

# The Centre Democrat.

THE CENTRE DEMOCRAT is published every Thursday morning, at Bellefonte, Centre county, Pa.  
 TERMS—Cash in advance \$1.00  
 If not paid in advance \$1.50

A LIVE PAPER—devoted to the interests of the whole people.  
 Payments made within three months will be considered in advance.  
 No paper will be discontinued until arrearages are paid, except at option of publishers.  
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 Our extensive circulation makes this paper an unusually reliable and profitable medium for advertising.  
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 Political Notices, 15 cents per line each insertion. Nothing inserted for less than 20 cents.  
 BUSINESS NOTICES, in the editorial columns, 15 cents per line, each insertion.

## Eastern North Carolina.

The entire Eastern section of North Carolina consists of a wide plain reaching from the sea coast inland from 100 to 120 miles. Much of this plain is very level North and South, but rises from East to West at the almost imperceptible rate of about fifteen inches to the mile. The monotony of the apparent level is, however, broken by slight but frequent undulations. The western boundary of this section stretches from the west line of Warren through the counties of Franklin, Cumberland, Wake, Catham, Montgomery, Anson and Moore, and in the last named county an elevation of 500 feet is attained. Over this whole region the sea rolled in a comparatively late geologic period. The soil varies from clay to sand, with all degrees of intermixtures of the two, and also with the quantity of decomposed shells contained. On the uplands it is chiefly a sandy loam, easily worked and very productive. Large areas are, however, found covered with white sand, upon which grows the long-leaved pine. When cleared, this sandy soil gives good crops of corn and cotton for a few years, after which it requires manure. Other extensive areas possess a soil almost exclusively of clay as for instance the counties on the north side of the Albemarle Sound; such soils are very fertile. But the most important portions of this section are the alluvial lands. These are usually extensive, and exceptionally rich and prolific. From the eastern half of Jones county to Cape Fear, a peculiar fertility is also imparted to the soil by decayed shells. Another class of land unsurpassed in productive qualities found in this section is that reclaimed by drainage from the Matamoras and Seppernong lakes. Such lands are practically inexhaustible. Those in cultivation for seventy-five years show no deterioration. Of the same nature are the tracts reclaimed from the marshes near the seashore.

Bordering on the sea and sounds are immense tracts called swamps, but which differ widely from what is usually understood by that term. They are neither alluvial nor subject to overflow. Portions of them lie quite low, but this is not at all so of a few. Many of them occupy the divides or watersheds between the rivers and sounds, and are elevated many feet above the adjacent rivers of which they are the sources. These latter are susceptible of drainage, and when reclaimed have every element of the most exuberant and lasting fertility. Bay river swamp, between Pamlico and Neuse rivers, and Green swamp in Brunswick Columbus counties may be mentioned as examples. The elevation of the latter is forty feet above the sea level. The work of drainage is simple. From the border of the swamp, which is always the highest land, the bottom slopes in every direction gradually, almost imperceptibly to the centre. A canal cut through this border into the swamp and carried to some neighboring stream, lays bare an extensive belt along the entire border. The aggregate territory in the state known as swamp lands is between three and four thousand square miles. When drainage shall be properly carried out over this great territory—a work which, on account of the slight difficulties to be encountered as compared with those which, they encountered and overcame would be deemed trifling by the laborious North German and the indefatigable Hollander—hundreds of square miles of land of surpassing fertility will be added to the acres now in cultivation.

Throughout this entire section, cotton, corn, oats, sorghum, peas, potatoes, especially sweet potatoes, are the staple crops. Upon the rich alluvions and the reclaimed lake and swamp lands, corn, with peas planted in the intervals between the corn, forms the exclusive crop. Occasionally, on the broad low-grounds

of the Roanoke, wheat is grown to a considerable extent. In the counties on the North of Albemarle sound it is one of the staple crops. On the low-grounds of the lower Cape Fear rice has long been the staple crop, and during recent years its culture has been extended northward along the low lying lands of the rivers and sounds. The upland variety of rice has been introduced within a few years past with success; and it only needs proper encouragement to be grown to any extent. This section is everywhere underlaid with marl—a mixture of carbonate of lime and clay formed by the decomposition of the imbedded shells—sufficient in quantity, when raised and applied to the surface to bring it to a high pitch of fertility and maintain it so.

In Eastern North Carolina, the natural adaptability of soil and climate to the grape, and the wonderful luxuriance of the vine and fruit is indeed remarkable. Wild grapes grow in the greatest abundance, and the scuppernong, catwabs, Isabella and Lincoln are natives of this region. The wine now made is held in high and growing esteem.

