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The Patterson School in the Happy Valley.

By (Old Hurraygraph)
Written for The Democrat

Legerwood, N. C., Sept. 17.—Some seven miles from the attractive and thrifty town of Lenoir, in Caldwell county, is the beautiful evergreen Happy Valley, bordering the Yadkin River, and is as fine, fertile and delightful a district, for ten miles or more in length, as ever beheld for picturesqueness in scenery, or ever yielded to the plow of progress. It is a natural, luxurious garden, set in a framework of majestic mountains that shield it from storms; embracing thousands of acres of land that are as level as a table-top. This unique valley will average nearly a mile in width—a vista of rare verdancy, mountain-walled and oak, pine, fir and spruce pillared. The land is remarkable for richness of soil fertility and depth, and nature has supplied it with a sensitive and abundant responsive touch to man's effort and will. There is a delight in everything. A gold and purplish gauze hangs over fields and woods, like a veil over the face of beauty, partly concealing yet enhancing its loveliness. The sun pours down a soft and dreamy golden light. The air is balmy and caressing. The birds are constantly singing as cheerily as in spring-time. The buzz of the industrious bee in the honey-suckle; the flickering of the shadows; the wind among the forest trees; the whistle of the partridge and the thrush—all bear a message of happy birds, happy people and a happy valley, from which it gets its name. It is unspeakable pleasure to sojourn in such environment and a dream to live there.

The "Happy Valley" is full of historic lore and romance. It is inhabited by the Joneses, the Lenors, the Steels, the Fraziers, the Clinards and scores of others, whose ancestry have figured prominently in Caldwell county, and also in the State, and have added a brilliant lustre to the pages of governmental, legislative and war history of this commonwealth. And they are no less renowned in peace.

It was my good fortune to visit and dine with Mr. and Mrs. R. D. S. Frazier, eight miles down the valley, one mile from the railroad station, Grandin, the road to Wilkesboro. Such a dinner! It savored of Colonial times, in good old days. I should say Mrs. Frazier is the princess of epicures.

While with Mr. Frazier, on his "Riverside Farm," one of the largest plantations on the river, and one of the loveliest of country homes, I attended divine services Sunday, conducted by Rev. Hugh A. Dobbin, principal of the Patterson School. While chatting with new-made friends, and seeing me in company with Mr. Dobbin, a gentleman approached me and inquired: "What are you Professor of at the school?" "Vitalogy," I replied. "What new thing is that?" quickly came back at me. "Just visiting the Patterson School and Happy Valley, to be happy with you people," was all I could muster up courage to say. This reminds me that during my stay at Blowing Rock this summer I was accustomed to tramp around through the mountains a great deal with Abner Boone and Mr. Tydeman. We wore caps and I were seen in many places. I am informed that some of the mountain people took us for Mormon elders, and put out the report that we had fourteen wives and were looking for four more in the mountains. What if some of our

wives should hear this? Some of the mountain people will have their fun and we had to laugh with them.

In the "Happy Valley" is the Patterson School, the splendid farm and home of the late Hon. Samuel L. Patterson, late State Commissioner of Agriculture, who bequeathed the property to the Episcopal Missionary district at Asheville for that purpose—to take in a mountain boy with only the ragged suit he may stand in, and give him a full chance to earn a good education, his food and lodging, his books and clothing; that will, from the start, make him a self-supporting individual, able by the work of his hands to nourish and develop himself. The Patterson School is doing this. But there are many bright, ambitious boys now thirsting for knowledge and knocking at the doors of this school, and cannot gain admittance for the reason the school which is supported by voluntary contributions, has not the means to employ more teachers and give them the accommodation. What an opportunity for the philanthropist! What a chance to give a rough diamond a polished beautiful educational setting! Who will hear the plaintive call of the little mountain boy, who has brought his empty cup to the fountain? Will you send him empty away? By aiding this school it is "dealing in futures" that will pay a handsome dividend in this life, and the life to come.

If you could see the bright, cheery, happy youth here now, and with what a determination they pursue their studies, and their farm work, it would do your heart good; and open your praises for such an institution, and your purse strings would snap asunder, and you would say, "I will help those boys who want to come and cannot get in." While good crops are made on the farm, there is not a sufficiency to make it self-supporting the year round, and it requires quite a sum to pay the teachers and buy necessary equipment, which cannot be taken out of the crop, which has to go to feed and clothe the boys, feed the faculty and improve the farm.

Rev. Hugh A. Dobbin is the principal, and he is making good, running the school in a safe and economical way. Eleven boys are here who have worked through the summer. By October 1st the school will have 30, with 10 day pupils and this is the capacity of the present buildings, the Patterson colonial home of a century's service being used for class rooms, dormitory, dining hall, faculty rooms, etc. Besides Mr. Dobbin, who teaches himself, the faculty consists of Miss Bulah Dobbin, Prof. C. H. Eargle and Mr. C. H. Mast, agriculturalist. The curriculum comprises the usual elementary and high school subjects. The school extends a cordial welcome to those who desire to visit it and see its operations, and what great possibilities lie in easy reach of the penniless mountain boys by a little aid from the lovers of education who wish to do a good work, and leaves in the hearts of those boys a name more precious and lasting than riches.

