

THE GLORIOUS FOURTH.

The Fourth of July, 1902, being the 126th anniversary of the Declaration of American Independence, has come and gone, and with it the greatest gala-day Gaston county ever saw.

It was Gaston county day in Gastonia and her people were here from Tuckasee to Panhandle to celebrate it. Not only were our own people here in great force, but they came in droves and companies from adjoining counties and from afar to see the sights, and they saw them.

No such pageant as was witnessed here Friday was ever before seen in Gaston county. Possibly Gaston is the only county in the South that could have constructed a pageant just like it; at any rate Gaston lays undisputed claim to having more cotton mills than any other county in the South.

We are glad our neighbors came and we thank them for their helpful and inspiring presence. Kings Mountain, Bessemer, Cherryville, Crowders Mountain, Tuckasee, Mountain Island, McAdenville, Lowell and Dallas did a great and honorable part to make the occasion a glorious one for their county. Gastonia's share was to give our neighbors room that day and we gave them all we had. Wish we had had more room, and had been old enough and big enough and experienced enough to have done twice as well by our visitors as we did. Come again. The latch string has been jerked off, the latch wedged up, and the doors thrown wide open.

Statesville is to be congratulated upon the free delivery of city mails to which she has proven herself entitled. The post-office receipts at that point for 12 months ending June 30 were \$10,572.80. Statesville is already known as one of the most solid and progressive towns in the entire state, and to this knowledge is to be added the landmark's declaration that there is more business done in Statesville according to population than in any other town of similar size in the South.

A Comical Runaway.

An ox running away with a cart up Queen street yesterday created some amusement. An old colored woman was driving the animal. She called to the spectators to "hold the contrary creature or I'll git me neck broke." The spectators didn't interfere, however, as they saw the old woman was in no danger of getting hurt. They followed the runaway for about two blocks, when the animal stopped, probably finding the exertion too much of a good thing. The old woman, when she found herself safe, convulsed the crowd by giving the ox a beating with her whip and by applying such names to him as "you ugly, good-for-nothing debbil, you hippercrit you, you lousy fat, tried to kill me, did you? I'll fix you," and she beat away with all her might.

Med of Paralysis.

Rev. J. S. Moffat received a phone message yesterday morning saying that Mrs. E. M. Stevenson of Albion, Fairfield county, had just died, having been found in the garden paralyzed about 9 o'clock. When found she was breathing but unconscious and died in a short time. Mrs. Stevenson was the mother of the Rev. E. M. Stevenson, of Clover, and was known by many of our readers.

A baby elephant stopped a train on the Moonan railroad last Friday, near Greensboro, Ind. The little elephant, enclosed in a crate, was being shipped to a point in Minnesota. He ran his trunk up through the crate and pulled the bull cord of the train so vigorously that the engineer stopped the train immediately, supposing something had gone wrong. A search through the train discovered the baby elephant again reaching for the bull cord.

FOURTH OF JULY.

GREAT DAY OF FESTIVITY.

The Parade a Magnificent One—About 15,000 People Present—Good Order Characterizes the Day.

Nothing could have been better conducted than was the management by Chief-Marshal E. Bryan Jones and his assistants of the great parade of last Friday. By the time appointed they had everything and everybody in place and the parade in motion. Too much praise cannot be given them for their part in the day's success.

Moving from the Ozark and Modena in the eastern part of town, the parade followed Airline street to York, then with Franklin Avenue, then with Franklin Avenue to the Narrow Gauge, thence back Main, and along Main to York. Here it swung to the right and took Airline Street again to the Lorry mill. There the procession turned back through Lorry to the Lorry grove near the Trenton.

The parade was led by Mr. W. T. Jordan, of Mountain Island, and his party in an automobile. Following him came the two carriages bearing the speakers, and then the Mt. Holy band. The historical floats, the cotton mill floats, the mercantile floats, the Cherryville band, and the private carriages followed in the order named.

THE HISTORICAL FLOATS.

- 1. The Original Thirteen—Represented by Mrs. J. H. Gorman as Liberty and 13 young ladies representing the different States.
2. Other States East of the Mississippi—Twelve young ladies.
3. Florida Purchase—Florida; Miss Salina Latham.
4. Louisiana Purchase (and Territory Northwest)—Fifteen young ladies.
5. Territory ceded by Mexico—Eight young ladies.
6. Alaska—Miss Rosebud Adams.
7. Cuba—Miss Clara Holland.
8. Uncle Sam, R. C. Adams; Porto Rico, C. H. Cavis; Guam, D. M. Jones; Philippines, C. A. Johnson, Hawaii, B. H. Parker.

