly sound the call for the police; permutation locks have been made so complex that after they are once locked the inventor himself can only open them by the aid of nitro-glycerine; stump extractors have been improved until a farmer is compelled to sell his farm to buy one of the "latest edition;" while cultivators have had so many other devices and machines combined with them that the owners are compelled to take down their fences, when they reach the end of a row, in order to turn around. Many of the machines and processes which are just beginning to be widely and favorably known were invented many long years ago, but were never brought into use, because there was then no demand created for them. Thus it was with Ellet's engine, which is effecting such a wonderful saving in fuel, and is being adopted by the users of steam engines all over the country. It was first invented by a Frenchman, in only a little form, nearly one hundred years ago, but nothing was ever done with it until Ellis reinvented it and brought it to the notice of the public.

The surprise of many inventors can readily be imagined when, after having spent months and even years in experimenting and studying over some invention, they finally get it complete and file an application for a patent, and then learn that there are dozens of the same thing in the office.

There are a number of classes in which the same devices invented at least once a month all the year round, year after year, and each succeeding inventor is as enthusiastic over it as a child over a new toy. More than forty years ago some one conceived the idea that running perforated pipes over the tops of houses, and connecting these pipes to a pump, so that in case of a fire water could at once be forced through pipes on to the roof, either to extinguish the fire there or to prevent the roof from catching from other buildings. These pipes have only been adopted in exceptional cases, and are almost unknown over the country.

Inside of two months after the Chicago fire there were upward of twenty applications for patents

upon this same device, and every big fire over the country is the cause of from one to six new applications.

Strange as it may appear to many, the inventors of small things—such as toys, for instance—generally realize more money from their patents than the inventors of looms, steam engines, and other large machines, which add so much to our civilization.

It is comparatively very rare that inventive genius and commercial enterprise go together. Many men take out patent after patent, many of them valuable inventions, from none of which do they realize even their patent fees.

Laboring under the impression that the world will come and seek them out and pour wealth into their laps, they sit down and make no effort to create a demand for their wares, and only waken from their fond dreams by the lapse of years and the expiration of their patents. To manufacturers patents are of more value than many can imagine. Some, like Stephenson, the street-car manufacturer, of New York, patent every improvement they can devise, no matter how small, until at last it is almost impossible to build a street-car without infringing some one of his one hundred and fifty patents. So in regard to buggies and springs, upon which Saladee has taken as many more. Many patents for machines which in themselves are almost useless, and yet containing the germ idea of some fine invention, have realized their owners—nearly always some one else than the inventor large fortunes.—*Republic.*

## Oriental Exploration.

Besides several societies in the old world now engaged in oriental exploration, there are two prominent ones in America: The Oriental Topographical Corps and the Palestine Exploration Society. These two organizations are entirely separate, both in their structure and their methods of work. The Corps is friendly to the objects of the Society however, and willing to co-operate with it when practicable.

The Corps has its second expedition in the east. It is led by Prof. James Strong, and has just completed important work in the valley of the Nile. The Professor is aided by an able staff of engineers, scientists and artists. This expedition is now following the route of the Israelites from the Red Sea to Sinai, and will pass from there, by way of the wild fastnesses of Arabia Petraea, to Southern Palestine; thence by way of Gaza and the Mediterranean coast line to Mount Carmel, and from there, east, to Bethshean, and northward through the regions of the Sea of Galilee to Damascus, returning southward through Bashan and Moab, and by the Dead Sea and the River Jordan to Jerusalem. Turning north again, it will pass through Central Palestine, and by way of Tyre and Sidon to Mount Lebanon. The expedition will then make a line of observations through Asia Minor and Greece, on its way home, late in the season.

Soon this organization will send other similar expeditions to the valleys of the Euphrates and the Tigris, and to Ararat for thorough outline surveys of these regions with a view of following them, after finishing Palestine, with more minute work as soon as the way has thus been prepared to do so with economy of time and money.

These outline surveys are being made with sufficient triangulation to render them mathematically reliable as a permanent framework for future operations; sufficiently so, in fact, to construct from them far more minute maps of most of these regions than any now in existence. A nucleus for a museum of the stones, shells and birds, plants and flowers of

Bible lands was secured by the pioneer expedition of the Oriental Topographical Corps which went out in 1873 under George May Powell. The pioneer expedition also made important observations relative to the location of Mount Calvary, and to the question of the "early and latter rain." It brought back valuable "squeezes" from written stones lately found far away in Upper Egypt, and secured and organized a corps of correspondents, composed of scientific men, who reside in Egypt, Syria and Northern Africa. Through these correspondents work is now being accomplished by an insignificant expenditure of money, which would cost many thousands of dollars if done otherwise.—*Culture and Progress; Scribner's for June.*

