Musicale at the Berkshire.

The "Berkshire" was the scene of a very pleasant gathering last Wednesday evening, the occasion being a musicale under the auspices of our popular fellow townsman, Mr. E. Rogers, the pilgrim. The parlors of the hotel were well filled with the guests, and many cottagers were also present.

The program consisted of recitations and vocal solos by Mr. St. Clair, recitations by Mr. Rogers, piano solo by Miss Lindsey, violin solos by Miss Clark, piano solos by Miss Birkbeck, and a vocal solo by Mr. St. Clair with violin accompaniment. Every number on the program was finely rendered and well received, the contributions by Mr. St. Clair being particularly pleasing, and the evening was greatly enjoyed by all present.

The Darkey and the Mule.

(BY REV. J. A. BROCKETT, D.D.)

One of the strangest and funniest sights that a man from the North can possibly behold is to see for the first time a solemn darkey and his bosom friend, so to speak, a mule, chasing a light southern plough around through the yielding, sandy soil, around and around a ten-acre lot. I can imagine that Irwin Russel, the poet, saw such a sight previous to writing his "Nebuchadnezzah." I think I can see him now sitting on the topmost rail of the national rail fence, jotting down an occasional note in the log book of memory, while "Neb" addresses the conscientious mule as follows:

> "Nebuchadnezzah, whoa, sah! Whar is you tryin' to go, sah? I'd hab you for to know, sah, l's holdin' ob de lines. You'd better stop dat prancin'; You's pow'ful fond of dancin'; But I bet my yeah's advancin' Dat I'll cure you ob your shines."

Another round of the mellow lot is made. The darky's eyes shine with pleasure as they glance from the poet to the mule. Perhaps he muses of the heaps of peas, potatoes, squashes and other good things that will probably be raised on the land he is plowing. But that there is a difference of opinion somewhere between the darky and the mule is evidenced by his further remarks to his muleship.

> "Look heah, mule! better min' out-Fus' t'ing you know, you'll fin' out How quick I'll wear this line out On your ugly, stubbo'n back. You needn't try to steal up, An' lif' dat precious heel up; You's got to plow this flel' up, You has, sah, for a fac'."

And now, in imagination we can see the intelligent beast of burden and his driver growing more intimate, something embellishes the open countenance of the darky as he softly sings his satisfaction.

"Dar, dat's de way to do it. He's comin' right down to it; Just watch him plowin t'roo it; Dis nigger ain't no fool, Some foiks, dey would a beat him-Now dat would only heat him-I know just how to treat him-You must reason wid a mule."

The drawing together process between the mule and the darky now begins to grow more rapidly. The mule is gaining the darky's confidence. The poet yawns, and nonchalently whittles a persimmon branch. Confidence having been won by the mule, now listen to the dar-

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The Pinehurst Nurseries

RICHMOND.

STRANGERS visiting Richmond, Va., will find excellent accommodations with Miss Pitzer, 115 East Franklin Street.

"He minds me like a nigger, If he was only bigger He'd fetch a mighty figger, He would, I tell you! Yes, sah! See how he keeps a clickin', He's as gentle as a chicken, And nebber thinks of kickin'-Whoa, dah! Nebuchadnezzah."

The supreme moment has arrived. The heart of the great poet is bursting with tenderness over the scene before him. A hungry crow sits sadly musing on the limb of a distant gum tree-musing whether he had better make corn while the sun shines, or wait for developments. It is a wise crow, and it scents disaster and game in the near future.

Suddenly something happens. Yes, it happens suddenly and unexpectedly, like the snort from a stumbering deacon's nose during the prayer time, or the hysterical giggle from an anxious maiden in the binding part of a marriage ceremony. There is a picture of rope rein flying athwart the horizon. Something plow shaped flashed like a meteor across the line of vision, followed by something that strongly resembles a dismantled darky. Then there is heard-not "a sound of revelry by night"-but the clickerty-click of a mule's heels running at full speed. The dogwood bushes part for an instant, and the mule has gained like a mutual understanding-and a grin a haven over there, where, for a time at least, the darky'll cease from troubling and the weary mule can have a chance to rest. But listen to the darky:

"Is dis heah me, or not me? Or is de debble got me? Was dat a cannon shot me? Hab I laid heah more'n a week? Dat mule do kick amazin'-De beast was spiled in raisin'-But now I spect he's grazin' On de oder side de creek."

-Salmagundi.

"Have you got any embalmed beef?" asked the joker of his butcher. "No," replied the dealer, off his guard; "but we have something just as good."- Yankers

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