

TERMS:

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KEOWEE



COURIER.

To Thine Own Self Be True and It Must Follow as the Night the Day, Thou Canst Not Then Be False to Any Man.

BY THOMPSON, SMITH & JAYNES.

WALHALLA, SOUTH CAROLINA, DECEMBER 12, 1880.

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KEOWEE COURIER, [WEEKLY.] ESTABLISHED AT Old Pickens in 1849, MOVED TO Walhalla in 1868.

Destroyed by Fire June 21st, 1887. Re-Established August 11 1887.

HIGHLANDERS SOUTH.

Description of Their Country, Customs, and Peculiarities.

LIFE IN THE MOUNTAINS OF THE PALMETTO STATE AS SEEN BY A RICHMONDER.

[Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch.]

OCONEE COUNTY, S. C., NOV. 23, '89.

A very queer custom of this section is the manner of burial often practiced. Instead of elaborate marble head-stones or other such memorials to the dead the Carolinian will build over the mound a shed or small house to protect the grave from the inclemency of the weather.

In regard to the settlement of this valuable section of the State, the most intelligent people advance the opinion that immigration is the thing needful. And it does look as if there is a great deal of waste ground. At the same time, considering the early age at which people marry and commence life here, it would appear that South Carolina would in a few years have a teeming population—as numerous as that of Asia.

The early days of many of the country readers of the Dispatch will be panoramaed in a ride through these wilds by the sight of thousands of golden-hued pumpkins, cymilins, and gourds lying in the patches. The pumpkins are cut into slices and hung across a ridge-pole or up against the side of the house alongside the wildcat and coon skins and look like strips of herring hung out to dry on an Eastern North Carolinian's dwelling.

Yesterday I struck a typical mountaineer of the sportive proclivities of the Virginian, who had his pack of hounds and got his meat from the woods. He claimed to have killed more wildcats than any other man in the region and invited me to dismount and look at his trophies—wildcat tails—and bragged of a 'possum hunt he had last night.

OCONEE COUNTY, S. C., NOV. 24, '89.

Reference has been made in former letters to the poor class of houses found in the mountains of this country. The farther you go the worse the houses are. It is inconceivable to a man who finds it necessary to incase himself in an overcoat, fur cap, and rubber shoes to protect himself from the cold, that the people of the mountains should reverse the order of life and prefer to stable and house their horses and cattle and live 'out of doors' themselves.

The indifference to one's habitation may be judged by the following admission: A man was bemoaning the extravagance of one of his neighbors, who had "arred" property, and who, he said, had "welligh run through" with what he had received by his "foolishness" in building "a plank house" (with one room and a shed attachment.)

A common drawback of this country is that every man tries to confine his operation to his own labor without hiring. A farmer with splendid "low grounds" boasted to me that he had made 500 bushels of corn and other stuff and had never hired a man a single day.

A pitiable sight—one that fills the heart with sadness—in the lower country is the old plantations that were worked by slaveholders. They can be recognized at once by the remains of old fences rotting on the ground, where they were nine rails high and ridged, by their over-worked appearance, and the fine old houses which were built to stay.

A horseback ride through these mountains is one of the most exhilarating experiences. The loneliness of the ride, the absence of telegraph poles, steam whistles, and the rumbling of railroad trains—not even the sight of a cabin for hours and hours—make the translation to another and long-passed age easy.

Just here I will note another absence in these mountain homes; no laughter, no smiles and no surprise ever expressed, and there is really more gravity or "chin music" in this letter than you could "grub" out of the average family in a week.

The trees of this vicinity are simply glorious, especially the pines. These giants of the forest have a grain in many cases as close as the leaves of a book, and are so majestic in height and graceful in shape as to excite a spirit of devotion.

Yet she was a simple child of nature. She wore boy's shoes, too large for her; had holes in her stockings; had never seen "the train" or been to town, could neither read nor write, and said her father had a store and she stayed in it.

75 or 80 feet in the clear air, biding their time until the fierce winds that sweep these hills shall lay them prone upon the ground, to return to the generous earth from which they sprang.

Sir Walter Scott has written of the Highlanders and invested them with a halo of romance and poetry, and our own incomparable Bryant has sung of the hills and dales, and trees and plants, and murmuring streams, and pictured them so vividly that the imaginative person, even while the bleak November winds are howling around the chimney-corner, can sniff the fragrant order of June flowers, and from a snug place beside the blazing logs hear the music of brooklets.

