

THE RED DAYS FAR EXCEED THE BLACK.

BY AMELIA E. BARR.

I said one day a year ago,
I wonder if I truly kept
A list of days when life burnt low—
Of days I smiled, of days I wept—
If good or bad would highest mount
When I made up the year's account.

I took a ledger fair and fine,
And now, I said, when days are glad
I'll write with bright ink the line;
And write with black when they are bad.
So that they'll stand before my sight
As clear apart as day and night.

I will not mind the changing skies,
Nor if it shine, nor if it rain;
But if there come some sweet surprise
Of friendship, love, or honest gain,
Why, then, it shall be understood,
That day is written down as good.

And if to any one I love
A blessing meets them on the way,
That will a double pleasure prove,
So it shall be a happy day;
And if some day I've come to dread
Pass harmless by—I'll write it red.

When hands and brain stand labor's test
And I can do the thing I would,
Those days when I am at my best,
Shall all be traced as very good.
And in red letters, too, I'll write
Those rare strong hours, when right is might.

When first I meet in some grand book,
A noble soul that touches mine,
And with his vision I can look
Through some "Gate beautiful" of time;
That day such happiness will shed,
That golden lined will seem the red.

And when pure thoughts have power
To touch my heart and dim my eyes,
And I, in some diviner hour,
Can hold sweet converse with the skies,
Oh, then my soul may safely write,
"This day hath been most good and bright."

What do I see on looking back?
A red lined book before me lies,
With here and there a thread of black,
That like a passing shadow flies;
A shadow, it must be confessed,
That often rose in my own breast.

And I have found 'tis good to note
The blessings that are mine each day,
For happiness is vainly sought
In some dim future far away.
Just try my ledger for a year;
Then look with grateful wonder back
And you will find—there is no fear—
The red days far exceed the black.

QUERIES.

A Winter Resident Asks a Few Pertinent Questions About Pinehurst.

EDITOR PINEHURST OUTLOOK:

DEAR SIR,—Your very kind and generous practice of opening the columns of your paper for the expressions of the residents of this little New England village has suggested to me the propriety of asking some questions which must naturally arise to every thoughtful mind viewing the conditions which surround one residing here, and which I trust you will assist me to solve.

First, who conceived the idea of establishing such a complete garden spot—who had the wisdom and foresight to plan the details leading up to the completion? Who would have believed it possible for the projector to have accomplished so much in such an incredibly short time? What was the projector's ultimate object? How does he expect to realize a percentage on his investment? You may regard me as being too inquisitive, but when I saw your advertisement of suites for \$50, \$60 and \$75 per season my curiosity led me to ask the superintendent to show me through one of them, which he promptly did.

The "Marlborough" being selected, we find a pretty appearing, substantially built house, divided into four apart-

ments—three suites of two rooms each on the ground floor, and one suite of four rooms up one flight of stairs. Entering one of the two roomed suites we find a bed room and sitting room combined, fitted up with neat new antique oak furniture—bed room chairs, rockers, stand, bureau, commode, and bed with best of mattresses supported by easy pleasant spiral springs. Connected by doorway with this room is the combined dining room and kitchen, as complete in its furnishings as the living room was found, with its new Lee cook stove, folding table, dishes—in fact, everything necessary for housekeeping. Two large clothes closets, one pantry and one dish closet open into these rooms. The wood closet in the hallway is stocked with fat pine that gives out a rich, pleasant resinous odor as the door opens, and just across the hallway is the sink with running water—Pinehurst spring water. What is the water rent I ask? Supt. Benbow replies: "We make no charge for either water, electric lights or sewerage; all of which is included in the prices named for the suite."

Looking out the windows I see the house circled by neatly graveled walks bordered on both sides by planting spaces filled with native evergreen shrubbery—magnolias, holly, gall berry, bay flower, yucca, honeysuckle, ground roses, pansies and violets—the whole surrounded by a vast green lawn. Think of it—a pretty green lawn with violets in profusion right out in the open in January—as pretty as our own New England lawns in June.

Then I ask to see one of the cottages built for single families, and I find the same completeness of minute detail, only more elaborate supplies are provided where more room admits—more storage capacity, more people to be accommodated. Thank you, Mr. Benbow; now let me think a moment. A family renting one of these cottages needs really to bring only wearing apparel to be comfortable while in Pinehurst. But from what does Mr. Tufts derive his income? Certainly the rental of a cottage is not more than a fair return for the cost of the house and its furnishings—not as much as the rent of a similar cottage for summer months in the country up home, where one has none of the accessories obtainable at Pinehurst. Here a complete system of drainpipes and sewers connects each cottage with pipes leading off a mile from the village in two directions and emptying into running streams. Water mains lead from the springs up through the village into each cottage, electric light wires run overhead along the alleyways and tap into every house and every room. All these water mains, sewer pipes, electric poles and wire cost money. It took men and money to put them in position; it takes constant attention to maintain and keep them in repair. Men are working day and night in maintenance, construction and operation throughout the entire year, and yet you say no charge is made to the renter for light, water, or sewerage. There must be an enormous outlay by the owner from which he derives no direct or indirect return, as the rentals could not expect to cover this expense. When you consider this army of laborers and foremen required to care for the 100 acres of lawns, the space after space of planted shrubbery, the walks

and driveways, the trees and plants themselves, it is impossible for the cottage rentals to approximately reach the expenses of the year regardless of realizing a percentage on the investment.

