

CAPE FEAR.

THURSDAY MORNING, OCT. 19, 1876

Written for the Cape Fear.

POOLS ROCK.

BY MRS. CICERO W. HARRIS.

CHAPTER III.

The struggle for freedom waxed hotter. The Colonies were in need of every strong arm and brave heart within their boundaries.

Dudley Pool had left Williamsborough after announcing his intention to join Washington's forces.

When the news of the battle of Guilford Court House reached the village, intense excitement prevailed.

Mary Easterling received this news with emotions of mingled pride and anxiety.

She was suddenly startled by hearing a stealthy step near her, and looking up she saw Dudley Pool standing beside her.

She answered eagerly: "I have heard. Were you there? Did you help to fight the battle?"

"I was not in the battle, but I can tell you what you may not wish to hear.

"If you are really in the army—as you wish me to believe—though many people doubt it—you may also be killed before the conflict is ended.

"I could prevent it," she answered haughtily, rising to leave the porch.

"I propose to cut this interview short, now, and I will go and tell your acquaintances in the village that they can find you in the vicinity of St. John's."

"Listen to me, Mary Easterling," he cried out fiercely.

"What would you say? she asked turning around and looking at him, composedly.

"If you dare to tell any one that you saw me here, I will come in the night and murder you.

"I do not fear you, Dudley Pool. John would avenge my death if you should dare to carry out your threat.

"I do not believe one word you utter. You acted dishonestly in addressing me when you knew I was engaged to John.

darkness. When he again emerged from the gloom of the forest into which the scattering trees led, he was on the borders of the Pool's Rock field, and stooping down, rubbed something he carried in a dark bottle, and walked unmolested into the yawning mouth of the reptile-haunted rock.

Was he a coward, or a Tory—or did his passionate love for the beautiful village maiden cause him to live in that isolated spot, until the danger of war was over, encouraged by the hope that her betrothed husband would be killed in the fury of the conflict?

The hundred years that have passed since that time, have never found an answer to these questions.

When he died—a few years afterward—his will was found and he bequeathed to "Mary, the true wife of John Norwood, the sum of five hundred dollars in gold" and left a letter for her, in which he told her of his lonely life in Pool's Rock, and added, that if she had known his reasons for refusing to join the colonial forces, she might not have utterly despised him.

It may be, that sometimes during the long winter evenings, when John and Mary sat together around the glowing hearth, they recalled the coming of the handsome stranger into their midst, and remembered with feelings akin to admiration the songs he would sing, and the stories of wild adventure he would relate.

And, when Mary would tell of her last interview with Pool on the porch of St. John's, she would forget to mention the man's fierce manner and words, so great was her delight in dwelling on the glad surprise that awaited her when she reached her mother's house, on that eventful evening.

For a note from her lover, in which he told her of his safety and her country's victory was handed to her, and Dudley Pool's threats and strange words were not thought of, long afterwards.

Three generations of the descendants of John and Mary Norwood have worshipped in St. John's Church, and they have seldom passed its sacred portal without bestowing a thought on the brave and true man and woman who watched for the enemies of Liberty by the light of the moon and stars that shone down upon them a hundred years ago.

THE END.

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CAPE FEAR COLUMN ALL THE IMPORTANT NEWS FURNISHED EVERY DAY BY THE "CAPE FEAR"

Wilmington & Weldon RAILROAD CO. OFFICE OF GEN'L SUPERINTENDENT, Wilmington, N. C., Oct. 5, 1876. ON AND AFTER SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8th, 1876, Passenger Trains on the Wilmington & Weldon Railroad will run as follows: DAY TRAIN. Leave Wilmington, Front St. Depot, at 7:50 A. M. Arrive at Goldsboro 11:52 A. M. Rocky Mount 1:40 P. M. Weldon 3:20 P. M. Leave Weldon, daily 12:40 P. M. Arrive at Rocky Mount 2:23 P. M. Goldsboro 4:05 P. M. Wilmington, Front St. Depot 8:20 P. M. NIGHT TRAIN, Pullman's Sleeping Coach Attached. Leave Wilmington at 6:15 P. M. Arrive at Goldsboro 12:45 A. M. Rocky Mount 1:40 A. M. Weldon 3:15 A. M. Leave Weldon, daily 8:10 P. M. Arrive at Rocky Mount 10:46 A. M. Goldsboro 1:50 A. M. Wilmington 8:15 A. M. The Day Train makes close connections at Weldon for all points North via Bay Line, daily except Sunday, and daily via Richmond and all-rail route. Night Train makes close connections at Weldon with train for Petersburg and Richmond. FREIGHT TRAINS will leave Wilmington tri-weekly at 5:31 A. M., and arrive at 1:40 P. M. JOHN F. DIVINE, General Agent. Carolina Central Railway Comp'y. OFFICE GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT, Wilmington, N. C., Sept. 16, 1876. CHANGE OF SCHEDULE. ON AND AFTER SUNDAY, THE 17th inst., trains will run over this Railway as follows: PASSENGER AND MAIL EXPRESS. Leave Wilmington at 6:30 A. M. Arrive in Charlotte at 8:30 P. M. Leave Charlotte at 6:30 A. M. Arrive at Wilmington at 8:30 P. M. Daily except Sunday. THROUGH FREIGHT. Leave Wilmington at 7:30 P. M. Arrive at Charlotte at 12:30 P. M. Leave Charlotte at 6:15 P. M. Arrive at Wilmington at 12:00 M. Daily except Sunday. LOCAL FREIGHT. Leave Wilmington 6:40 A. M. Arrive at Laurinburg 6:25 P. M. Leave Laurinburg 7:40 A. M. Arrive at Charlotte 4:25 P. M. Leave Charlotte 7:00 A. M. Arrive at Laurinburg 1:50 P. M. Leave Laurinburg 3:00 A. M. Arrive at Wilmington 1:30 P. M. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Leave Charlotte—Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. No Passengers allowed or Tickets sold by Freight Trains. V. Q. JOHNSON, General Superintendent. Papers publishing Time Tables of Company, note changes. Oct 15-1y Alex. Sprunt & Son, COMMISSION MERCHANTS, WILMINGTON, N. C. Oct 15-1f The Raleigh Observer. ON THE 16TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 1876, and in the city of RALEIGH, the undersigned will commence the publication of THE OBSERVER, A DAILY AND WEEKLY Democratic Newspaper. Of long experience in their profession as editors, respectively of the Fayetteville Observer and the Wilmington Journal, they do not affect to doubt the soundness of the general judgment which assigns them ability to furnish a newspaper suited to the needs and adapted to the tastes of the people of North Carolina. Differing in politics in the olden time, there was never a difference between the Observer and the Journal in zeal for the interests and honor of North Carolina. To promote the one, and to uphold and add to the other will be object of the Observer now. It will be their high aim to deserve the public confidence by earnest efforts to promote the public welfare, first and foremost of North Carolina, next of all the Southern States, and finally, and through these, of the whole Union. They think that this can only be effected by the prevalence of Democratic principles and the dismissal of the Radical party from the places and power which they have so greatly abused, and under whose baleful rule the South has been outraged and the whole country has been impoverished and disgraced. PETER M. HALE, W. L. SAUNDERS. RATES OF SUBSCRIPTION. Daily Observer, one year, 48 00 Daily Observer, six months, 4 00 Weekly Observer, one year, 2 00 Weekly Observer, six months, 1 00 All communications should be addressed, until further notice, to W. L. SAUNDERS, Wilmington, N. C. Oct 15-1m