

# The Southport Leader.

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## STEVENS & FARRELL.

Editors and Proprietors  
 SOUTHPORT, Brunswick Co., N. C.  
 SOUTHPORT, N. C., JANUARY 4, 1894.

### SOUTHPORT IN 1893.

The LEADER feels fully warranted in making the statement that the citizens of no other place in the country have so little to complain of and so much to be thankful for as have the citizens of Southport when looking back over the past year.

With the exception of the failure of the Bank of New Hanover, of Wilmington, last June, which worked a great hardship on a good many families here, cutting off not only the interest on funds deposited but also swallowing up the principal itself—with this exception Southport has been free from the depression and hard times which have prevailed so generally elsewhere.

It is true that the general depression in commercial circles in 1893 has been felt here, but there has been no case of suffering or destitution, and where persons desired work they could secure it.

The only real effect of the depressed condition of business in 1893 upon Southport has been to stop for the time the development of plans which would lead to its growth in population and commercial importance, in this particular the past year has been a severe one upon those who were forced to wait for more propitious times in order to see their projects carried out.

In material improvements Southport during 1893 has made important gains, the city government has been economically administered, sanitary conditions were carefully looked after, new houses were built in all parts of the city, and important repairs made on many old ones. In noting the general appearance of the city the LEADER will quote a remark of a visitor who said that Southport for its size, had more painted buildings than any city or town in North Carolina.

The terrible hurricanes of August and October, so disastrous in their effect upon the South Atlantic and Gulf coasts, were actually beneficial to Southport, the damage they inflicted being largely counterbalanced by the increased business they brought to this place. The health of Southport has been as good as usual, the deaths being due mostly to natural causes rather than to specific diseases.

The general trade of Southport during 1893 was satisfactory, and business during the closing days was brisk, the holiday season being more thoroughly enjoyed on all sides than in previous years.

In looking forward for 1894, the LEADER sees nothing to discourage the hopes or predictions of those who look for a Greater Southport.

With no thought or wish for a boom town, the LEADER believes that with clearing financial skies and the awakened interest which the South is creating among investors at home and abroad, Southport will receive the attention which her situation warrants, and will fully justify the confidence which her friends have ever reposed in her future development and growth.

### TO KILL A THISTLE PLAGUE

A bill has been introduced in congress for the appropriation of \$1,000,000, to be expended in the extirpation of the Russian thistle. Those who advocate the passage of the bill argue that it is on the same line of legislation as that followed in the pleuro-pneumonia act of 1884, which appropriated a large sum of money to be expended for the purpose of extirpating a destructive cattle disease.

A Dakota congressman, in advocating the passage of the bill against the Russian thistle, describes that exotic as the most pernicious member of the vegetable kingdom. Judging

from his statement it is as much worse than the pestilent Canada thistle as the Canada thistle is worse than the Scotch thistle, which is not a malignant plant, which interferes but little with farm crops, has a beautiful and fragrant flower, and is the national emblem of the people from whom its name is derived.

The Russian thistle was carried to North Dakota by some Muscovite Immigrants in the seed of grains and plants which they imported. It has spread over both Dakotas, in Nebraska, Iowa Minnesota and northern Wisconsin. Whenever a brisk autumn wind blows from the northwest or west its seed is wafted across vast belts of territory on the downy growth which it produces. It scatters everywhere, and is a universal nuisance and pest.

The descriptions of the plant are all most sensational. From the main stalks new offshoots project in all directions, and from these offshoots, as they ripen, further stems extend, like the cactus growth, until a single thistle is as big as sod cabin. It is a more destructive pest of agriculture than all other plants and all insects combined.

It covers the ground, shading the young crops and absorbing with superior suctional force the moisture and all the sources of nutrition in the soil. Men and animals are compelled to wear sheet iron bootlegs in passing through the thistle fields in order to protect themselves from its pricks, which are not only painful but as poisonous as the sting of a wasp. In Siberia the thistle has driven farmers entirely away from many hundred square miles of fertile territory, has choked up the irrigating canals and has made the highways impassable for man or beast.

The Dakota statesman says that two years' work, prosecuted simultaneously over all the country where the Russian thistle has sprouted, will effect its subjugation. It is evident that heroic remedies are needed, and, if the government can be made to pay for the extirpation of a cattle disease, why not pay to extirpate an infection of the soil?—Chicago Herald.

### WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

The Chicago Inter-Ocean says: "People will remember the prosperity they have enjoyed for years, and will keep asking the cause of present hard times. The country was never richer. Its granaries and storehouses are full." Our esteemed contemporary then asks: "Why are the workshop and the furnace and the diversified manufacturing establishments closed? Who has stopped the wheels and put out furnace fires?"

That is what we all want to know, and satisfactory answers to these interrogatories would be much more acceptable to the country than the interrogatories themselves. As to the latter we weary of their iteration.

We have been told a good many different stories on this subject. According to high Democratic authority the prevailing trouble is due wholly to the iniquity and extravagance of the Republican party, unblushingly practiced through a long series of years; to the billion-dollar Congress, to the McKinley tariff as "the culminating atrocity of class legislation," to the weakness and wickedness of the Harrison administration, and so on.

The Republicans upon the other hand emphatically disclaim the paternity of this legacy of woe, and insist that it is the fruit of Democratic policy of safety; that President Cleveland by failing to grasp the requirements of the financial situation at the outset of his administration and the extra session of a Democratic Congress by failing to effectively deal with it, precipitated a season of catastrophes and a prolonged period of industrial and commercial depression; that the Democratic Congress by seeking to carry out the revolutionary behests of a Democratic national convention, tending directly to free trade in the name of revenue reform, is indefinitely multiplying the dangers and doubts and difficulties of the country; that it has indicated various other lines of unwise and mischievous action calculated to still further weaken the public confidence, and that it is on these accounts that the wheels have stopped, the furnace fires been put out, and a country never richer in resources been practically reduced to poverty.

We must confess that we are not altogether satisfied with either of these partisan explanations, though both are good as weapons of partisan warfare. But when we contemplate the condition of affairs in England, where trade is universally depressed and the great body of the people struggling under the harrow of hard times; in Italy, where the government is laboring under dire straits to hold itself together, and keep a seditions populace in check; in Germany, where every interest is suffering from a form of paralysis and the people rent with fractious differences over questions of taxation and relief, not

wholly dissimilar to those engaging the attention of the American Congress; when we look abroad and find the enlightened world, as it were, in the throes of financial distress, and the best statesmen and financiers of the day grappling with problems that seem to defy solution, the inquiry suggests itself as to whether the causes for all these troubles are not more general than local, and whether the sharp disturbances of the financial nerve centers of Europe and the United States, sympathetic as they are insidious, have not a common origin far beyond the ken of the politicians.

Certain it is we cannot readily be convinced that either the Democratic party or the Republican party, either a Republican Congress or a Democratic Congress, either the Harrison administration or the Cleveland administration is primarily responsible for the blight that has overtaken our national prosperity. We must go further and probe deeper to discover the remedy. We must make the best of affairs as we find them. We cannot stamp out the epidemic, but we can ameliorate its symptoms. We may administer tonics, but we have no panaceas. In due time will come the evolution and the cure.—Washington Post.

### PRESS COMMENTS.

Secretary Gresham's decision that no more "assisted" immigrants will be allowed to land at United States ports will meet with universal favor in this country. These "Assists" have too long abused the freedom of the country to which they have come under disguise of being victims of foreign rulers, cruelly driven from their homes. They are untiring and sleepless plotters against civilization and progress, and need to be treated with a firm and unsparring hand.

### CHEERFULNESS NEEDED.

What is needed more than anything else is a restoration of cheerfulness. The country was never more prosperous than it is to day. Food was never more plentiful, never cheaper. Clothing can be bought for less money than ever before. Rents are not high. Money is plentiful. There is abundance of money in all the large cities of the country and it can be borrowed without trouble. Men who are known to be honest have good credit. Merchants and manufacturers are imploring small dealers to make special efforts to do business. Yet the times are full and it is necessary to establish soup houses in all the cities. Men cannot find work. There is a dullness which can not be explained upon any of the theories which ordinarily apply. The political economist is at fault this time. His finely spun theories do not fit the case the whole taut lies in the people who are complaining of the dullness and stagnation of trade. They do not go ahead with the intention of doing business. Endeavor is at a discount, and thousands who ordinarily are actively engaged in pushing their fortunes now think that it is better to wait while good investments go by them and the people should wake up and go to work. They should throw off the lethargy which has benumbed their faculties. They should declare that business ought to be good and that it is good. They will thus make it all that can be desired.—Buffalo Enquirer.

