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B O. DEININGER, Associate Editor

Millheim, Thursday, Mar. 14.

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ropulation of 600, is a thriving business centre, and controls the trade of an average radius of over eight miles, in which the JOURNAL has a larger circulation than all other county papers combined. Advertisers will please make a note of this

### AMONG THE CRACKERS.

A PECULIAR "POOR WHITE" CLASS.

The Inhabitants of the Mountain Regions of Georgia and the Carnlinas, Their Manners and Customs. Their Origin and their Destiny-Incidents of Cracker Life-A Market Day in a Georgia Town.

Special Correspondence of THE TIMES.

DAHLONEGA, GA, February 23. For the rast two weeks I have been living among the crackers. They are a distinct and, withal, peculiar class of the poor whites. They are huddled together in the mountains and ridges of Georgia and the Carolinas. A very intelligent gentleman, an ex.M. C., told me the other day when and how the name of cracker originated. When the poor whites settled in this region it was inhabited by the Creek and Cherokee Indians. The counry was very wild and the land very roor. As a general thing the settlers brought with them to their new homes provisions enough to last until they made their first "crap." Corn was their principal production. After it was baryested it was necessary to reduce it to meal before it could be utilized for culinary pur poses. There were no mills in the immediate vicinity of their homes ; the roads running out of the mountains were merely bridal-paths or Indian trails, and the settlers were too poor to erect their own mills. In this emergency they adopted a custom in vogue among their Indian neighbors, and procuring two stones-one large and the other small-manufactured them into a rude pestle and mortar, and with this primitive implement ground their corn into coarse meal. This mountain mill was called a "crack-Thus directed the sheriff left the er," and the custom of crushing or grinding corn by this process becom- room, but did not return. The tu-

## gotten, it still sticks to them.

derivation of the name cracker for-

THE FIRST SETTLERS. Many of the first settlers were at tracted hither by the discovery of gold, and the hills and mountains were tunneled and the creeks and small streams turned from their course in an eager search for the noble metal. It was found in paying quantities, and a branch mint was established at Dahlonega. The mint was abandoned when the war b gan, and the building is new used as a college. Between Dahlonega and Gainesville-which latter place acts as a feeder for the mountain towns and is a market for the mountain people-lies Knocklesville. In ante bellum days Knocklesville was the chief resort of the miners. They were a bad lot, and the settlement was always excited over either a shooting affray or a cutting scrape. Knocklesville is located on a hill, and its single street is strewn with rocks of all sizes. One of the legends of the place runs to the effect that there is not a rock in the town broken a head. Cribbage creek, a small stream which winds around the hill on which Knocklesville stands, was noted for the richness and quality of its gold yield. Hundreds of miners were scattered along i's banks, busily engaged with lick, shovel and pan. They made pulled a murderous seven shooter money-and spend it. At 3 o'clock from his belt, and with the cry of every afternoon they would quit work, don their best shirts, scrape the red mud from their high-top identity in the general crush. The Lcots, and, with the proceeds of F-s and the W-s were at war, their day's labor in their pockets, and not until the latter party was at lasten to Knocklesville to drink last vanquished did the judge return Whiskey, gamble and fight until

midnight. Many strange characters found their way into the mountains of Georgia, lured there by the prospect of speedy riches, or driven there by the criminal authorities of other States. Perhaps the strangest of claimed connections with the F-s, these wanderers was Harrison Riley, the other with the W--s. This familiarly known in this section as fact and the young lady roused all excitement was at fever heat Riley They met on the high road. Both made his appearance in Dahlonega, were mounted and as soon as they and staking off his "claim," began were close enough to recognize each miping. He was lucky, traded with other, drew their pistols, put spurs the indians (invariably cheating the to their horses and galloped forward | night-dress ?" imple aboriginees), and in a few firing as they rode. Each had two years accumulated a fortune. It is pistols, and they were emptied with- gently replied my wife. "No it are only 25 cents, and Annual Subscription was a man of education, descended dismounted and continued the war- a mistake and put some of your