All fruits and berries, except apples, grow, and cranberries have proved very profitable in the marshes. Melons also attain a peculiar excellence. Apples are very ordinary. Truck raising for northern markets has developed into an important industry, both the soil and means of rapid transportation being favorable.

The long-leaved pine is the most valuable wood of the state. Apart from its products—turpentine, tar, resin and the spirits distilled from the turpentine—its uses in civil and naval architecture defy enumeration. The timber and its products were long, and are to-day, among the chief articles of export from this state. It alone has brought, and now brings, ships from every port of the world to Wilmington the chief seaport town of the state. Considerable inroads have been made upon the forests contiguous to railroads and navigable streams. A vast reserve, however, remains for future use.

The cypress is next in importance. It is found everywhere in the swamps of the eastern part of this section; its timber being amongst the most valuable for the frame and woodwork of houses, for shingles, for fences and water-pipes. Beyond the margin of the swamps are immense forests of the trees, scarcely as yet touched by the ax. White cedar and live oak are the next most important growths, and are moderately abundant.

The sounds which lie along the coast are full of fish of the choicest species, Albemarle sound being famous for its herring, bass and shad. Fishing is done on a grand scale. Seines a mile or more in length are cast and drawn in by steam power, as much as 200,000 pounds of fish being taken at a haul. Mackerel, mullet, blue-fish, sheepshead, trout and pig-fish are also taken, and shell-fishes of all kinds and fine quality abound.

The sounds are the resort also of vast numbers of water fowls, notably ducks and geese; but it is in Currituck sound that they are found in greatest number. A number of small islands dot the shallow waters of the eastern side of this sound, where the wild celery and many kinds of grass flourish in profusion. These are the haunts of the mallard, red-head and canvas-back ducks. When feeding they cover this part of the sound for miles; when they take wing they present the appearance of a vast black cloud. Hunting these fowls (which command a high price) gives profitable employment to many people. This region is the paradise of the amateur sportsman, and clubs of northern gentlemen have lodges there, to which they regularly repair at the proper season for hunting.

The inlets connecting the sounds with the ocean have shifted very much since the country was first settled. Some that were navigable for vessels of considerable size have closed; and those that remain are navigable for vessels of slight burden only. The effects of these changes operated formerly as a great restriction upon the commerce of the northern half of the coast. These obstructions have at length given way before the spirit of enterprise and the progress of invention. A canal now connects the waters of Albemarle sound with Chesapeake bay, and steamers ply to every point from Newbern to Norfolk. This region, though once locked up, is now fully laid open to commerce. In addition to the line of steamers named, there is another by the Chowan and Blackwater rivers, connecting with the Seaboard & Norfolk railroad. Lastly a line of railway has been constructed within the past year from Edenton to Norfolk.

Whales, which used to come to the shores of the state in great numbers still appear occasionally, and are successfully harpooned.

The climate rain-fall, health and other natural conditions, such as water, pure air, etc., are unsurpassed any-

where in the Union. The rate of taxes is very low, being as small as 1/2 of 1 per cent., or 50 cents on the \$100. Schools are provided of good character, and churches, chiefly Protestants, are numerous.

## A Mysterious Affair.

THE MUTILATED BODY OF A WOMAN SEWED IN A SACK.

NEW YORK, May 20.—At 3 o'clock this morning a Frenchman who proved to be Louis Francis, of No. 307 Tenth avenue, was arrested while on his way to the North river, bearing on his back a bag containing the mutilated corpse of a woman who had been murdered. The policeman was attracted by Francis' mysterious manner as he moved along weighted by his ghastly burden, and stopped and asked what the bag contained. The Frenchman refused to give any explanation, and attempted to move on, but the officer insisted upon being informed as to the contents of the sack, and took Francis into custody. The policeman then seized him by the arm, whereupon he dropped the bag and its contents upon the sidewalk. It fell with a "washing" sound to the flags, and the officer, upon opening the end of the sack, found, to his surprise and horror, that it contained the mutilated corpse of a woman. The body was doubled and in an almost nude condition. The policeman upon making a closer examination, found unmistakable evidence of the fact that the woman had been murdered. There were ghastly wounds about the head and also on the neck, from which the blood had flowed freely, and had coagulated on the corpse.