The Highlanders of Oconee county, as a general rule, are unpoetical and almost without superstitions, further than lunar influences upon the planting of corn and potatoes and the curing of hog meat. He meets all your inquiries which he does not exactly understand with a "which?"

By Mr. Bowen—To provide a more efficient mode of working the public roads of this State. A bill was introduced by Mr. Zimmerman to-day to amend the pension act, providing that "the widow of any soldier or sailor from the State of South Carolina, or any of the Confederate States, now residing in this State, who lost his life while in the service of the State or Confederate States, or who has died since the war from injuries received or disease contracted while in said service, shall be entitled," etc.

HOUSE, DECEMBER 4.

The following are the most noteworthy of the new bills: By Mr. Eugene B. Gary, to provide for the inspection of scales, weights and measures.

By Mr. King, to amend the law relating to sales under execution. By Mr. W. D. Evans, to regulate the annual settlements of county commissioners and county treasurers for county and school taxes.

By Mr. Watson, to amend the law as to the penalty for carrying concealed weapons. (Prescribes six months in the Penitentiary as an invariable punishment.)

was "no place like home," using Howard Payne's identical words. That home was a single-room log cabin, presided over by a stepmother and inhabited by five half-sisters. The family only ate wheat bread once a week—Sunday mornings. They drank coffee (without sugar) when they could get it.

LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS.

HOUSE, DECEMBER 3.

On the unfavorable report of the judiciary committee, the following bills were rejected: Bill repealing the law against carrying concealed weapons.

Bill increasing the poll tax to \$2. Bill to regulate costs in civil cases where the costs are less than \$100.

Bill to carry into effect Article X, Section 3, of the Constitution, in regard to public schools, by providing that no public school teacher shall receive for his services per month more than one-sixth of the amount to which his school is entitled for the year.

Bill to reduce the privilege tax on commercial fertilizers from 25 cents to 10 cents a ton. Bill to permit persons in Oconee county liable to road duty to pay a commutation tax in lieu of working the public roads was passed and ordered to be sent to the Senate.

Bill providing a mode of ascertaining the names of registered voters convicted of disqualifying crimes and requiring their names to be erased by the Supervisor of Registration from the registration books passed to a third reading without discussion.

The following were among the new bills introduced: By Mr. Bowen—To provide a more efficient mode of working the public roads of this State.

A bill was introduced by Mr. Zimmerman to-day to amend the pension act, providing that "the widow of any soldier or sailor from the State of South Carolina, or any of the Confederate States, now residing in this State, who lost his life while in the service of the State or Confederate States, or who has died since the war from injuries received or disease contracted while in said service, shall be entitled," etc.

By Mr. Turner—To regulate the per diem and mileage of witnesses bound over to testify at the Court of General Sessions in the State; also to authorize certain detectives to carry pistols concealed about their persons while actually engaged in duty.

In the Senate, a bill to incorporate the town of Fair Play in Oconee county, was passed and ordered to the House.

HOUSE, DECEMBER 4.

The following are the most noteworthy of the new bills: By Mr. Eugene B. Gary, to provide for the inspection of scales, weights and measures.

To provide a punishment for making use of false scales, weights and measures. By Mr. King, to amend the law relating to sales under execution.

By Mr. W. D. Evans, to regulate the annual settlements of county commissioners and county treasurers for county and school taxes. By Mr. Connor, to amend the law relating to weights and measures.

By Mr. Watson, to amend the law as to the penalty for carrying concealed weapons. (Prescribes six months in the Penitentiary as an invariable punishment.)

cent. There was a long debate upon it, in which the arguments for and against a usury law so familiar to the public were produced as new. Mr. Lee's motion to indefinitely postpone was lost by a vote of 42 to 69, and the bill passed its second reading without a division. A motion to reconsider was tabled.

The bill to exempt a portion of Whitewater Township, in Oconee county, from the operations of the stock law, was passed and sent to the Senate.

In the Senate the following were among the new bills introduced: Senator Pope, joint resolution amending Article 4, Section 2, of the Constitution of this State, so that the number of Associate Justices of the Supreme Court will be four instead of two as they now are.

Senator Izlar, to amend Chapter 30, Section 1,256, of the General Statutes, so as to authorize and empower the Clerks of Courts in their respective counties to test at least once a year the weights and measures of merchants, butchers, factors and cotton buyers; also to examine the weights and measures of any particular merchant upon complaint by any person.

The bill to require railroads operating over fifty miles of road in the State to run at least one unmixd passenger train a day was favorably reported.

