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C. P. MENDENHALL, JOHN N. STAPLES,
MENDENHALL & STAPLES,
ATTORNEYS AT LAW,
GREENSBORO, N. C.
Will practice in the Courts of Guilford, Rock-
ingham, Davidson, Forsythe, Stokes, Ran-
dolph and Alamance; also, U. S. Circuit and
District Courts. Special attention given to
cases in all parts of the State, and to
cases in Bankruptcy.
Office—One door North of Court House.
Jan. 27, 1877-ly.

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The Greensboro Patriot.

Established in 181.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 1877.

New Series No. 460.

From the Yorkville Enquirer.

Twilight Musings.

BY WHO.

Tis beautiful, when in the West
The sun sinks down to his repose,
And o'er him shines a golden crest,
Till all the heaven like amber glow.

Ever grander, when the stars come forth
And silently the dews descend,
And flickering lightnings in the North
Fringe the white clouds they may-
rend.

The whippoorwill now takes his flight
And katydids begin their lay,
As homeward, through the gray twilight,
The flocks come winding on their way.

A balmy breeze sighs through the grass,
And dances 'round each open flower;
Gathering sweetens, as on it roves
With joy, o'er every field and bow.

Oh! genial hour, when lovers stray,
Ever musing, by stream or flood,
While in their inmost hearts they pray
To heaven for their mutual good!

While Fancy, the true friend of love,
Paints the future so bright and fair,
With joy on earth and bliss above,
And peace through life without a care.

Oh! yes, 'tis sweet at close of day,
As twilight gathers 'round us fast,
To steal awhile from care away
And fix our thoughts upon the past.

When memories swift like shadows
Trooping along in endless train,
And bid us in our heart make room
For the long-loved and lost again.

The stars now twinkle forth their light;
The slumbering flowers rise from rest,
And every shrub their leaves employ
Like all the brooks to sing we're not.

And hark! the nightingales begin
In gratitude to sing a song,
Nor will they cease till earth and sea
With their sweet music, loud and long!

But oh! how sad this hour to me,
And, yet, of all the day my choice,
For here beneath this trying time
I told my love with trembling voice.

And here the dear one, long since gone,
Hath told me of, by word and sign,
She would be mine and mine alone,
Till she was done with earth and I.

Oh! sacred hour, and dearest rest!
Where'er my lot in life be cast,
Here my heart's shrine shall ever be,
While life or being with me last.

For memory, faithful to her trust,
Will keep her living in my heart,
Though she may never slumber in the dust,
We yet shall meet, no more to part.

Sweet prospect! Where eternal rest
Forever shines, and skies ne'er we
A change, and the inconstant moon
Will never show her beauty there.

But one broad stream of purest light
Burst from the centre, God the light,
Revealing to immortal sight
The home of the undying soul!

The Man-Eating Tree

Horrible Produce of Nature—
The Devil-Fish of the Ve-
getable Kingdom.

If you can imagine a pineapple
eight feet high and thick in pro-
portion, resting upon its base and de-
voured of leaves, you will have a
good idea of the tree, which, how-
ever, was not of the color of a pine-
apple, but a dark, dingy brown, and
apparently as hard as iron. From
the apex of this turgid cone, at
least two feet in diameter, eight
huge leaves sheer to the ground,
like doors swinging back on their
hinges. These leaves, which are
joined at the top of the tree at re-
gular intervals, were eleven or
twelve feet long, and shaped very
much like the American agave or
century plant. They are two feet
thick in their thickest part, and
three feet wide, tapering to a sharp
point that looks like a cone, born
very convex on the outer (upper)
surface, and concave on the under
surface. This concave surface was
thickly set with strong thorny hooks
like those upon the head of the
teasel. These leaves, hanging limp
and lifeless, dead green in color, had
in appearance, the strength of oak
fibres. The apex of the cone was a
round, white convex figure, like a
smaller plate set within a larger
one. This was not a flower, but a
receptacle, and there exuded into it
a clear, treacherous, liquid honey,
sweet and possessed of violent intoxica-
ting and soporific properties. From
underneath the rim (so to speak) of
the undermost plate, a series of
long, hairy, green tendrils, stretch-
ing in every direction to ward the
horizon. These were seven or eight
feet long and tapered from four
inches to a half inch in diameter,
yet they stretched out stiffly as iron
rods. Above these (from between
the upper and under cup) six white
almost transparent palpi reared
themselves toward the sky, twisting
and turning with a marvelous in-
cessant motion, yet constantly
reaching upward. Thin as reed
and frail as quills, apparently, were
yet five or six feet tall, and were
so constantly and vigorously in
motion, with such a subtle, sinuous
silent throbbing against the air, with
their suggestions of serpents flayed,
yet dancing on their tails. My ob-
servations on this occasion were
suddenly interrupted by the natives
who had been shrieking around the
tree with their shrill voices, and
chanting what Hendrick told me
were propitiatory hymns to the
great tree devil. With still wilder
shrieks and chants they now sur-
rounded one of the women, and
urged her with the points of their
javelins, until slowly, and with de-
spairing face she climbed up the
stalk of the tree and stood on the
summit of the cone, the palpi swim-
ming about her. "Talk! Talk!"
(drunk!) cried the man.
Stopping, she drank of the viscous
fluid in the cup, raising instantly
again with wild frenzy in her face
and convulsive convulsions in her limbs.

