

### GREAT FOREST FIRE.

**Worst Conflagration in the Memory of the Oldest Inhabitant—Great Damage All Around the Village and Many Rendered Homeless, But Pinchurst Escapes Unscathed.**

During the past week this section of country has suffered from immense forest fires which have covered a large territory and done a large amount of damage. On Monday fires could be seen at a distance from the village, and back fires were lighted to protect the woods in our immediate vicinity. On Tuesday the air was filled with smoke from distant fires blown in by a high wind, almost a gale, which continued all day. In the evening fires sprang up in view of the village, and the fire-fighters were ordered to the woods to keep it as far away as possible.

The wind continued to increase until it became almost a hurricane and the greatest efforts were made to save the buildings outside the town. No buildings belonging to the estate were burned, and about 10 o'clock in the evening the fires in the woods had nearly burnt out and all danger was past.

We shall always consider the village fire-proof after the test of last Tuesday. While no fears were felt for the safety of the houses inside the town lines, yet when we take into consideration that no such fires and wind together can be remembered by the oldest inhabitant, it is not surprising that some of our northern visitors became anxious and excited. Mr. Tufts did the right thing when he purchased this estate of 6,000 acres to protect the village from undesirable neighbors, fires, etc., and from our recent experience in connection with the fire apparatus and water supply for the village we are satisfied that Pinchurst is as safe a place to reside in as any in the state.

#### NOTES.

Mr. Short on the Carthage road has lost fences and outbuildings.

Several colored families in the woods were burned out, losing everything except the clothes they wore.

Generous provision is being made for the colored people who lost their homes during the late forest fires.

Mr. Kelly on the Jackson Springs road lost his house and all outbuildings, but saved his wife and seven children.

Caddell's sawmill about three miles from town was entirely destroyed with all the lumber in that neighborhood.

Mr. Maples, who resides about five miles from town in the locality known as Texas, has lost everything on his plantation but the house.

Messrs. M. McDonald, Daniel Bunnell, the widow Caddell and John Blake in the vicinity of the Pine Ridge school house, lost fences and outbuildings.

The old church occupied by the colored people in the vicinity of Linden was burned and the newly formed Sunday school, organized by Miss Gilbert, will have to secure new quarters.

The fire on the west side of the village burned itself out just this side of Aberdeen. Fortunately a fire had burned over that district some weeks ago and left nothing for the flames to feed upon.

Laundry bags and pillow-cases were popular receptacles for the clothing and valuables that guests were gathering to-

gether Tuesday evening. They made an interesting display through the office and corridors of the Inn.

The large number of trees blown down in the woods last Tuesday bear evidence of the force of the hurricane that assisted the fire to spread over a large territory and largely increased the danger to all property in this section.

Our northern visitors have shown great interest in providing for the unfortunates by the late fires, by subscribing money, clothes, etc., and the relief committee, with their help, will be able to give assistance in all deserving cases.

A trip across country last Wednesday discovered quite a number of homeless ones who had lost everything but the clothes they had on. In one case two families of colored people were found camped on the edge of a creek without food or shelter, others had left their houses and camped in the open field to escape the smoke and fire, but no loss of life has yet been reported and all cases of suffering will be hunted out and relieved.

#### Mardi Gras Festival, New Orleans, La.

The committee on arrangements are using every means in their power to make the festival this year the greatest ever held. Elaborate arrangements have been made for the pleasure and entertainment of their guests. However, the manner in which the trip to New Orleans is made, will play no small part in making the visit an enjoyable one.

The Seaboard Air Line offers the choice of two daily trains, the schedule by either of which is very good. They leave as follows:

New York, 10.50 a. m. and 8.50 p. m.  
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Richmond, 8.56 p. m. and 9.05 a. m.  
Raleigh, 2.16 a. m. and 3.40 p. m.  
Monroe, 6.43 a. m. and 9.12 p. m.  
Abbeville, 11.05 a. m. and 1.35 a. m.  
Athens, 1.15 p. m. and 3.45 a. m.  
Arriving at Atlanta, 2.50 p. m. and 5.20 a. m., and New Orleans, 7.40 a. m. and 8.10 p. m.  
From Richmond and points south, by the train arriving at New Orleans at 8.10, only one night is spent on the road.