Francis was asked for an explanation of the mysterious affair, recovering from his confusion he declared the corpse was that of his wife, and that she had died a natural death. Being without means necessary to defray the expenses of the funeral, he had conceived the idea of carrying the corpse to the police station. He was placed under arrest and steps were taken to investigate the supposed mysterious affair.

Francis is about 37 years of age, and made no attempt to explain the affair when closely questioned, other than to repeat the story that his wife had died at their home on Tenth avenue, and he was simply depositing the corpse in the river on account of his inability to give it Christian burial.

Louis Francis tells the following story: Yesterday I found a valuable dog, which my wife afterwards lost. I reproached my wife for losing him, and she swore at me. At half past seven o'clock last night she sent me out for beer. When I came back I found a man named William Welsh in the room with her. Welsh works in the same shop with me. She sat on my lap and kissed me. Then she threw a glass at me and then a can. He then went out. Then Welsh and I walked out half a block, and then I left him to come home. When I came back he was lying on the floor dead. I waited an hour, thinking he would revive. He did not. I don't know what was the cause of her death. She told me before she died she did not care for me, but she liked the man who put up the wine for her. He is Leopold Saconville, and he lives with Mrs. Lynch, on Broadway. After I found my wife dead, I took 16 cents and went out and got a drink. At half an hour I came back and put her in the bag to throw her into the river.

When Francis and his ghastly burden were brought to the station house this morning, the Sergeant in charge immediately sent for the Coroner. On the arrival of that official he made a superficial examination of the remains. The face of the victim was much discolored, as was also the chest and stomach, and evidence was not lacking to show that the woman had been choked to death. It is now said that the woman was not Francis' wife, but his paramour. Her name, he said, was Selina Fehot. She was about thirty-eight years of age, and has a son who resides in Boston. The prisoner in his story says the woman was born in Pittsfield, Mass., of French-Canadian parents, whose she was married to a man named Francois Oliver, and that she left him came to New York with him (Francis). "I never lived happily with her," he said. Francis is a tall, thin Frenchman. He showed no feeling. He was arraigned in the Jefferson Market Court and remanded until to-morrow.

As the body of Selina Fehot lay in the police station this morning, it had the appearance of once having been that of a pretty woman. Even the traces of dissipation could not destroy this impression. She was of delicate complexion, with large, expressive blue eyes, thick, wavy, light brown hair, and petite in figure, probably weighing about 100 pounds. On the corpse were scrupulously clean underwear, a black skirt, and an embroidered night-dress. About the neck was a twisted silk handkerchief and about the throat lines of discoloration and marks of finger nails. It was evident the woman had been strangled to death by twisting the handkerchief about the throat.

## Terrible Double Tragedy.

FRANZ BOBERT SHOTS A CHILD AND THEN COMMITS SUICIDE.

PITTSBURG, May 22, 1885.

Franz Bobert, a young tailor, boarding at No. 69 Webster avenue, shot and killed Lizzie Leppig, a four year old child about noon yesterday, and immediately after committed suicide by shooting himself through the heart. The circumstances of this double tragedy, the latest of the numerous gory events which have transpired in the city within a short time are peculiarly horrifying and distressing.

Bobert was sitting at a side table in the front room of the house eating ice cream with the child. Mrs. Leppig was in the kitchen adjoining attending to the duties of the household. The young man pulled out a revolver and a moment later fired one shot. It struck the little girl, who was scarcely a yard from him, directly in the neck. She fell forward and the blood spouted from the wound. Her slayer then turned the weapon upon his own person, firing two more shots. He walked out upon an enclosed porch, a few feet from where they had been sitting, and then fell down.

Mrs. Leppig heard the shots and as she was rushing in to learn the cause she was met by her eight-year-old son, who was bringing to her in his arms the body of his dying sister. The frightened mother hastened to the hydrant, thinking the child had only fainted, but discovering the bleeding wound comprehended the nature of her injuries.

The screams of Mrs. Leppig aroused the neighborhood, and the residents rushed to the scene of the tragedy. The bleeding form of Lizzie Leppig was tenderly placed in a cradle which was in the room where she received the fatal shot. Bobert was lying within the covered porch, the blood pouring from the bullet holes that perforated his chest. The fatal weapon had fallen from his hand and lay between his legs. The crimson blood that flowed from his breast contrasted strangely with the fair skin of his hands and face. The expression of his features was so calm and innocent that it was hard to believe that he was the chief actor in the terrible tragedy. Drs. Blumberg and Warner were summoned, but before their arrival Bobert was dead, and the innocent victim of his rashness died shortly after.