the J'almetto State, and forced to morning their bedies were found leave home and kindred for the commission of some terrible crime. He always claimed, however, to be a man of "no eddication," and was never known to write his name or done much to improve and civilize And furth er examination showed read a line. Yet he was well informed on all subjects, and taking a prominent part in politics, was returned to the Legislature from Lumpkin county for years. He was famous as a "stump" orator and was the idol of the "wool-hat" Democracy. He was also a major general in the State militia, but owing to the sparsely-settled nature of the country his division was composed entirely of commissioned officers. His career as a legislator was marked by rare statesmanship, displaying wisdom, sound reasoning and keen foresight. In private life he practiced the grossest immorality, having six or seven "acknowledged" wives and seventy five "recognized" children. When he died he divided his property equitably among these

FAMILY FEUDS.

illegitimate offspring.

The W-s and the F-s are the two principal families in North. east Georgia, and it is a popular supposition that a man born here is nearly or remotely connected with one of these two families. As is usually the case, the W--s are jealous of the F--s, and the F-s make war on the W--s. If a -and a F-get into a quarrel, others are embroiled, and a personal dispute oftentimes assumes mammoth proportions before it is definitely settled, They tell a very good story at Dahlonega of this peculiarity. Circuit Court was in session and a F-was on the bench. The court and county officers were about equally divided among the two families. The court-house in Dahlonega is arranged with the court-room in the second story, the first floor being used as offices for the county officials. A wide hallway runs through the building and two flights of stairs connect the floor with the court-room. Court was in session, and the room was packed. A noise and hubbub in the hall below arrested the attertion of judge, jury, attorneys and spectators. Curses and lcud words were plainly heard. It was evident that a ght fiwas going on.

"Mr. Sheriff," commanded the judge, "take those disorderly parties into custoday and bring them up here. I will teach them to have proper respect fer this honorable

ing universal, the word was adopted mult waxed louder and the quarrel by general acclamation as a distincwas evidently increasing instead of decreasing. Occasionally a pistol tive appellation for the people who shot was heard. Several of the originated the practice. Although the custom of "cracking corn" has spectators and one or two of the attorneys left the room. The Judge long since become onselete, and the looked around ard espying a deputy sheriff directed him to hasten to the assistance of his chief. He went, but did not return. The ble to the every day life of these coroner was sent ; he, too, remaiaed below. The uproar grew louder and the report of pistols more frequent. A constable, two bail fis, another deputy sheriff and the clerk of the court were in turn command. ed to preser ve the peace and uphold the dignity of the court. Not one of these officials returned, and the room was nearly cleared of attorneys and spectators, while the "twelve good men and true" twisted uneasily on their bench on the jury-box. The face of the honorable court became crimson with shame and anger; and as the solicitor general laid down his books and prepared to leave the room he dismissed the jury sledge, or innocently chucking marand coming down off the bench was heard to remark that "he'd see if this court was to be treated with contempt!" Flushed with a consciousness of the great indignity being offered his worshipful person by the rioters below, his honor hastened down stairs. A crowd was surgwhich a man could lift that has not | ing up and down the ball, mad with passion. Pistols were brandished, bowie knives flashed and the air was heavy with smoke and curses.

Pausing for a moment on the representatives of a more polished stairway, the better to survey the civilization. field of battle, the honorable judge suddenly threw off his official robe, "Give 'em h-l boys!" jumped into the crowd and lost his official

to his bench. WHAT A RAILROAD HAS DONE.

This feud increases in bitterness with each generation. A short time ago two young men were in love with the same young lady. One "General" Riley. When the gold the latent animosity of their nature.

from one of the chivalric families of fare with bowie-knives. The next flommery here." mutilated horribly.

