

Forest Register. It is most amusing to see the manner in which the average citizen looks upon newspapers.

If he gets married, has a child born into the family, if he goes abroad, or does some commendable public act; if he makes an improvement to his property, or does anything which pleases him, he wants to see it magnified as much as possible and appear in the newspaper he has graciously and condescendingly bestowed his patronage on.

So long as the favorite newspaper is doing all the average subscriber desires, it is the best paper on earth and the editor a great man, and the subscriber swears by it. But let the table turn—let an item which may in any way be construed to be a reflection upon the subscriber or any member of his family, or relative, or dear friend—let an item, no matter how small or unintentionally it may be—get into the newspaper displeasing the average subscriber, and he at once forgets all the kindness and beautiful thing the newspaper has said of him and his during years of service, and at once calls on the editor and indignantly repudiates him and his sheet as needless and ungrateful, and always ready to give the aforesaid subscriber and his "the worst of it."

The poor, deluded individual supposes that when his patronage is withdrawn from the newspaper, and that of the relatives and friends he can influence, the paper will be unable to sustain the irreparable loss of patronage and that it must succumb, and that its doors will be closed and publication suspended.

The poor fellow does not realize the fact that he is not "the only pebble on the beach;" that his patronage is only a small atom of the great whole which makes up the business of a successful newspaper, and that the item which displeased him and his, pleased as many others, heretofore not patrons of the paper, possibly, and that the place of his name and those of his interested friends is at once filled by others, and he is hardly missed.

He "bites off his nose to spite his face." He likes the paper; has taken it so long it has become a member of the family; his children have grown up on it as they have other home peculiarities, and its absence is like the death of a dear friend. He tries some other paper, but it will not fill the bill. After his pet is over, he sees what a fool he has been, and if his pride will not prevent, he orders his favorite paper again, or sponges his reading of it from some neighbor, rather than acknowledge what a fool he has been, as he cannot get along without reading the old family newspaper, which has become a part of his daily life.

It is amusing to the makers of newspapers to thus note the fickleness of human nature in dealing with newspapers. The smaller the field of the newspaper, the more noticeable it is.

THE FROST AND THE CROPS.

Among the statistics relative to the late freeze and Southern crops are the following items:

Georgia—Peaches, pears and pears all killed; early vegetables ruined. Florida—Citrus fruit and trees damaged 15 per cent; general fruit crop 30 per cent. better than last year; 9 per cent. of vegetable crop destroyed.

Virginia—Full yield in apples; early vegetables and berries damaged. Alabama—Market gardens complete loss; wheat prospects fine.

North Carolina—Growing vegetables safe; peach buds injured, snow saves wheat crop.

South Carolina—Wheat, oats and fruit trees safe; damage to vegetables and fruit blossoms in State \$100,000.

Kentucky—Peach crop killed; wheat 85 per cent. crop apples all right.

A philosopher soliloquizes thus: "A poor man buys a horse from a stranger which turns out to have been stolen. The rightful owner comes along, proves his property and takes the animal. The poor man has no recourse. Again: A rich man buys a note of hand from a stranger. It turned out that the note was obtained by fraud. The man who made the note comes along and is compelled to pay the note on the ground that it is in the hands of an innocent purchaser. Why this difference? Was not the man who bought the horse an innocent purchaser too?"

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In order to get the readers of the DEMOCRAT-STAR to do their Spring Shopping with us, we will prepay Expressage on all orders sent us during February and March amounting to \$2.50 and upwards. Besides, we guarantee Our Prices as low and in many instances lower than elsewhere.

L. Hammel & Co., 59-69 Dauphin Street, MOBILE, ALA. February 10, 1898.

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The Democrat-Star GOOD ROAD BUILDING.

An Ohio Man Thinks Farmers Should Take a Deep Interest. Here in Paulding county we have roads that cost the taxpayers \$500 per mile, of crushed stone, six feet wide and nine inches deep. This is 1,320 cubic yards, at 65 cents per cubic yard, or \$858, says an Ohio contributor to the rural New Yorker. The hauling is done by the farmer and others who are interested in making, which is more satisfactory than to bond the township, and pay six per cent interest to raise the extra \$2,142, which he must pay, if he leaves it to the contractor, while his lease perhaps stands in the barn. The increase in the valuation of the land is the least reason why we should improve the roads. Pleasures and home comforts depend upon our facilities for getting around. Churches and schools depend upon them. Show me a district where the roads are all unimproved and I will show you a district that is lacking in moral standard, and children are at a disadvantage to obtain even a common school education. Churches must close their doors during the winter and when summer comes all have lost interest in church going. Why try to increase the products of the farm, and not increase our facilities for delivering them to market? It costs the farmer more to deliver a product to the railroad than it does to ship it from there to the city. We would take the contract to haul logs four miles over a bad mud road after a big rain, for what it costs to ship them to the city? I have seen in this county, four horses attached to a wagon loaded with less than 1,500 pounds, and then it was a struggle to have them out in such mud. Often we are compelled to walk and talk with us our butter and eggs, while our horses are in the barn needing exercise, all because the road is too bad to take them out. It does not increase the price of land as land along a good pike will bring \$10 to 15 an acre more than land situated a mile away from it, if there is no prospect of there ever being a pike near it.

Turned the Negro White. Nortonville News. Down at Kansas City during the recent cold snap a negro frog has been turning the frost bitten parts white as snow. This accidental discovery of a physiological fact opens a wide field for the experimental physiologist. This change in the pigmentation in a negro's skin by frost is not explained. It suggests the hope that all negroes can be made white by placing them in cold storage for a time thus freezing the color out of their skins. It is not at all improbable that the blacker the negro the more he would have to freeze and in some cases death might ensue. It is a question, however, whether the average negro would appreciate the effort to change his color. He might prefer to stay black and keep warm.

The Jackson Bulletin in this issue says of our worthy Secretary of State: Col. and Mrs. J. L. Power entertained a few of their old time friends at dinner yesterday in celebration of their birthday. There is not another couple we venture to assert, who celebrate the same birthday. In the far off Emerald Isle, Col. Power has the light, and on a Mississippi plantation, that same day (March) Mr. Power was born. A further correspondent is in the fact that Mrs. Power's little niece (twins), Alice and Ethel Moran were also born on March 1, and their oldest son, J. W. Power, on March 2. Quite a number of the family celebrate birthdays during March, besides those mentioned.

WHY FILIPINO.—"Filipino" is the Spanish for a dweller in the Philippine Islands, long been a Spanish possession. "Filipino" has once generally been used to indicate a Philippine islander. The Spanish for Philippine Islands is "Las Filipinas." Then, too, "Filipino" is what the Philippines islanders call themselves, and it is generally accepted, we believe, that the true name of a people is the name that they use themselves. The islands, by the way, are named after Philip or Felipe II, of Spain.—Richmond Dispatch.

Jefferson, the actor, is a firm believer that a man must be sick once in ten years. His own experience goes to bear out this idea. Since he has been ill every tenth year.

General Wade Hampton, one of the few surviving confederate lieutenant generals, is living in good health at Columbia, S. C., where he will shortly celebrate his eighty-first birthday.

The Houston Post thinks that the country's recent experience with negro troops ought to and probably will be sufficient to induce the white man to bear his own military burden.