The scene about the house was an exciting one. Crowds congregated about the windows and gathered on the sidewalk, while the more curious forced their way into the house. A number of detectives and officers arrived soon after the shooting, and restrained the crowd from undue demonstrations as far as it was in their power.

John Leppig, the father of Lizzies, is employed at Kline's bakery. A constable went after him in a buggy and drove him to his home, across which so dark a cloud had fallen. When he entered the room where the child lay, he lost all control of his emotions. He picked her up from the crib in which tender hands had placed her and caressed the lifeless body, unwilling to believe that his child was actually dead. He was finally convinced that such was the awful fact, and then he became frenzied; he asked where her slayer was. Bobert's body was pointed out to him lying on the porch. Leppig rushed to it, and with exclamation in German, commenced kicking it about the floor, apparently not realizing that he was dead in his frenzy. The detectives restrained him in his rage, and told him that Bobert was already dead.

"What is he shot too?" said Leppig stepping back. "Is my wife killed, too?" He was told that she had not been injured, and he became calmer. Mrs. Leppig was so overcome with grief that she had to be removed to the room in the second story. Her senses were so distracted by the horrible circumstances that she could not at first give any clear account of how it really happened. She at first said that Bobert had fired at her before shooting himself, but afterward could not be positive that such was the case.

Franz Bobert is about 17 years old, and is a Bohemian. He came to this country about six weeks ago and has been boarding with the Leppigs most of the time. He was small in stature and lightly built, and he had a boyish appearance. Recently he obtained a situation as tailor with Peter Weilsbach whose place of business is on Fountain street, near Seventh avenue. With his first weeks wages he bought the revolver.

Just how the shooting came about cannot be exactly determined, as the principal in the awful affair is silent in death. Whether it was accidental or intentional is left to speculation. When Mrs. Leppig became calm enough to talk she said to a representative of the Tus Post that she and her husband believed it to be accidental.

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 Bellefonte, Pa.

## CHINA HALL REMOVAL.

W. H. WILKINSON,  
 Agent for John Wanamaker,  
 has removed to store room  
 in Centre County Bank  
 Building.  
 Constantly in stock a full assortment of  
 China, Granite,  
 & C. Yellow-ware,  
 and Table Glass,  
 AT LOWEST  
 City Prices.

## NOVELTY STORE.

I have just recently opened a store in the rooms adjoining Harper & Co., store on Spring street, Bellefonte, Pa. A full line of  
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 Fancy Goods

Consisting of almost everything in the line of TOYS, FANCY ARTICLES, VASES, ALBUMS.  
 SILVERWARE,  
 consisting of Castors, Butter Dishes, etc. Glass and China Ware, Clocks, Jewelry, Handsome Steel Engravings, Panel Pictures, Paintings and Picture Frames  
 OF ALL STYLES AND SIZES.  
 Come in and examine the articles on our  
**FIVE-CENT COUNTER.**  
 People are cordially invited to call and examine my stock, which I trust will warrant a share of your patronage.  
 Respectfully,  
 Alpha Corman.

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 —For neat and attractive sale bills call at the DEMOCRAT office.

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 Dealer in  
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 ALLEGHANY STREET,  
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 Is selling ALL KINDS of Crockery and Table Glassware at LOWER prices than ever known in Bellefonte, as the following list will show:  
 Best quality, Iron Stone China: warranted not to craze  
 Tea Sets (58 pieces) \$3.50  
 Dinner plates—largest size—per doz 1.25  
 Dinner plates—medium do 1.10  
 Tea Plates do 90  
 Turquoise—round or oval each 60  
 Sauce dishes—round or oval—each 20  
 Sauce Turquoise—4 pieces 50  
 Sauce boats 25  
 Cups and saucers—handled—12 pieces 60  
 do do unhandled do 50  
 Fruit saucers—per doz 50  
 Chamber sets—10 pieces 3.00  
 Pitcher and Basin 1.00  
 Covered chamber 75

**TABLE GLASSWARE.**  
 Tumblers, each, 04c  
 Goblets, " 06c  
 Fruit Bowls 25c  
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 Glass Sets, 4 pieces 35c  
 Full Stock of Decorated Tea, Dinner and Chamber Sets.  
 Best English ware. Tea Sets, Decorated in Blue, Black, Brown or Claret, 56 pieces \$5.00—regular price \$7.00.  
 Full assortment in Majolica and Fancy Goods, &c.  
 Majolica Pitchers, 20c; Bohemian Vases height 10 inches, \$1.00, and everything else just as cheap in proportion.  
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