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**SAVE THE FORESTS—THEIR INFLUENCE.**  
 In the last number of the *Century Magazine* there is a capital illustration of an article on Cape Cod. We read it with profit and found an illustrative fact to show how much harm man in his ignorance has done. Large portions of the Cape are now sand banks and are denuded of all trees. When the first settlers took possession the Cape was covered with forests, and verdure prevailed in many places where there is only barrenness now. It is the old, old story. Man is a predatory and a wasteful animal. He is a destroyer. All around the world you can find not only thousands of instances of "man's inhumanity to man," but of his blindness and folly and destructiveness. Nature's economy is a sealed book to most men. The simplest laws of health are unknown, and, if known, disregarded. He looks to present enjoyment and he thinks that "suffice it unto the day is the evil thereof." He came from the Old World full of adventure, and armed with gun and axe he was ready to slay man or beast or the trees of the forest.

Looking out continually for facts and illustrations to aid us in our good work of restraining the destruction of the forests and of inducing the owners of land to plant trees, we fortunately met with an excellent article in the Philadelphia *American* upon "American Forests and Forestry," suggested by the recent annual meeting of the Forestry Convention. We cannot do better for our readers than copy a long paragraph or so, for it is full of suggestiveness to the thoughtful, and shows of how great importance are trees in the economy of nature and how they serve to preserve the fertility of lands, &c. It says:

"For a quarter of a millennium man has been lifting up his axe upon the thick trees, and another part of his activity has produced results so tremendous. It has been so great that the appearance of our continent to observers on the sister planets of our system must have changed very materially in the course of these centuries, large spaces appearing lighter in hue than they did. But the effect of this wholesale clearance has been most deleterious in many respects. Trees are of vast importance in the aqueous circulation of our planet. A tree is a great hydraulic machine in which currents of water move with a surprising energy. The upward rush of water in a tree has been sufficient to lift a core of sand an inch in diameter and fifty or sixty feet in length into the heart of the tree, where it has been deposited, and the cut in the ship-pump. This upward stream carries to the leaves and branches the nutrient drawn from the soil through the root; a downward stream in other lines carries to the stem and the trunk the nutrient of the leaves absorbed through the nodes. But much of the moisture thus employed seems to be given off from the leaves, and a tree may be regarded as a vegetable fountain, drawing a water supply from a remote source for diffusion through the atmosphere. In a few species the diffusion is visible in an actual dropping of water from the leaves. Or, again, a tree may be regarded as a reservoir of water, which it absorbs in times of plenty and gives off in those of great scarcity. A forest is such a reservoir in a large sense, as it receives and retains the rain-fall, allowing it to pass off in a gradual and gentle flow through underground channels, for the refreshment of the open country. The force of the parching winds and breaking the evaporating energy of the sun's heat, in all these ways the forests serve as checks upon the rapidity of the aqueous circulation. They do not permit the rainfall to be evaporated at once into the atmosphere, to return in devastating torrents with the next storm. They equalize the supply in all directions, and preserve that evenness in the circulation which accords best with the needs of human agriculture."

This judicious writer shows how the early settlers went to work to cut down and destroy. New England and other sections were made to suffer even until this day. But the West has felt the evil and sorely. Our writer says:

"There are districts in Ohio which were overgrown with great trees in the memory of people now living, but whose people now buy from Wisconsin every stick they use."

# THE WEEKLY STAR.

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**Wisconsin is running the same wasteful course; so is Minnesota, and every other well-wooded district in the Mississippi Valley. In the Ohio districts to which we refer, the streams once ran full the year round. Large fish were caught in them; great mills were turned by them. Now they are dribbles, except when a great rain-storm has fallen, and then they become torrents. On the hill-sides, these storms have cut great gulches where no such gulches were known before. And every rain washes away more of the soil than was lost in a year before the forests went. Is it wonderful that the Ohio river becomes with every generation more of a vibration between a drought and a deluge?"**

Now we ask in all seriousness that our farmers should consider these facts. Let every reader of the *Star* read again what is said as to the effects of forests upon vegetation, soil, rain, &c. Then see how a terrible wrong to the living and to unborn generations is wrought when these forests are destroyed. North Carolina has suffered in this way. Owing to her sparse population, there is an immense area of virgin forests. Let us be warned in time. "Woodman, spare the trees." Do not imitate the bad example of the ruthless Europeans who hundreds of years ago converted hundreds of thousands of acres into a waste, and do not emulate the conduct of the men of this continent who have used the axe as if it was made but to destroy.

