

The Kent News

CHESTERTOWN - FEB. 25, 1888.

A RARE SPOT FOR GAME*A Curious Region in Arkansas Abounding in Fish and Fowl.*

"When people living in what is now the eastern part of Craighead county, Arkansas, went to bed one night in the latter part of December, 1811," said a former resident of that region, "they closed their eyes on one of the most beautiful and fertile stretches of land that ever man saw. The region was a series of rolling prairies, interspersed with heavy forests. The St. Francis river and its twin sister, Little river, wound through the prairies, and around the edges of the woods, which cast their shadows on the waters from high and solid banks. When these old-time residents looked upon the prospect presented the morning after that memorable December night, they must have been surprised. The rivers were there yet, but in place of one rolling prairie vast lakes spread out. In places above the surface of the largest of these sheets of water so suddenly brought into existence the tops of them could be seen, but in others the land had been entirely submerged."

Lakes formed part of the rivers they do to-day, but on St. Francis they have no distinctive names, being called the 'river.' On Little lakes have been named, for 120 miles up and down the for a width of probably sixty sink below the surface, and filled the great cavities thus

The entire area of the Sunken chain of great cypress and gum trees and a remnant of ancient forest

surviving the landscape. The cypress grows luxuriantly in the lakes, while the gum trees and a species of cypress occupy the swamps. The trees are festooned with a massive growth of parasitic vines and mosses. The valley is probably the most picturesque stretch of lowland and aquatic scenery in the entire South. Steamboats make their way at a favorable season of the year in the tortuous course through the long and narrow vales beneath the over-hanging and moss-hung trees, the St. Francis being navigable from its mouth, near Helena, and the Mississippi for nearly 200 miles.

"To the canoeists the weird lakes of the Arkansas Sunken Lands offer a paradise, especially if he is a lover of sport with the rod and gun. These mossy, tree-grown lakes teem with the best of game fish and swarm with wild fowl of the choicer species. In the gum and sycamore swamps the beaver, otter, mink, raccoon and possum are as abundant to-day as they ever were anywhere. Black bass, Southern bass, a rare and gamey speckled trout of unexcelled flavor, which grows to seven pounds in weight, sun perch, the most enormous catfish, and a fish known down there as the silver-sided perch, give the angler who seeks the Sunken Lands such sport as he will never forget. The silver-sided perch I never saw anywhere else. It is the handsomest fish I ever looked at, and is as gamey as a black bass."

"The last time I handled a canon on the water of the Sunken Lands was in October, 1879. I had been enjoying great sport with the bass and trout—both take the fly readily in their month—when the darky who was handling the boat for me old June, a Guinea relle of very fat, average slave days, said to me:

"Maa' Ben' put on a hunk of fat hellebore bark an' try yo' luck fo' keeffee."

"Oh," I said, "Jue, nobody can stand up to a man like you." And I did better, stronger, more to be believed or trusted it. Where is the help or practical advantage to be derived from it, directly or indirectly, in the remotest degree? The man that has the world in his hand, all count on some pleasure or profit, until the labor of the profane sweater is utterly gratuitous and contemptible. It blasting effect on character should condemn it. What good does it?"

"It utter uselessness should condemn it. Of what practical use is it? What good does it? And when it is done, better, stronger, more to be believed or trusted it. Where is the help or practical advantage to be derived from it, directly or indirectly, in the remotest degree? The man that has the world in his hand, all count on some pleasure or profit, until the labor of the profane sweater is utterly

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Letter from Canton, N. Y.

MESSES. EDITORS.—Not wishing to lose my position on the editorial staff of the local department of your paper, I take this opportunity to send you a few lines, which will fill space, if they interest no one.

We are in the midst of a severe winter, the mercury often standing at thirty below zero, and has been as much as forty below. We have not seen the bare ground since Nov. 1st, and are not likely to see it again. The farmers of this country held a two-days' meeting in the town hall last week, the interest of husbandry and property. It was a general meeting of many Prof. Roberts and Webster, of Cornell University, J. K. Brown, State Tax Commissioner, and others from experimental stations, and it might be noted for the Worton and Sullivans Club to join and hold such a meeting.

We had a town election on the 14th instant, and resulted in the election of a local temperance candidate. Thus the whist key-saws close.

The greatest excitement in town at present is a revival at the Methodist Church, and a large number of laymen and women are daily to be seen in the church. The idea of establishing a gymnasium for the Young Men's Christian Association. He replied that they could practice in his gymnasium free, and that he would furnish for the use of the YMCA a room in his house, and that he would give to the YMCA \$100 per ton for coal. It would be a grand idea to establish such a gymnasium in your town.

Edgar Gardner, an opium smuggler, was arrested near here the other day. The total value of the seizure was \$10,000. They smuggled the drug across the St. Lawrence river.

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