COTTON MILL FLOATS.

Mountain Island Mills. Dallas Cotton Mills. Avon Cotton Mills, Gastonia. Gastonia Manufacturing Co. Arlington Mills, Gastonia. The Trenton, Gastonia. The Ozark, Gastonia. The Modena, Gastonia. The Dilling, Enterprise, and Cora, of Kings Mountain. The Southern, of Bessemer. McAden Mills, McAdenville. Tuckasee (Mt. Holly.) Lowell Cotton Mills. Spencer Mountain Mills. Gaston Manufacturing Co., Cherryville. Crowder's Mountain and Lula, of Kings Mountain. The Lorry, Gastonia.

These floats were magnificent—worthy of Solomon and Queen of Sheba, and were peopled by prettily dressed girls. They were canopied creations of artistic taste. Each possessed sufficient individuality and merit to make a separate description desirable, but want of space and time forbids such elaboration.

The Dilling Mill, the Southern, the Gaston Manufacturing Co., of Cherryville, The Modena, of Gastonia, and the Mountain Island floats showed products of the mills, either in construction of the floats or attire of the young ladies, and were objects of great admiration and much flattering comments.

MERCANTILE FLOATS.

The Page Company, Craig & Wilson, Coffin Factory, F. Torrence & Co., Gaston Iron Works, J. O. Holland & Co., Long Bros., Gastonia Hardware Co., J. E. Curry & Co., N. Y. Life Ins. Co., T. M. Paysoux, Agent, Fordham & Moore, Gastonia Furniture Company, The Bee Hive, Baltimore Racket, Gastonia Bottling Works, Gastonia Oil Mill, Williams Furniture Co., Heath's One Price Department Store, Thomson Co., W. T. Lyles Co., Haynes and Gannon, Green & Wilson, Gastonia Graded Schools.

The Junior Order of American Mechanics and the Kings Mountain Rifles were also in the parade in striking uniforms.

Deserving of mention along with the floats are the facts that many residences were decorated in honor of the occasion, and that many show windows and business fronts were adorned with a gorgeousness hitherto unapproached.

In the Lorry Park a stand had been erected for the speakers and seats provided under the shade of the trees. Mr. E. B. Wilson was master of the ceremonies. A brief address of welcome was delivered by the editor of THE GAZETTE, and then Capt. J. D. Moore introduced the first speaker of the day, Mr. D. A. Tompkins.

Thirty years ago, said Mr. Moore, there were 44 government distilleries in Gaston and not a school house worth over \$150. Then there were only two

cotton mills. To-day there are 30-odd mills and the county is dotted over with these mills, good schools, academies, and graded schools, with the distilleries in diminishing small numbers. Ninety years ago the first spindle for the first cotton mill in this section of country was hammered out on an anvil up here in Lincoln County. The products of these mills thirty years ago were kept in the stores and sold to the house-wives as "spun truck" to be used in weaving or knitting at home. The South is destined to become the manufacturing centre of the Union. We have the climate, the labor, the intelligence. Forty years ago we were puncturing the folds of "Old Glory" with bullets; to-day we salute its brilliant colors in our enthusiastic loyalty, resolving to be surpassed by none in our Americanism. I take pleasure in introducing to you one who has done and is doing much to make this section what it is to-day, formerly a citizen of Charlotte, but now our own county-man, Mr. D. A. Tompkins.

The speaker was greeted by applause. The Fourth of July is pre-eminently a Southern holiday. Southern statesmen and Southern soldiers in the Revolution were foremost in giving the day and its meaning to this nation. For reasons which have now passed away, its observance in the South long waned, but at last the happy day has come when we are re-justifying a great historic day that belongs to us in a peculiar sense.

Taking up conditions a century or a century and a half ago, Mr. Tompkins showed that the South led the states in manufacturing. Right here in this section iron was mined and rolled, cotton and woolen mills were operating, farming utensils, wagons, tools, machinery, and arms, were manufactured. Rifles were made in Greensboro from iron rolled at High Shoals. I have seen myself, said the speaker, a contract signed by Lincoln machinists agreeing to make all the machinery necessary to equip a cotton mill. Our people were skilled in the use of tools and excelled in manufactures.

Then came the blight of slavery. Laws were made favoring the agriculturist and slave-holders. As slavery flourished manufactures waned. Our mechanics had to go west or to farming in competition with slave labor. Many went West. In the great wagon works in South Bend, Indiana, are workmen whose ancestors made wagons in North Carolina. Now that slavery and the conditions of anarchy entailed by its destruction have passed away the South is reasserting its manufacturing skill. Look at the revelations of this day! We have destroyed more dry goods here in one day celebrating than we used to buy for wearing in six months—and we don't care if we do!