### THE EASTERN QUESTION.

Europe is in a state of alarm over Russia's declaration that is imperative to make navigable the Kilia mouth of the Danube. To the uninitiated there seems little cause for alarm in this apparently innocent declaration of the necessity for a simple river improvement, and in order to understand the full import of the movement it is necessary to recall the salient points of Danubian politics.

The Danube is an important avenue of international commerce, as it flows through German, Austrian, Hungarian, Servian, Roumanian, Bulgarian and Russian territory. Its freedom of navigation to the commerce of the world has been the frequent subject of treaties between the Powers, and the maintenance of improvements of the navigability of the river has been placed under the supervision of the "European Commission of the Danube." This Commission consists of Great Britain, France, Germany, Austria, Russia, Italy and Turkey. The Kilia mouth is the most northerly of the numerous mouths of the Danube, and through it the river discharges nearly two-thirds of its volume of water. It also forms the southern boundary between Russia and Roumania.

This declaration as to the necessity for the immediate improvement of the Kilia mouth may be considered as tantamount to a notice from Russia to the "European Commission of the Danube" that the former would make the necessary improvements herself. Of course, it would be out of the question that Russia should admit any jurisdiction over her proposed improvements by the moribund Commission of the Danube, Russia naturally would assume control over her own improvements. Thus she would accomplish her long cherished design of obtaining substantial control over the most important outlet of the Danube. Now, any such control by Russia would constitute a serious invasion of the neutrality of the Danube. This neutrality is guaranteed by the Powers, and it constitutes one of the numerous factors in European politics which are commonly grouped under the name of the "Eastern Question." All of these factors are very much involved with each other; and it would be impossible to disturb the status quo in one without disturbing all the others. The action of Russia is, therefore, calculated to reopen the whole Eastern Question, with all that the phrase would imply.—Ex.

### GIVES, BUT NOT IN CASH.

One of New York's philanthropic merchants spends thousands of dollars each year in aiding the poor, but none of his beneficiaries ever gets a cent in cash. His idea is that money giving demoralizes the recipient. He will buy groceries and pay rent for a distressed family and secure employment for the wage-earners. Once they are at work he tells them that he considers it a moral obligation for them to refund, at any convenient season, the sum he has expended. If they do, he regards the case as a triumph of self-respect; if they don't, he finds some excuse for them in his own mind and keeps right on at his self-appointed task. Last Winter he hired a hall in the Hebrew district down town, hired a competent teacher, and provided a number of Jewish girls with free instruction. No proselyting was attempted. Indeed, not a word was said about religion. The girls became greatly interested, and their brothers begged for and obtained admittance. Similar classes are to be established this winter. The merchant allows himself an income of \$3,000 per year. All the rest of the money he makes is devoted to the aid of others.—Ex.

### REVIEWS.

The Engineering Magazine for January is called "A Souvenir Number," and with good reason. It is of unusually large size and treats almost entirely of the World's Fair. The number contains many fine views of the buildings and surroundings of the great Fair. The table of contents is as follows: "Its Value to the American People," by Andrew Carnegie; "Effects of the Centennial Exhibition," by Gen. A. T. Goshorn; "The Architectural Event of our Times," by Henry Van Brunt; "Electricity in 1876 and in 1893," by Prof. Elihu Thomson; "An Era of Mechanical Triumph," by Prof. R. H. Thurston; "International Effects of the Fair," by Edmund Mitchell; "The Mining Industry and the Fair," by R. W. Raymond; "The World's Fair and the Railways," by H. G. Prout; "Designers and Organizers of the Fair," by E. C. Shankland; "Cost and Income of the Great Fair," by Anthony F. Seeberger.

Engineering Magazine, \$3 a year; New York.

Table Talk announces in its prospectus for the coming year that additional advantages and redoubled effort will achieve for it a higher standard than ever before; its aim and its motto are still, "The best among household magazines." It will present, in the culinary department, every novelty, all new dishes both Foreign and American, together with practical menus for each month and the "Inquiry Department" will as heretofore, be open Free to all subscribers, and questions answered, recipes given, in the well-known practical way so helpful to housekeepers. "The New Bill of Fare" will be replete with the latest styles of table decorations and service, decorative meals and many points pleasant to know culled from the social side of woman's life, old English plate (the present popular fancy) and its "hall marks," as well as American potteries will be treated. The fashion articles and general reading never fail to interest, instruct and enable many a busy woman to keep up with the times as well as lighten household duties.