> The building of the Altanta and five or six hundred inhabitants. It is, comparatively speaking, an old town, its settlement dating back to the time when the original possessors of the country-the Creek and Cherokee Indians-were the near neighbors of the cracker pioneers. of Gainesville, and its nearness to the gold country, soon made it a village of considerable importance; ceased to grow, and for upwards of fifty years remained almost at a stand-still. Architecturally speak. ing the town was a failure. In laythe centre of this plot, which rarely exceeded two acres in extent, the court-house was built, and this was the grand centre around which revolved the town's civilization. The business houses -frail, rickety afroads radiated from this central point, and along these were scattered the dwellings of the inhabitants, as a general thing but a slight improvement on the business houses. Saturday was market day in Gainesville, and on Saturday the public square presented quite a lively ap-

> MARKET DAY AT GAINESVILLE. Sale day and court week brought out the rural crackers in fu'l force, and 'orse-trading, dog and cockfighting, gambling, fighting and drinking were extensively and miscellaneously indulged in. The square and the roads leading therefrom were crowded with all manner and make of vehicles from the country loaded with shucks, chickens, butter, eggs, dried fruit, whiskey, wheat, corn and ginseng. The sidewalks were alive with the owners of these vehicles, hard-featured, sunbrowned men, in home-spun hunting-shirts and deerskin leggings women equally hard-featured and sun-browned, with here and there the fresh, rosy face of a girl, in calico and linsey-woolsey. An incredible amount of whisky was drank and pounds of tobacco chewed by the men, and the women, not to be behind their lords, dissipated in a milder way on candy, varied by a continuous dipping of snuff. By sundown the town was deserted, and Monday morning business was resumed on a less extravagant scale, The groceries - of which there were five-it is true, sold less whisky and tobacco, but their gales still footed up a respectable sum (these luxuries were as indispensipeople as bread and meat). The remainder of the merchants-those not hunting or fishing-opened up their stores and set out in front a row of boxes which were speedily occupied, each by a young cracker. When every seat was taken, jackknives were produced, and the morning was spent in whittling, talking politics and tobacco chewing, with

> regular and frequent adjou.nments for drinks. In the afternoon they became more æsthetic, and as the sun wheeled around past meridian, the shady sides of the square were alive with little parties solving the deep mysteries of poker and old bles. There were still frequent adjournments, when all hands repaired to the greceries. The advent of the railroad has made the town more metropolitan, 'but the "cracker" may still be seen on public days, Altogether a visit to this section of

> > Not His Shirt.

G. W. S.

years before the "cracker" disap-

pears or loses his distinct identity

Mrs. Jon es was one evening busy embroidering some muslin; Mr. Jones sat looking at the rich display she was making and at last said: "Why don't you fix my underclothing up fancy too?"

"Oh," replied Mrs. Jones, "men don't care about such things."

"Of course they do," answered her husband, "but the women are too careless and lazy to take the trouble to put on the fancy work."

Nothing more was said, but Mrs. Jones looked as though something derfully pleased her.

A few nights afterwards, as they were retiring, Mr. Jones appeared to be anxiously hunting something be couldn't find, and at last, very petulantly asked, "where is my

"Under your pillow, my dear," now generally believed that Riley out fatal effect. Not satisfied, they isn't," said Jones, "you have made

"Oh no, that is not mine," said locked in the embrace of death, and Mrs. Jones, as she took up the garment and held it up before her husband, "it is your night-shirt fixed Richmond Air-Line Railway, has up as you said you would like it." the people. Gainesville is now a the astonished Jones, that his shirt thriving city. 'I recollect it before was ornamental with a frill around the war as a dull, sleepy town, of the bottom, and a ruffle around the top, while a pretty piece of embroidery ran down the front. To make the joke more decided, his wife had put all his other night-shirts in the pelled to sleep in this fanc ' garment, and as he expressed it when The peculiar geographical location he got up in the morning, he was not sure whether he was himself or some woman. At his request his wife took off the fancy fixings, as but after progressing to a certain Jones called them, and ne never afpoint, from some cause or other it terward complained that she was careless of his underclothing.

We don't want & Moore township girl for a lung-tester. At a ing out a Georgia shire-town the singing school up there the other first business is to stake off a piece night a young man was bragging of ground for the public square. In about the strength of his lungs and invited agirl in the company to hit him in the breast. She said she was left-handed, had been washing that day, was tired, and didn't feel very active, but at his urgent request she let go at him. When his fairs of wood-were built around friends went to pick him up he said the square. From four to eight he thought he would die easier lying down. He had lost all recollection of having any lungs, but the young wo man consoled him by admitting that she didn't hit him as hard as she might have done, because she rather liked him. - Easton

Rub Softiy.

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