

Vol. II.

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Table with columns: No. 50, No. 52. Rows: New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, Charlottesville, Lynchburg, Richmond, Burkeville, Keyville, Drake's Branch, Danville, Greensboro, Goldsboro, Raleigh, Durham, Chapel Hill, Hillsboro, Salem, High Point, Salisbury, Statesville, Asheville, Hot Springs, Concord, Charlotte, Spartanburg, Greenville, Atlanta.

Table with columns: No. 51, No. 53. Rows: Atlanta, Greenville, Spartanburg, Charlotte, Concord, Salisbury, High Point, Greensboro, Salem, Hillsboro, Durham, Chapel Hill, Raleigh, Goldsboro, Danville, Drake's Branch, Keyville, Burkeville, Richmond, Lynchburg, Charlottesville, Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York.

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PETER NEY'S ROMANCE.

New Facts in the History of the North Carolina Schoolmaster.

His Death-bed Statement—Recent Reasons for Believing him have been the Famous French Marshal.

[Washington Critic.] Many years ago, say in the early morning of the present century, the Piedmont region of North Carolina was very sparsely settled, but the inhabitants of those days were thrifty, honest and enterprising people.

After the war of 1812 with our Mother Country and the cessation of hostilities with the red man, and after confidence had been fully restored, these people began in earnest to develop their beautiful and new country.

Among the many good teachers who plied the vocation in those days was one Peter S. Ney, who first made his appearance in South Carolina during the year 1816, and afterwards drifted with the returning tide of traders to North Carolina.

THE CELEBRATED MARSHAL NEY, Napoleon's "bravest of the brave," who, according to all history, "after fifteen sittings of the court of peers," was condemned to die for high treason, was shot on the 7th day of December, 1815, and whose "body received ten balls and fell lifeless."

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around the sides. This conforms to the historic Ney, who was "robust," with "military carriage." One of his friends, knowing Ney's failing, but too kind to keep it from him, sat out his bottle one day and attempted to limit him by placing by its side a small wine glass.

THE ALLEGED EXECUTION. On several occasions when under the influence of whisky, for he loved his dram, Ney said that he was the Marshal, and he told the same to two or three of his most intimate friends when he was entirely sober.

Among other things, he said: "And shall I consign to death the man to whom so many Frenchmen are indebted for life, to whom so many families owe their sons, their fathers?" Peter S. Ney was

FIRST SEEN IN SOUTH CAROLINA in 1816, the year following the historical date of Marshal Ney's execution. At one time, some years after, he was sitting in the corner at a hotel in Darlington, S. C., when a stranger present was telling the crowd about his extensive travels, and among other places he had visited was that of the tomb of Marshal Ney.

One day a gentleman representing himself as being a professional fencer came to Mocksville with the purpose of teaching the art of handling the sword. One of Ney's pupils told him if he would contest with his teacher and prove victorious a class would be organized at once.

As time rolled on after the death of the old gentleman, and as his pupils grew up and became more familiar with French history, and drew more comparisons between the celebrated Marshal and their dead teacher, the interest increased, and, notwithstanding the mystery which seemed to hang over Ney and his previous life, every one of his old friends and pupils, without a single exception, became fully convinced that he was the veritable Marshal.

IN PERSONAL APPEARANCE they describe Peter S. Ney as being tall, broad-shouldered, of fully developed body, military appearance, firm countenance, fully defined features, large chin, piercing eyes and balding head with a slight fringe of sandy and gray hair.

months, but he would invariably return to the cup whenever any thing irritated him severely. One of his friends, knowing Ney's failing, but too kind to keep it from him, sat out his bottle one day and attempted to limit him by placing by its side a small wine glass.

HIS HANDWRITING with that of Marshal Ney I could trace a striking resemblance in many of the letters, and he had the same peculiarity of making a flourish with the pen at the close of his signature. He often wrote words of advice or lines of poetry in the school books or autograph albums of his pupils.

During the year 1825 the Savannah, Ga., printer created a sensation one morning by publishing that one of Marshal Ney's sons was in the city. A few days later it was also published that he was closeted with the police the whole time he was there, and that he quietly disappeared without any one knowing where he had gone.

One day when he was teaching on Hunting Creek, in Iredell county, he had taken several drams, and, feeling rather communicative, took the boys to a large flat sandbar near the school after a freshet, and with a stick marked off the plan of the battle of Waterloo in detail, and showed the various points he occupied and where the five horses were killed under him.

Being right well skilled in this he would often write down speeches and sermons as they were delivered. A Frenchman who once served under Marshal Ney afterwards moved to North Carolina and lived in an adjoining county. One day he saw the old teacher on the streets in Statesville, and at once threw up his hands and started to him, exclaiming, "MON DIEU! MARSHAL NEY!"