Table Talk \$1.00 a year. Table Talk Publishing Co., Philadelphia.

The short days and long nights of winter give the Atlantic Monthly quite sufficient reason for making the January number particularly strong in its fiction. Mrs. Deland's new novel, "Philip and his Wife," opens with the greatest promise of interest, not only in the power with which it is written, but in its theme of unhappy marriage, indicated, perhaps, by the title, and foreshadowed clearly in the opening chapters. The heroine of Miss Jewett's story, "The Only Rose," has been married three times, but it is not through the treatment of any "question" that the story is delightful. Humor and sympathy and skill give it a high place in Miss Jewett's best work. "Wolfe's Cove," by Mrs. Catherwood, a story of the taking of Quebec, and the continuation of Charles Egbert Craddock's "His Vanished Star," supply the rest of the fiction. Captain A. T. Mahan, the well-known naval writer, contributes a careful study of the career of Admiral Earl Howe, giving a far clearer idea of his part in the Revolution than many Americans possess. A hero nearer our own day is General S. C. Armstrong, of the Hampton Institute. The Rev. J. H. Denison, his classmate at Williams College and his life-long friend, tells, with full appreciation of a rare character, the story of General Armstrong's life. Many articles of great interest to the literary student go to make up this number.

Atlantic Monthly, \$4.00 a year. Boston, Mass.

The promptness with which Ayer's Cherry Pectoral stops a hacking cough and induces refreshing sleep is something marvelous. It never fails to give instant relief, even in the worst cases of throat and lung trouble, and is the best remedy for whooping cough.

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 FRANK J. CHENEY.

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of December, A. D. 1886.

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### WILMINGTON ADVERTISEMENTS.

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### SHOE DEPARTMENT.

Our shoe department asks your attention. We have just received a big lot of shoes of all kinds from the factory.

About 400 pairs of children's and ladies shoes. We have an all leather kid button shoe soft as a glove, for children from 2 to 5 years for 25 cents. From 5 to 8 years for 40 cents, from 8 to 11 years for 50 cents.

Men's heavy plow shoes all leather for 95 cents, good stock and honest wear.

Women's pebble and glove grain button and lace shoes 75 cts, 85 cts, and \$1.

Dongola solid leather button shoes \$1.10. This shoe is cheap at \$1.50.

We carry about 6500 pairs of shoes in our stock, and would be pleased to have a chance to save you from 10 to 25 per cent on your footwear.

### DRY GOODS.

We sell Rocking A., 1 yard wide homespun for 5cts. All kinds of domestic goods, flannels, serges, linings and wash goods from 5cts a yard to 50cts.

### PANTS

500 pairs of new pants

We wish to thank our many friends and customers for our success in the past year. We have had many things to be thankful for. Our trade has been larger, our customers have gained confidence in us, we have made ourselves better prepared to serve you with good honest goods for less money than they can get them at any regular store. Our holiday sales far exceeded our expectations and we will say good bye to 1893 and say good morning to 1894, and ask the many readers of this valuable paper to call and see us when you need anything that you see in its columns put there by us. We never advertise anything unless we have it.

### BLANKETS.

We have a big line of blankets and quilts we want to close out. We will sell them very nearly at cost price.

### CARPETS.

A fine line of all wool carpet for 55, 60, 65cts per yard, hemp carpet from 12, 18, 25cts per yard; half wool, 2 ply beautiful patterns 33 1/2 cents a yard.

### SILK CAPS.

40 dozen babies silk caps just received, for sale at less than half their value. A good silk cap from 25, 40, 50 and 60 cents. These goods are worth twice the money.

### STOCKINGS.

250 dozen men's women's and children's stockings.

### HATS.

40 dozen new and pretty sailor hats for the ladies bought for 1/2 the regular price. Hats we have been selling for 48 and 69 cents, we will now sell for 25 and 40 cents.

We carry all kinds of goods. Come and see us when you want anything that is in the dry goods line. We will save you from 15 to 40 per cent. of your money, and a dollar saved is a dollar made.  
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