

some new gospel. The larger and smaller points of theology they are very fond of hearing discussed. I heard an aged preacher struggle with the doctrine of foreordination and actually end his sermon with the declaration that he did not understand it. The chief matter in contention in one settlement where I happened to spend some time was concerning baptism, whether the head should be dipped up stream or across the current. I must not forget to mention the "Fire Woman," known all over that country. For eight years she had ridden horseback continually over the country without relief from burning. She fancied herself on fire, and kept her mouth always full of water. Her husband told me that he had seen light and smoke come from her body and that it felt hot. This is only one of many strange, fantastic and more often superstitious notions current among the people. And it is just these notions, much outgrown in most parts of our land that makes West Carolina an interesting country to visit and study. Here one will find fragments of most ancient wisdom and beliefs handed down from generation to generation and American men and women of the most primitive and original type to be found anywhere except in the remote corners of Europe. Remember I am not speaking of Asheville or other popular resorts. I am speaking of the interior portions of that country, portions seldom visited by Northerners. It is best known by circuit riders, prospectors for minerals and lumber, and the moonshine whiskey detectives. For the illicit still is common enough. I did want much to visit one but you take your life in your hand when you venture into its neighborhood. However I saw the moonshiner himself, and heard him talk—talk which would have been precious to an anarchist. And I had offered me one day some "ash," which I innocently thought the man meant as an invitation to buy some lumber. It is almost impossible for the farmers to turn their corn as corn into cash and one does not wonder at their trying the next way.

A most interesting country, as I have said to visit and observe, but not to stay, not to live in. For winter living there is no place in the State equal to Pinehurst taken all in all, its conveniences, its opportunities for amusement, its good company, good, pleasant, warm houses and good fare. Pinehurst makes its guests feel at home at once. One other attraction it has for the winter resident, scarcely to be found elsewhere in the southland, good walking in the village itself and its environs. I have seen the mud of many states, but none so deep, so impassable as that of Western North Carolina. If those in other parts of the State are called "Far Heels," in that they should be called "mud heels." So we are well content to live in Pinehurst without mountains or sea. The sand is beach enough, and the beautiful skies high enough for our admiration and reverence.

The Season's Entertainments.

Mr. Alfred D. St. Clair of New York, the talented musician whose efforts contributed so largely to the success of the many entertainments held in the village the past two seasons, returned to Pinehurst last Saturday.

Arrangements have been made whereby Mr. St. Clair will have full charge of all entertainments in the hall this season.

He will, as in the past, be assisted by many of the guests and villagers who take pride in the high class of entertainment which have become a feature of the social life of Pinehurst.

Mr. St. Clair has opened a vocal studio where our villagers may have their voices thoroughly trained and prepared for church, concert, oratorio or opera by the celebrated F. Lamperti system. The greatest attention will be paid to breath control, placing and production of voice, register, force, intensity of expression, etc. Mr. St. Clair will arrange for a farce or light comedy weekly or as often as the visitors may desire and an opera will be given by the vocal students as opportunity presents; also part singing, quartets, glees and trios will form parts of the program and such days as may be unfit for outdoor exercise may be passed with much of both pleasure and profit to the visitors.

Mr. St. Clair was a pupil of the elder Lamperti for seven years and sang in grand opera at La Scala, Milan, and all through Europe, England, Australia, Cape Town and Cairo. He came to this country with Madame Patti, having sung for six seasons in her company and was a member of the old Abby & Graw and Doyle & Carte companies. He is also a noted choir master and teacher in New York.

Mr. Holmes.

The many friends of Mr. William Holmes are congratulating him on his appointment to the position of resident superintendent. Mr. Holmes came here from Boston early this season to accept a position in the General Office. When Mr. Benbow resigned the position was offered to Mr. Holmes whose capabilities had thus early been recognized. He has had a business training of many years, having conducted a large business in his home city, being one of the firm of Fiske, Holmes & Co., he holds a high rank among the business men both as a business man and a gentleman. Strangers coming in contact with Mr. Holmes for the first time cannot fail to be drawn to him by his uniformly, kind and courteous manner. He will, we know, make a success in his new position for he has just the qualities which are needed in this most responsible position, a high conception of the courtesy due those with whom he comes in contact, yet with the firmness necessary to direct and control the extensive interests of the owner of a town like Pinehurst.

No Need to Worry What to Send Your Friends for Christmas.

We should suggest a case with really choice Holly, Mistletoe and Pine would be just the thing to gladden the hearts of the folks at home.

Probably you know that it is our business to pack just such stuff and incidentally we know just how to pack—all you will have to do therefore is to tell us how many cases you want and to which addresses you wish them shipped, and then you may be sure that they get there in time.

One thing more! Christmas still comes on December 25th, and we are about a thousand miles or so from New England, while our cases will not be the only goods shipped about Christmas. We cannot guarantee, therefore, to have delivered in New England, any cases

which are ordered of us after December 12th to go by freight and after the 19th to go by express.