Call on or address any Seaboard Air Line Agent.

#### Surely Original.

Tired school teachers can now laugh at the humor of some of their scholars' examination papers last spring. These answers, says an exchange, were given by girls averaging thirteen and a half years of age, at a public school examination in Brooklyn:

Question—What do you know of the battle of Bunker Hill?

Answer—The battle of Bunker Hill was fought a long time ago. Dame old Barbara threw up the window, and said, "Shoot, if you must, this old gray head, but spare your country's flag," she said.

Ques.—Tell all you know about the battle of Lexington.

Ans.—The battle of Lexington was fought between the Greeks and the Persians. They were thick in the middle and thin at the ends.

Ques.—What instrument is used to measure the height of mountains?

Ans.—A barometer is used to measure the height of mountains. You dig a hole in the top, and stick it down in the middle. Some people boil them to make them better.—*Exchange.*

Blue fishing—when you don't catch anything.

#### NONSENSE FOR THE CHILDREN.

BY FATHER GANDER.

Happy children in the grove,  
Hunting as for treasure-trove.  
Prithee, try not them to wheedle  
As they sport with the pine needle.

Heaps they gather, make a bed,  
On it every child can play;  
First on foot, then on their head  
Stand they as they may.

When they swing they feel no danger,  
For to fear each is a stranger.  
Should they fall from far aloft,  
This pine bed is very soft.

As you've been to the deer park,  
Have you not been struck  
With the winsome manner  
Of the fine young buck?  
How his lady loves him,  
Deer and still more dear!  
Then from sights like these you go  
On your way to find the doe.  
When you've but a few steps gone  
You will come upon the fawn.  
Happy family; are they not?  
Without blemish; without spot.

Who's that swinging in the swing,  
Like a bird upon the wing?  
At first sight I thought 't was Molly;  
Then I saw it was her dolly.

She had placed it on the seat,  
Head and body, legs and feet.  
Then she pushed it hard and high,  
Till the dolly seemed to fly.

O fie! O fie! you peacock vain,  
You think your wife is very plain.  
But when it comes to good, hard work,  
She does the labor and you shirk.

You think your feathers are very fine,  
But we prefer the long-leaf pine.  
And yet we all, from sense of duty,  
Have to concede that you're a beauty.

Peter, Peter, corn pone eater,  
Had a wife who couldn't teter,  
He took her to the Pinchurst dell  
And there she tetered very well.

#### Unfair.

Mama—Why did you strike little Elsie, you naughty boy?

Dick—Well, what did she want to cheat for, then?

Mama—How did she cheat?

Dick—Why, we were playing at Adam and Eve, and she had the apple to tempt me with, and she never tempted me, but went and ate it all up herself.—*Tid-Bits.*

A Michigan paper tells a story of a little girl named Hattie, whose mother was putting her to sleep one night. At last her mother said:

"Hattie, dear, I am anxious that you get quiet and get to sleep, because I want to go down stairs and join in the evening prayers."

"Who's doin' to pway?" asked Hattie.

"Why, Uncle William of course, dear."

"Uncle William pway?" said the baby, with wide-eyed astonishment, and springing up in bed in the vigor of her surprise.

"W'y I fawt he was a Demokwat?"

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"Why do you pine?" said Jack Acorn-bearer to his long-leaf neighbor; and without waiting for a reply, complacently continued, "There's nothing the matter with me; I'm O(a)K."

Some crusty, fusty, musty, dusty, gusty curmudgeon of a man gave the following toast at a celebration: "Our fire engines—may they be like our old maids, ever ready, but never wanted."

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