The general improvement must be marked to those who have seen the growth from month to month, and could not be expected or anticipated in a village where the property belonged to the individual occupants of the cottages, or where the rentals were expected to furnish the outlay. No one can properly appreciate the amount of work essential to obtain the result here reached unless he calmly sits down with pencil and paper to reckon up the cost. Summer and winter, autumn and spring, incessantly the army of men toil early and late, and it is a source of employment to the neighboring inhabitants who seem to appreciate it; it is an object lesson to those whom the Almighty has favored with fortune; it is a godsend to those afflicted with ailments that are curable; a haven of rest to the nervous overworked man or woman who needs rest and recuperation, and to delicate children who need to live out doors and play in the sand from early morning till bed time it is the ideal place, and its popularity will no doubt prove the owner's wisdom as a business venture at some future date. But at present better opportunities for pleasure, health, recreation and comfort are being furnished in Pinehurst than in any like place within the writer's knowledge. In fact, there is no other such place established except Biltmore, the property of Mr. Vanderbilt at Asheville, and there the expenditures are made for the sole benefit of the owner, while the rest of the world is excluded. I never before lived in a place where so nearly everything needed is done for you without attendant cost. My deductions are that years must elapse before its owner will realize an income on his investment. It is a great achievement—a magnificent accomplishment—and no doubt a source of great pleasure to the owner. C.

ABERDEEN.

H. H. Powell, Jr., returned to Raleigh Monday.

Miss Bonny Muse is visiting Miss Mamie Pleasants.

Mr. and Mrs. Reed are visiting their daughter, Mrs. Huff.

L. Kelley New York City is a guest at the Hotel Powell.

Mrs. H. Adams of Biscoe is visiting her sister Miss Maurer.

A. D. McLean returned Sunday from a week's visit to Dunn.

Mrs. Register, wife of Dr. Register, is visiting Mr. Maurer and family.

N. A. McKeithen is the happy father of a young son—a new year's present.

Misses Maurer and Harrington returned Saturday from Asheboro, where they have been visiting.

Mrs. V. G. Pleasants and Miss McKay of Alfordville, N. C., are visiting the family of Mr. G. W. Pleasants.

The young people of the village held a supper and entertainment at the town hall last Friday evening, and saw the old year out.

Benjamin Wilson arrived home from New Hill, Wake county, last Tuesday, with his bride, who was a resident of that town.

A special train left here last Thursday morning on the Aberdeen & Asheboro railroad to take a party of excursionists from Pinehurst to Troy for the day.

CURRENT COMMENT.

This is the season when the careless hunter drags his gun out of the boat by the muzzle.—Buffalo Express.

It has been discovered that it is perfectly harmless to eat the worms in peaches. But still it is hard on the worms.—Wichita Eagle.

Up to the present time the Kansas cyclone is the only air motor that is relied on for results, and it is unpopular.—Washington Star.

Business appears to be improving in Guatemala. The regular revolutions now occur weekly instead of semimonthly.—Chicago Chronicle.

Football will have to become unusually exciting this season to follow the pace in brutality set by the baseball exploiters.—Milwaukee Sentinel.

All of the recent discoveries of gold on this continent have been along the borders of the dominion, a fact which shows that Canada is a gilt edged country.—Toronto Mail.

A Brooklyn man has been cured of a broken neck. This wonder gives hope that science may yet find a way to reduce a swelled head to normal proportions.—Baltimore American.

The appellate court of Illinois has decided that a person cannot collect damages for mental anguish. The young man can now teach himself to play on the cornet in his boarding house with impunity.—Chicago Tribune.

Georgia women refuse to obey the theater hat law unless men are forbidden to go out between acts. Just how the men are to get drinks without going out the unreasonable females don't condescend to explain.—Kansas City Journal.

It is cheering to know that in recent years the feeling of hostility toward Ireland, which has been long nursed in England, has abated somewhat, and the English people are beginning to entertain no small degree of solicitude for the Irish peasantry.—Detroit Journal.

The meanest man in the United States lives in Atlantic, Ia. He took his girl to the theater, and her ticket won a bicycle that was offered by the managers. He claimed the bicycle, as he had bought the ticket. And yet Charlotte Smith would compel such a man to marry.—Rochester Post-Express.

GARDEN AND ORCHARD.

Use only well settled manure in the garden.

It is detrimental to the health of the tree to cultivate late.

A deep soil—the deeper the better—is the best for an orchard.

Select young trees rather than larger or older ones for planting.

Sawdust and rotten chips make a good manure for the orchard.

It is useless to plant trees unless they are thrifty and vigorous.

Worthless or decaying trees should be removed from the orchard.

To grow choice fruit an orchard cannot be too rich or too well drained.

Select only known hardy, productive sorts of good quality for the main planting.

In manuring the orchard remember that the roots extend as far out as the branches.

Forest tree seeds, as well as fruit tree seeds, should not be allowed to get too dry before planting.

Save up some well rotted manure to apply on the garden as soon as the crops have all matured.

Plant a family orchard with a view to having fruit ripen at different times in order to keep up a supply.—Exchange.