We book orders now and shall fill them in strict rotation.

A case 30 x 18 x 9 inches costs 75 cents; three cases for two dollars, delivered free at Pinehurst freight or express station.

Respectfully,
PINEHURST NURSERIES,
Otto Katzenstein, Manager.

Ways of the Ostrich.

The Phoenix herd of ostriches inhabits an alfalfa pasture of forty acres, three miles north of the city. The herd is second in size in America, numbering 175 birds, the largest herd being at Fullerton, Cal., and numbering 300 birds.

The first birds brought from South Africa to America for breeding purposes came to California in 1882. In 1888 fourteen chicks from this herd were brought to Phoenix for exhibition, and were bought by Josiah Harbert, who proposed to breed them. The purchase was made during the summer and Mr. Harbert put the young birds in coops, carefully covered the coops with cloths to keep out the sun, and drove out to his home in Alhambra. All the birds but two were smothered to death during the trip. It being impossible to distinguish between the sexes in young ostriches, and fearing he had no male bird, Mr. Harbert purchased one of the male birds brought from Africa. The 175 birds constituting the present herd are his descendants. He has been honorably retired, and with the dignity befitting his patriarchal position he knocks the stuffing out of everything that comes within his reach. It was not long ago that he engaged Mr. Pickrell, President of the Arizona Ostrich Company, in an impromptu "scrap," and while Mr. Pickrell is a husky old bird himself and was armed with a wooden pitchfork, old "Oom Paul" hit him one welt and knocked him out for several days.

The ostrich is a monogamist. At least he has but one wife at a time. The match-making is arranged by the human keeper, who puts each pair of birds in a separate corral. Mr. Ostrich is likely to consider the question of marriage for some days after he is introduced to his partner, and much thought on the question colors his shins and beak a bright red. When he finally determines that a family should be reared, he digs a nest in the ground. He then drives his mate up to the nest and calls her attention to it by giving her a kick. If she is dull of comprehension, and she usually is, he continues to kick her and scold her, and his voice much resembles the roar of the lion. He is often compelled to go to the extreme of kicking her over the 8-foot fence forming the corral.

She finally, however, sees her duty and begins to lay eggs which average three pounds in weight. The first two or three eggs are not fertile and will not hatch. This fact, curiously enough, is known to the mother and she lays them outside the nest. But in this there is a wonderful provision of nature. On the African desert the nesting of the wild birds is done in the hills or mountains, far from the water and the haunts of beasts or men. But while the nest may be many miles from water, the first requirement of the chick when he comes

from the shell is water or its equivalent in liquid food. Hence the necessity of the two or three sterile eggs, which the mother breaks after her brood is born, and on which the chicks live until they are strong enough to travel.

Left to her own judgement the hen lays perhaps ten eggs, at the rate of one in two days, and when the nest looks comfortably full, the incubation begins. But the artifice of man deceives her. The keeper systematically takes the eggs from the nest, and as long as her work seems to be unfinished the hen continues to produce eggs. By this system two hens on the Phoenix farm last year produced fifty eggs each. She cannot be deceived, however, as to the sterile eggs. If they are put in the nest she will continue to pull them out, and will finally quit laying and abandon the nest.

About fifteen eggs constitute a "setting," and the period of incubation is forty-two days. The male bird does the greater share of this labor. He takes charge of the nest at 5 o'clock in the evening and remains with it until 9 o'clock in the morning, when the female takes charge. At noon he relieves her for an hour, while she lunches, and she then keeps house until 5 o'clock.

One of the most interesting characteristics of the ostrich is the manner in which he takes what may be called his "constitutional." Every morning at sunrise the herd of young males engages in a foot race, which concludes in a combination cake walk and reel. In single file they will race around the pasture at a two-minute gait, until thoroughly limbered up, and then suddenly forming in a group go through gyrations that suggest the waltz, the Virginia reel, the cake walk and the "happy jag." It is a grotesque performance, but there is a singular grace in the birds' play, and when they are in full plumage, with their great wings spread, the sight is beautiful.—*Arizona Graphic.*

Harry Vardon's Plans.

Harry Vardon, one of the world's greatest golfers, has almost decided to take up his abode in the United States and become an American citizen. Vardon will probably tour the Pacific coast this winter. While in Boston the other day he expressed a desire to meet Willie Smith and David Bell in California.

After Vardon's return to the East he will appear in matches in the spring and then leave for England, to close up his affairs preparatory to coming to this country for a permanent stay. His reported decision to forswear allegiance to the crown is not surprising when his record in this country is remembered. His tour of the Florida resorts last winter, his marvelous match playing in the East, winding up with his victory in the open championship of the United States, forms a record of which he is justly proud. He has been defeated but twice, both times by Bernard Nicholls of Boston.

Vardon has recognized that there is money for him in golf in this country, and that there will be a substantial business here for years to come. He expects to settle down in Chicago, but intends to spend the winter at Pinehurst, N. C., which is much frequented by the smart set in winter.—*Boston Post.*