The people in the North are now buying up the valuable timbers of the South either because they find their maples, walnuts and other choicest woods are so nearly exhausted, or because they find the South blind enough to sell off their timbers at a quarter or half their value. The white pine in the North are nearly destroyed. The children of the next generation will reap the evil of the folly of the men of this and past generations. The writer in the *American* says:

"Above all, the railroads of the country are wearing out the forests. The life of a railroad is from three to five years. The annual consumption is enough to destroy a large forest, and the demand does not distribute itself equally over the whole country. Long lines of railroad—two of the Pacific railroads, for instance—run through areas destitute of timber, and every mile represents a constant drain on some distant forest for its maintenance."

It is the duty of the various Legislatures to consider this grave question of the Forests. It is their duty to prevent as far as possible their destruction and to stimulate the planting of trees. Other countries are moving scientifically and practically in the matter.

Probably not all of our readers are aware of the extent of the belief among the people of the power of the "divining rod," as it is called, to discover where currents or veins of water are to be found. There are thousands of intelligent and even educated men in North Carolina who believe in this mysterious "rod." It is used in some sections in the upper counties always when a well is to be dug. The writer was once about to have a well dug when a friend with his "divining rod" came and found the water under the smoke house. We preferred to have the well dug on the opposite side of the dwelling and found abundant water. We think that half the people who have heard of it believe in the power of the rod to detect where the veins run far beneath the soil. We could never see any sense in it and have remained very sceptical to this hour. We publish an article elsewhere about it.

**United States District Court.**  
 Mr. William H. Shaw, Clerk of the United States District Court, has drawn the following jurors for the Fall Term of the U. S. District Court, which convenes in Wilmington, on the fifth Monday in October. The jurors are required to appear on the second day of the term, Tuesday, October 30th:  
 Dupin County—A. R. Middleton, Wells Boney, Lewis Herring, Friday Hill, R. M. Middleton, W. R. Bell, J. W. Brown, Irving Beuman.  
 Brunswick County—J. W. Davis, Thos. J. Mulford, Joseph Stansland, Robert McKenzie, Peter Rourk, James C. Grimes, George W. Swain, John McKenzie.  
 New Hanover County—Joseph S. Williams, Robert E. Lee, Elvin Artis, Seth W. Davis, R. W. Chadwick, William McLaurin, John B. Berry, Alexander Hostler, John R. Sneed, E. J. Lilly, Jr., Thomas B. Carr, E. J. Eagan, William A. French, John T. Platt, J. Well, Louis Nixon, D. M. Smith, Charles Murphy, Phil. Pearson, J. W. Alderman, T. B. Lippitt, John F. Garrett, Daniel C. Davis, B. P. Harrison, John W. Perdue, J. H. Durham, Samuel G. Northrop, Norwood Giles, James W. Jackson, E. Lilly, Louis P. Davis, John M. Clark, Aaron Kellogg, A. R. Black.

Bring in your "hen fruit." The idea of Christmas prices (30 cents per dozen) for eggs at this season!

**Judge Lynch Holds Court in Rockingham—A Frenzied Human Shape Meets with Swift and Fearful Retribution for a Dastardly Act.**  
 From a gentleman just from up the road, and also from a correspondent, we have the particulars of a terrible outrage committed in the neighborhood of Laurel Hill, Rockingham county, and the prompt action of Judge Lynch on the premises. It seems that a nameless crime had been committed upon the person of a little white girl, 8 years of age, the daughter of Mr. William Mason, and that a colored boy named Archie Johnson had been arrested as the perpetrator of the fiendish outrage and confined in the county jail at Rockingham. The evidence against him is alleged to have been conclusive, in addition to which, without fear or reward, or the hope of reward, he made full confession of the heinous deed to the two officers who conveyed him to the prison.