Consumption of Timber.

The following startling array of
figures are from a letter recently
written to the New York World, by
Major Brisbane, of the United
States Army at Omaha, Neb., and
should be read with serious reflec-
tion by the American people.

It is said that nearly one-half
of the surplus hard woods are to
be found in Western Virginia.

How long these will last is a doubt-
ful question. Taking the one item
of railroad ties, and we find that
the country requires for its annual
supply 94,530,000 cubic feet, equal
to 735,515 cords of solid timber, to
secure which at least 2,000,000 cords
of standing timber have to be cut
down. The average product per
acre of the forests of Virginia is
given by M. F. Maury at from forty
to fifty cords per acre; so that tak-
ing the maximum yield, our rail-
road ties alone destroy annually
40,000 acres of woodland. The an-
nual consumption of the country
for fuel is estimated at over 50,000,
000 cords of wood, of which three-
fifths may be assumed to be good
standing timber, cut expressly for
fuel. This gives an annual clear-
ing of 1,600,000 acres. The iron
foundries consumed in 1870 635,
000 tons of charcoal; and a furnace
that makes six or seven tons of
iron a day will use up two hundred
acres of woodland a year. The an-
nual product of charcoal iron is
now about 200,000 tons, using up
5,000 acres a year. The pine lands
of Michigan, the best in the coun-
try, yield 10,000 feet to the acre
board measure. The annual con-
sumption of the country in manu-
facturing lumber is 20,000,000,000
feet, representing an annual clear-
ing of 2,000,000 acres, the fencing
of the country required 25,000,000
acres to be cleared in order to make
it, and the annual repairs to fencing
destroy 2,500,000 acres of forests.

Our shipping tonnage represents
80,000 acres of the oak forest de-
stroyed, and demands for repairs
40,000 acres a year; the hard and
turned wood manufacturers of the
country use up an annual average
of 300,000 acres of timber. Taking
all these items together we have an
aggregate annual consumption of
6,600,000 acres of forest. As our
total forest lands amount to 450,
000,000 acres, they will last at this
rate only seventy years. A certain per-
centage of forest destroyed is al-
lowed to renew itself, and as in sev-
enty years a pine woods can be cut
over twice, this renewal amounts
to a very considerable figure, but it
is scarcely sufficient to offset the
increasing demand for timber
for every purpose to keep pace with
increasing population and exigent
industries in the same period. In
other words, with our present sys-
tem of husbandry, and our present
growth of population, seventy years
makes the maximum period that our
forests may be expected to last.

The demand for lumber in the
whole United States increases at
the rate of about twenty-five per
cent. per annum, and the supply
has in the last year increased thirty
per cent. showing that lumber pro-
ducers in their haste to destroy the
forests, are overstocking the market,
while the increase of forests from
planting is less than one million
acres, the decrease from all causes
is over eight million acres per an-
num. As an example, it is reported
Chicago in 1871 received 2,500,000,000
feet of lumber and 10,000 acres were
stripped of timber to supply that
great city with fuel alone.

The fences of the United States
are really the great consumers of
our trees. This drain is almost be-
yond human computation or belief,
and in every State in the East our
farmers are becoming alarmed as
to what they shall do for fence tim-
ber in the next fifteen or twenty
years. Each one is yearly econom-
izing more and more his little
store of timber, but still he sees it
melting away and no new forests
at hand to replace it. It is an as-
tonishing fact that the fences of the
United States have cost more than
the land, and they are to-day the
most valuable class of property in
the country except railroads and
real estates. Our fences are
now valued at \$1,800,000,000,
and to keep in repair, cost \$95,000,
000 annually. In Illinois it is es-
timated \$2,000,000 is invested in
fences, sixty per cent. of which are
boards, posts and rail and forty per
cent. wire and hedges. These fences
cost \$175,000 annually for repairs,
and yet Illinois is one of our new
States.

The Pacific Railroad Project—
A Favorable Report from
Lamar's Committee—Provi-
sions of the Bill and the Line
of the Road.

WASHINGTON, January 11.—The
Pacific Railroad Committee, at its
session to-day, instructed its chair-
man (Mr. Lamar, of Mississippi),
report favorably the bill which has
been under consideration last ses-
sion and this for granting govern-
ment aid for the completion of a
Southern trans continental railroad.</

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