The benefits conferred by manufactures, the conditions favoring them, and community of interest between the farm and factory, and other points were discussed in an effective and interesting manner. Mr. Tompkins concluded his speech with an exhortation to greater independence of thought and political action.

Appropriately introduced by Supt. F. B. Rankin, Dr. Geo. T. Winston, President of the Agricultural and Mechanical College at Raleigh, made a happy address all the way through. When, said he, I noted in the census reports that you had about doubled your population in fifteen years, I thought your increase was due to immigration, but when I saw your streets lined this morning with pretty women and thronged with bright faced boys and girls I concluded I was mistaken—that the natural products of Gaston county had something to do with the increase. There are parents sitting before me who have more children than the entire congressional delegation of Massachusetts. So my subject is, What should be Done With our Boys and Girls. The answer to that question is clear: we should prepare them for the conditions they will meet in practical life, for the work they will have to do when they become men and women.

The speaker argued for education in the business of doing things. The children should be trained to use tools, to make machinery. The North whipped us before the war ever started. The Southern man moved west carrying a negro on his back, the Yankee went west riding straddle of a steam engine.

With much wit and engagingly stated truths, Dr. Winston kept his hearers interested throughout, and with such breeziness of humor, manner, and language as to make his audience forgetful of the while of the heat of the day.

In the afternoon came the baseball, and at night the fireworks and the german at the Falls House.

It was a great Fourth. It was a pretty warm day, but the folks

came prepared for it and found Gastonia prepared for it. There was fun for everybody, there was next to no disorder at all, the police had almost as much holiday as the rest of us, the shoppers were delighted with their purchases and the polite service given them, and we feel sure that whenever Gastonia says "The Fourth" again, the people will say "We're going."

FIRE CRACKERS.

About 10,000 yards of bunting on display.

There were over 4,000 yards of paper festoon, red, white, and blue in the parade and in the decorations.

Did you see the float girls with the red and blue trimmings on their white dresses? They were very jaunty and pretty uniforms.

"Never saw so many girls before in my life."

The Zobo band was a bute, and a jarrer in symphonic noises.

Holland Morrow, the cowboy, was a honey; could have eaten a tenderfoot alive.

No horseman attracted more admiring comment than the Lorry's cotton buyer. In a Prince Albert of white duck with pants to match, with cotton capnettes and a Panama hat, and with flowing white beard, he sat his horse with a dignity which, according to an old soldier, could not have been surpassed by General Lee on old Traveller.

"Gaston county is the concentrated essence of North Carolina," said Dr. Winston. That's it! One might work a year on that sentence and not express it any better.

EDUCATIONAL RALLY.

Every Committeeman in the County Expected in Dallas Saturday.

To the Editor of the Gazette:

Indications point to one of the largest school meetings ever held in old Gaston taking place at Dallas next Saturday, July 12th.

Through the co-operation of the campaign committee of the General Educational conference we have secured the services of Dr. Jno. B. Carlyle, of Wake Forest.

Dr. Carlyle is a polished orator and has education on the brain and heart, too.

You went to the Fourth of July in Gastonia for your own sake. Come to the twelfth for your children's sake. Every committeeman is requested to report at the Superintendent's office in the court house and register. Come and bring the children and your dinner basket.

Respectfully, F. B. RANKIN, Superintendent of Schools.

McADENVILLE ITEMS.

Correspondence of the Gazette.

McAdenville, July 7.—About 300 of us in holiday attire enjoyed 4th in Gastonia. Talking about it yet.

Our ball boys beat Bessemer but are not so jubilant over their defeat the next day by the Modena boys.

The fats beat the lean Saturday morning 15 to 8. Robert Nutall is disconsolate—wife visiting near Shelby.

Prof. Furr and wife, of Concord, are visiting at Mr. D. W. Padgett's.

Mr. J. B. Rush returned to Converse yesterday. His wife will remain several days.

Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Stowe, of Kings Mountain, are guests of Mrs. M. R. Wright and other relatives.

Mrs. Sarah Scott and daughter, Mrs. Osmond, of Tampa, Florida, are visiting relatives here.

Mrs. Harriet Funderburk, of Mountain Island, and Miss Hattie Guion, of Charlotte, are visiting Mrs. T. M. Stafford.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Jenkins, of Crowders Mountain are visiting Mrs. W. P. McAteer.