From French history we learn that four days after the battle of Waterloo Marshal Ney, in a speech before the Court of Peers, advised a treaty of peace, and in the event this plan was not adopted, he said there publicly "for my part will go to America." This shows that his mind was turned in this direction previous to the day of execution.

ABOUT THE YEAR 1842 a Frenchman named LeMonesco made a tour of the Southern States, lecturing on "Napoleon's Campaigns," and while at Selma, Ala., he told a gentleman from North Carolina in private conversation that he

there was no hope of his recovery. In dressing him for burial these gentlemen found that, in addition to the large scar on the left top side of his head, he had been wounded in the neck, side, thigh, wrist, leg and foot.

Some people may think that if the old teacher was the Marshal he would have gone to Bordentown, N. J., and there have made his home with Joseph Bonaparte, who was living there in fine style as a refugee from the throne of Spain. To these it may be said that it was through the efforts of Ney and other Marshals that Spain was subdued before Napoleon placed his brother on the throne and then as Joseph proved so weakminded that he could not retain the kingdom he was held in contempt by all those who fought and secured for him that high position, and Ney's soldierly conduct and bravery would not allow him to submit to charity from a man for whom he had no respect.

When Ney moved from Iredell to Rowan county a few years before his death, and only a short time before leaving he said to a young man in Iredell, who was one of his favorite students and who had often assisted him in his school: "I am getting old, and will have to die before a great while. When you hear of my death, I want you to come at once and charge of this box of manuscript. You understand my short hand writing better than anybody else. Write this all out and let the people know what it is. There is something here that will astonish the world."

He understood a system of shorthand writing which, upon investigation, was found to be different from any ever used in the United States. He taught it to several of his pupils.

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When his remains were exhumed on the 3d of this May it was found by actual measurement that the skeleton was five feet ten inches in length, and the skull seven and three-fourth inches across the forehead and eight inches through from front to rear, giving a circumference measurement of about twenty-four inches. This verifies the statements made by his pupils as to his size, and proves that he was a man of great capacity.

Every statement made in this article can be verified by living witnesses whose integrity is beyond question. The many truths and valuable lessons taught by this great man will live on and on in the communities in which he moved, and coeval with these his old friends will hand down through generation and generation that this quiet and unassuming country school teacher was none other than the great hero of France, the leader of the "rear guard of the grand army."

HEADQUARTERS OF N. V. April 10th, 1863. GENERAL ORDER No. 9. After four years of arduous service, marked by unsurpassed courage and fortitude, the army of Northern Virginia has been compelled to yield to overwhelming numbers and resources. I need not tell the brave survivors of so many hard-fought battles, who have remained steadfast to the last, that I have consented to this result from no distrust of them, but feeling that valor and devotion could accomplish nothing that would compensate for the loss that must have attended the continuance of the struggle, I determined to avoid the useless sacrifice of those whose past services have endeared them to their countrymen.

By the terms of the agreement, officers and men can return to their homes and remain until exchanged. You will take with you the satisfaction that proceeds from the consciousness of duty faithfully performed, and I earnestly pray that a merciful God will extend to you his blessing and protection. With an unceasing admiration for your constancy, and a grateful remembrance of your kind and generous consideration for myself, I bid you all an affectionate farewell.

A prominent citizen of Alamance county said recently: "I can go among the farmers of my county and in twelve hours borrow \$50,000 at 6 per cent." "How do you account for this financial strength?" we inquired. "It is largely owing to the fact that we have several large cotton factories giving employment to thousands who must be fed and furnish markets for everything almost that our farmers have to sell. You would be surprised to visit any of these factories and see the great varieties of things brought there by the farmers to sell. They sell everything, and hence they produce everything and get the cash for it."

Scrofula. Is one of the most fatal scourges which afflict mankind. It is often inherited, but may be the result of improper vaccination, mercurial poisoning, uncleanliness, and various other causes. Chronic Sores, Ulcers, Abscesses, Cancerous Humors, and, in some cases, Emaciation, and Consumption, result from a scrofulous condition of the blood. This disease can be cured by the use of Ayer's Sarsaparilla.

Entirely Cured. I suffered for the past year, have not found it necessary to use any medicine whatever. I am now in better health, and stronger, than ever before.—O. A. Willard, 218 Tremont st., Boston, Mass. I was troubled with Scrofulous Sores for five years; but, after using a few bottles of Ayer's Sarsaparilla, the sores healed, and I have now good health.—Elizabeth Warnock, 54 Appleton street, Lowell, Mass. Some months ago I was troubled with Scrofulous Sores on my leg. The limb was badly swollen and inflamed, and the sores discharged large quantities of offensive matter. Every remedy failed, until I used Ayer's Sarsaparilla. By taking three bottles of this medicine the sores have been entirely healed, and my health is fully restored. I am grateful for the good this medicine has done for me.—Mrs. Ann O'Brien, 105 Sullivan st., New York.