## The Sea Giving Back Evidence of Crime.

A wealthy manufacturer of matches, by name Bernoni Howard, was found guilty on the 22nd, of procuring the engraving of a counterfeit revenue plate. The history of the case is peculiar and its moral self-evident. A few years ago Howard ranked as the largest and richest match manufacturer in the United States, employing a small regiment of work-people in his factory at Philadelphia, and living in substantial style. By religious profession he was a Quaker, and of New England parentage. In 1868 he planned and carried out a scheme for defrauding the revenue by printing counterfeit stamps. A copper plate was prepared by a skilled engraver under his directions and a printing and perforating machine purchased, the whole costing several thousand of dollars. These were moved to the residence of his accomplice in Brooklyn, and the stamps printed were used by Howard in his manufactory. Subsequently the machinery was removed to Staten Island, where eventually Howard became alarmed, and discontented using fraudulent stamps, his accomplice throwing the plate into the bay. Several months elapsed, when one morning a fisherman while dredging for oysters fished up the plate, and took it home, thinking to mend his stove with it, but on removing the verdigris he saw the name of Howard upon it, and began to show it among his neighbors as a curiosity. Howard heard the news, and took an early opportunity of sending a friend to the fisherman to buy the plate as a curiosity for \$25, but before the friend could make the offer, the revenue officers, who had an eye upon Howard's doings, arrested the fisherman and obtained from him the plate, and the story of its coming into his possession. This led to a discovery of the fraud and finally to a full confession by Howard's confederate, and his own downfall and ruin. As the penalty for counterfeiting is heavy, the delinquent, who is now getting into years, will probably end his life in prison.

## How Thimbles are Made.

The manufacture of thimbles is very simple, but singularly interesting. Coin silver is mostly used, and is obtained by purchasing coin dollars. Hence it happens that the profits of the business are affected instantaneously by all the variations in the nation's greenback promises to pay. The first operation strikes a novice as almost wicked, for it is nothing else than putting a lot of bright silver dollars, fresh from the mint, into dirty crucibles, and melting them up into solid ingots. These are rolled out, to the required thickness, and cut by a stamp into circular pieces of any required size. A solid metal bar of the size of the inside of the intended thimble, moved by powerful machinery up and down in a bottomless mould of the outside of the

same thimble, bends the circular disks into the thimble shape as fast as they can be placed under the descending bar. Once in shape, the work of brightening, polishing, and decoration is done upon a lathe. First the blank form is fitted with a rapidly-revolving rod. A single touch of a sharp chisel takes a thin shaving from the end, another does the same on the side, and a third rounds off the rim. A round steel rod, dipped in oil and pressed upon the surface, gives it a lustrous polish. Then a little revolving steel wheel, whose edge is a raised ornament, held against the revolving blank, prints that ornament just outside the rim. A second wheel prints a different ornament around the center, while a third wheel with sharp points makes the indentation on the lower half and end of the thimble. The inside is brightened and polished in a similar way, the thimble being held in a revolving mould. All that remains to be done is to boil the completed thimbles in soap-suds, to remove the oil, brush them up, and pack them for trade.—*Et.*

## Using Nails.

Every farmer, who has occasion to drive a nail into seasoned oak posts, knows its liabilities to bend and break. If the point be moistened in the month it will usually drive more kindly. Oil is much better, but then it is inconvenient to dip each nail separately into it. Another point is, that boards become loose eventually from the rusting of the nails, which, communicating to the wood, causes not only an enlargement of the nail hole, but the wearing away of the nail itself, rendering the fence or building shaky and insecure. This may be prevented by heating any rough grease until it smokes, and then pouring it over the nails to be used. The grease will penetrate the pores of the iron, and cause the nails to last without rusting, for an indefinite period. Besides this, no difficulty will then be experienced in driving them into the hardest wood. The reason is, that the coating of the grease prevents contact by air, and consequently oxidation. Oxygen is the inducing cause. Anything which kept from contact with the air is preserved indefinitely, and if it is kept dry, the effect is measurably the same. Paint upon buildings prevents the contact of air and moisture. If the whole fence cannot be painted, the heads at least of the nails should be touched therein.

## He.

Highlanders have the habit, when talking their English, such as it is, of interjecting the personal pronoun "he" where not required—such as "The King he has come," instead of "The King has come." Often, in consequence, a sentence or an expression is rendered sufficiently ludicrous, as the sequel will show. A gentleman says he has had the pleasure of listening to a clever man, the Rev. Mr. — (let his locality be a secret), and he began his discourse thus: "My friends you will find the subject of discourse, this afternoon, in the first Epistle general of the Apostle Peter, chapter 5th and verse 8th, in the words: 'The Devil he goeth about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.' Now, my friends, with your leave, we will divide the subject to-day into four heads. Firstly, we shall endeavor to ascertain 'Who the Devil he was.' Secondly, we shall inquire into his geographical position—namely, 'Where the Devil he was,' and 'Where the Devil he was going.' Thirdly, and this is of a personal character. 'Who the Devil he was seeking.' And fourthly and lastly, we shall endeavor to solve the question which has never been solved yet—'What the Devil he was roaring about.'"