Thursday, December 5, very little progress was made by the House in clearing its calendar, containing over one hundred and seventy bills. There was nothing of general importance done and after a three hours session the House adjourned.

There seems to be an unexplained apathy to work on the part of the House, where bills are accumulating at a rapid rate, and very few disposed of. Such tardiness in legislative work is inexorable.

In the Senate, however, there seems to be more of a disposition for diligent and effective work. The following are some of the new bills reported favorably by the committees:

To provide for the calling of a constitutional convention. To amend Section 2,236 and 2,237 of the General Statutes of South Carolina in relation to juries.

To reduce the salaries of State officers, their clerks and employees. To amend Section 1,195 of the General Statute in relation to deduction for tare on bales of unmanufactured cotton.

Providing for the fixing of the term of office of official stenographers, their appointment and removal from office. Amendments of the Statutes providing for the formation of corporations under the general laws.

Proposing an amendment to Section 5, Article 10, of the Constitution of this State relating to the school tax. To amend Section 1,084 of the General Statutes relating to work on public roads.

NEW BILLS. To provide for the administration of insolvent debtors' estates. To provide for the payment of the expenses of elections in this State.

To require all railroad companies to stop their trains carrying passengers twice a day at all stations when signalled for that purpose. To provide a mode for executing criminals in this State. The bill proposes that all criminals shall be executed in the State Penitentiary by a public executioner under the supervision of the Superintendent of the Penitentiary.

BILLS UNFAVORABLY REPORTED. To amend the Act to declare the law relating to married women. To repeal all Acts or parts of Acts relating to agricultural liens for advances or supplies. Relating to assessing and collection of taxes. To provide for regulating marriages. To amend the provision of the Constitution prohibiting Judges from charging juries on the facts in criminal cases.

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New Holiday Goods.

- HOLMES & CONT'S FANCY CAKES, viz: Social Teas, Iced Honey Cakes, Lemon, Fancy and Sugar Jumbles, Vanilla Crisps, New York Teas, Honey Jumbles, New Orleans Chocolat Jumbles, Mixed Cakes, &c., &c., at only 20c per pound. New Valencia Raisins, 20c. per lb. Loose Muscatel Raisins, 20c. per lb. Citron, per pound, 25c. New Currants, 3 pounds for 25c. 25 Cheese, bought before the rise, 3 pounds for 50c. Imported fresh Macaroni, sold at 15c. per pound. Evaporated Dried Apples, sold at 5c. per pound. Large fresh imported Prunes, sold at 10c. per pound. Davis' Baking Powder in cans, at only 25c. per pound. This Baking Powder is equal to Royal Baking Powder. White Beans at \$1.50 per bushel. Mixed Beans at \$1.00 per bushel. New Corn at 50c. per bushel. Cow Peas at 75c. per bushel. Pearl Barley, 4 pounds for 25c. Good Baking Soda at 5c. per pound. Canned Corn Beef at 12c. per pound. New Sugar Corn at 10c. per can. Good Sardines, in olive oil, 4 boxes for 25c. Large 1 pound boxes Sardines at only 10c. Fresh Lobsters at 20c. per can. Pure Mustard at 35c. per pound. 1 pound full weight Oysters, 10c. per can. 2 pound full weight Oysters, 3 cans for 50c. Dried Chipped Beef, 25c. per box. 1 pound fresh Mackerel at 15c. per can. Potte' Ham, Schrimps, &c. Dried Coconut, 20c. per can. Assorted Jams, 25c. Marmalade, 20c. Nelson's Gelatine, 20c. Rennet, 20c. Sausage Seasoning, 15c. Package Mince Meat, 15c. Prepared French Mustard, 10c. per bottle. Can Peas, 15c. Pine Apple, 15c. Pure Fruit Tolu Chewing Gum, 5c. per box. Tomato Catsup, 30c. per bottle. Worcestershire Sauce, 20c. per bottle. Large quart bottles Queen Olives at 25c. per bottle. Large quart bottles Sweet Mixed Pickles, 35c. per bottle. Large quart bottles Mixed Chow-Chow at 25c. per bottle. Good Mixed Cucumber Pickles at 10c. per bottle. The finest Pickled White Onions at 20c. per bottle. Fresh Horse Radish at 15c. per bottle. Pepper Sauce and Capers at 15c. and 20c. per bottle. Horsford's Bread Preparation at 10c. and 20c. per package. Warner's Safe Yeast at 10c. per box.

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Very respectfully, O. H. Schumacher, Walhalla, S. C.

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