Constipation Causes Sickness,

Don't permit yourself to become constipated, as your system immediately begins to absorb poison from the backed-up waste matter. Use Dr. King's New Life Pills and keep well. There is no better safeguard against illness. Just take one dose tonight. 25c. at your Druggist.

THE WILKES COUNTY FAIR.

The Great Industrial Fair For Northwestern North Carolina.

Sept. 29th, 30th, and Oct. 1st
AT
N. Wilkesboro, N. C.

Schools and Clubs

All school children, corn club boys and Tomato club girls will be admitted free on the 29th. Every school boy and girl will be expected to exhibit samples of individual skill in school department work. See catalog for prizes offered to school children.

Farmers.

All farmers are cordially invited to attend the fair and exhibit the best fruits of their industry in poultry, live stock, fruits, corn, Vegetables, etc.

Aviator

A monster Curtiss flying machine, propelled by an 80 horse power engine and guided by the world's most daring aviator Frank J. Terril of New York, will travel the skies at a speed of 75 miles an hour, thrilling spectators with his amazing feats of skill in spirals, ocean wave motions, turkey trot and other wonders of Aerobatics.

Horse Races.

The greatest races in the history of the association will be seen this year. Horses with records of 2:19 will speed over the track. Exciting contests for large prizes are assured.

Mule and Steer Races

A wealth of fun is promised to all who see these races. Be there to cheer on your favorite mule or steer.

BICYCLE RACES, RUNNING RACES, ETC.

These races will form highly interesting features of the Fair program, calling for speed and endurance.

MAGNIFICENT BAND.

The famous Italian band of fourteen pieces will discourse the finest music ever heard here. Popular and classic selections.

SHOWS AND AMUSEMENTS.

These shows consist of death-defying acts in the motordrome, big annex show (10 in 1) old plantation scenes, vaudeville, Fat girl, Victoria, Electric theatre, big snake, midget show, merry go round and Ferris wheel which will furnish pleasurable thrills to the youngsters.

AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITS.

These promise to be finer than last year when 580 farmers exhibited on the grounds. Samples of apples, corn, vegetables, live stock and other farm products will be better than ever.

PRIZE APPLES.

Wilkes county apples took gold medal in nation wide contest also first prize at Raleigh, Charlotte, Greensboro and every other place they were exhibited. Come and see some of this renowned fruit

RIDING AND DRIVING CONTESTS.

The splendid roadsters and saddle horses of this section will be entered for these contests forming an attraction of much interest.

Remember This!

This fair association was organized to encourage progress by its splendid object lessons in popular education and the advancement of agriculture. Its hope is that these annual meetings will steadily improve our farmers in methods of raising crops of all kinds, also stock raising and poultry. \$1500. will be given away this year in prizes.

John R. Jones,

SECRETARY AND MANAGER.

T. B. Finley,

PRESIDENT.

BY THE SEA.

Well attended by gay crowds of happy people at all the beaches herabout, the Labor Day Exercises closed the season of 1914, an unusually successful one. If crowds and warm weather combined spell "success," as they assuredly do at a seaside resort, but the day following the first Monday in September was ushered in by a north-east blow, for two days thereafter, raged like unto an Equinoctial gale, high seas, raging surf, foaming waves, accompanied by a scarcity of white sails on the horizon and the absence of sea birds dipping into the shining water, for the fish, which the sea-gulls seek, go deep down when the seas are high lest, like Jonah, they be tossed upon the shore—however, on Sunday last they had their 'good time,' for schools of porpoises, in gay procession went south, jumping, leaping, somersaulting, churning the sea, as they followed great schools of fish, devouring them until "too full for utterance," the sea-gulls dipping and screaming with delight, as they caught in their sharp beaks a shimmering, scaly specimen of the "finny tribe"; porpoises going south" a sure sign of stormy weather at sea, so the weather-wise inhabitant of the coast declare after generations of weather observation.

The gaities of the season have been more moderate than usual, a possible result of the universality of hard times, consequent upon a world-wide war, but so it has been at this noted resort, the vulgar dances tabooed and more modest ones taking their places, the onlookers equally pleased and the participants skipping about to attractive music, with clearer consciences, if with less "fire" in their veins, the new dance great in variety of name and character, with one object, however, forgetfulness of trouble for the moment, with "care thrown to the winds, alas! if that were all, there would be no harm in dancing, the preacher "to the contrary, notwithstanding." However, what the dances lack in modesty, the bathing suits make up for it, the new suits the scantiest, the women as a rule quite modestly attired, if any bathing suit under the sun can be termed modest attire, but it is the custom to wear such and "custom makes it right"—does it? Umph!

The schools are opening and people are leaving the beach by hundreds, many already gone to their inland homes, many little ones trooping to school with satchels of books on arm and lunch boxes in hand, an expression of eager anticipation on their faces, a beating heart in the little breast as they for the first time answer the roll call, these our future business and professional men, lawyers, doctors, ministers, governors, presidents, railroad magnates, house keepers, teachers and the First Lady of the land.

The heated term, almost unprecedented in length and intensity (the "driest August in forty years" the proverbial oldest inhabitant declares) has injured crops in certain sections of this community, the hay short, corn likewise, particularly late planting; corn only tolerable, and potatoes the same, while small fruits, tomatoes and other vegetables were not up to the standard this season.

By the way, Tar Heels predominate in this section, the most prosperous farmers either Carolinians or descended from Carolinians, a North Carolinian the

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