Mr. I. A. Stafford went to Mountain Island Thursday and returned home with Mrs. Stafford who had been visiting her daughter, Mrs. Chas. Hope for several days.

Mr. Will Grigg and wife are visiting relatives at Mountain Island.

Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Turner, of Danville, Va., who have been visiting here for the past week are sorely bereaved in the death of their 14-months old babe, little Flossie, their only child. The cause of death was whooping cough. The little one died last night and was buried in Goshen this afternoon. We sympathize with the sorrowing parents in their sad loss.

Oil Tankage at Bessemer.

Statistics compiled at Bessemer show that the iron tankage for oil there is 5,813,500 barrels, earthen tankage 4,225,000 barrels, and wooden tankage 192,500 barrels, a total of 10,231,000 barrels, while the amount of oil in storage is 5,450,000 barrels.

CONSOLIDATION OF SCHOOLS.

The Advantages of Fewer Districts and Better Schools.

The following has been sent to us from the office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction for publication:

A campaign for education is on in earnest. This is to be fought for better schools and better school facilities. To accomplish this, an educational campaign will be made in every county where there seems to be an opportunity to improve the present conditions. Walter H. Page says truly that there is enough native intelligence going to waste in North Carolina for lack of training to govern the entire world. There must be a cause for this. If a person's surroundings and associates determine his character and intelligence, then the individual's surroundings should be studied and improved. It is a recognized fact that a child's associates must be elevated if that child's training is to remain permanent. This is the work the Central Campaign Committee for the Purpose of Improving the Public Schools has undertaken to accomplish.

THE EDUCATIONAL PLATFORM.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted by this committee in Raleigh, February 13; it was reaffirmed at Greensboro, April 3, also at Charlotte, May 2, and at Morehead City by the Teachers' Assembly, June 13:

Be it therefore resolved, That it is the sense of this conference that an active and vigorous campaign should be at once inaugurated in every county for the accomplishment of the following ends, to-wit:

- 1. The consolidation of small districts wherever possible.
2. The erection of adequate and comfortable school houses.
3. The lengthening of the public school term by local taxation.

A FOURTH OF THE SCHOOLS ARE RUN CONTRARY TO LAW.

The reports from the different County Superintendents show that about one-fourth of the school districts contain less than sixty-five children of school age.

In other words, about twelve districts for every county (when a general average is made) are illegal. The schools run about three months in the year, and the State Superintendent is called upon for funds to increase them to a four months' school.

WHAT CAN BE DONE BY CONSOLIDATING.

Take three districts that contain just sixty-five children each. The appropriation would be about \$90 for each; just about enough to run three months with one good teacher. This teacher would have an attendance of about thirty-five children, and she would have to teach every subject, from the alphabet to the higher English branches. Now take these three districts and combine them into one and employ two teachers, one for the primary grades and the other for the higher grades. There would be money enough to run a consolidated school four and a half months, and the work could be done infinitely better.

THE DIFFERENT COUNTIES ARE RECOGNIZING THIS FACT.

This consolidation of small districts is such a great economy in school management that county after county is readily combining their schools. In every instance it is done by the people and not by educational boards. The Rockingham Board of Education has invited the patrons of the school all over the county to be present and consider this one question at the next general meeting. Two schools have already been consolidated recently by the vote of the people. At Providence, Randolph County, men left their ripe wheat uncut to attend the educational rally and hear this subject discussed. One farmer expressed the situation when he said: "Nearly every man here represents an uncut wheatfield, but we value good educational advantages at this time more than the saving of wheat. We are deeply in earnest on the question." Over 100 school committeemen alone in Wilson County, attended the educational conference June 27, to consider this question. The women at Hickory have taken up this matter and are arousing deep and lasting interest in this question.

THE EFFECT OF CONSOLIDATION.

Our County Superintendent says: "The residents of the school districts which have been consolidated would raise a strong protest if an attempt were made to go back to the old small school system. Pupils from every part of the district enjoyed a long school term. The mingling of the pupils has had a deepening and broadening influence upon their minds, and there have come into these districts highly educated teachers, whose influence has been far greater than ever came from the contracted district, the dilapidated school building, and the short term of service."

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THE ART OF PERSONAL ADORNMENT

and the jeweler's art are closely intermingled, inasmuch as the latter offers special facilities for the indulging of refined taste. This is particularly true of Torrence, whose line of pins, brooches, rings, bracelets, chains, etc., is especially attractive. Exquisite novelties in unique designs and beautiful workmanship. Also leading makes of gold and silver watches at surprisingly low prices. Splendid jewelry values. Everything fully warranted. TORRENCE, JEWELER and OPTICIAN.

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