On Thursday night, between 11 and 12 o'clock, about forty or fifty determined men, part of them masked, took the boys from Deputy Sheriff Morrison, unlocked the cell in which Johnson was confined, and carried him off. Friday morning, at the first dawn of day, the body of the culprit was discovered dangling from a limb of a tree in the neighborhood where the crime was committed, about twenty miles from Rockingham. A placard pinned to his body bore the very significant inscription: "Our wives and daughters must be protected."

Deceased is represented to have been 17 or 18 years of age. Mr. Mason, the father of the little girl, is a painter, and is said to be a most estimable gentleman.

**Effects of the Late Storm.**  
 We met up with a couple of gentlemen yesterday who had been to Conwayboro, S. C., by way of Shallotte, Little River, Wampee, in Horry county, S. C., and many other points, both in this and our neighboring State, and they gave us a graphic description of the devastation caused by the late storm on their route. In some instances they had to drive a half mile out of their way in the woods to get by large trees that had been blown down and which blocked the way at nearly every turn. There were evidences to show that the storm had been terrible before reaching Shallotte, but from there to Wampee it was manifestly much worse. One man counted as many as five hundred of his own trees which had been blown down. It was thought that between Lockwood's Ferry and Shallotte fully one third of the trees had been prostrated.

Our travellers found the country all under water, and in many instances they had to swim their horse, particularly when passing through what is known as Alligator swamp. For a full mile the water averaged about three feet in depth, and for about fifty or seventy five yards of that distance they had to swim their animal. Cotton all through that section is, flat on the ground, and most of the corn is in just as bad a condition, being severely damaged. The most of the planters say they will make less than a half crop, while others declare they are ruined.

Waccamaw river is said to be fifty feet deep. Its usual depth is from sixteen to eighteen feet. At Wampee, where the river is usually about a half mile wide, it is now at least one and a half miles in width.

**North Carolina's Capabilities.**  
 A neat illustrated publication has been issued, entitled the "North Carolina and Virginia Seaboard Air-Line Hand-Book," showing the capabilities of the country traversed by the line and the great inducements offered to emigrants and settlers. This line enters the South at Portsmouth, Va., runs to Weldon over the Seaboard & Roanoke Railroad, a distance of eighty miles, continues its course from Weldon to Raleigh over the Raleigh & Gaston Railroad, and thence to Hamlet over the Augusta Air-Line Railroad, and intersects at Hamlet with the Carolina Central Railroad. Many illustrations are given of the character of the scenery, the principal towns, factories, mills, colleges, tobacco warehouses, &c., along the line of the road. This book is circulated at Boston in the interest of the Air-Line Railroad and the State from Messrs. Patrick and Clark's office in the Boston Exposition.

**The Crops.**  
 Discouraging reports in regard to the crops still multiply. A gentleman from Cumberland county says that between the drought, which was the first drawback, and the excessively wet weather, which followed, crops in Cumberland, Bladen and some of the adjoining counties, have suffered very serious damage. In many cases it is thought there will not be more than half a crop. A great deal of the corn is beaten down and badly injured, and the same may be said of the cotton. In Pender county, Dr. Porter says, the cotton is mostly on the ground, where, being in contact with the wet, muddy earth, which has had no chance to get dry on account of the continued wet weather, it lies and rots. He is confident there will not be much more (if any) than a half crop made in this county.

**The Rice Crop.**  
 The rice crops along the river are being badly damaged by the high tides, especially where much of it has been cut. We hear of some planters who will lose largely. The birds are also said to be very bad. Keeping them off is a costly business, the plantation being about one keg in two days. Men have to keep banging away at most constantly, besides hallooing and shouting.

**A Shot Fired into a Passenger Coach.**  
 Some person fired a shot at a passenger train on the Carolina Central Railroad, Thursday last, near "Stouts," eighteen miles east of Charlotte. The ball entered a window of the passenger coach passing out through the glass window on the opposite side. The railroad company offer a reward for the detection of the miscreant who fired the shot.

**WASHINGTON.**

**The Demand for the New Two-Cent Stamp—A Letter to the Civil Service Commission Concerning Senator Mahone's Assessments on Government Employees.**  
 (By Telegraph to the Morning Star.)  
 WASHINGTON, September 26.—The Civil Service Commission to-day received a letter from ex Representative Dezerford, stating that C. Clark, Senator Mahone's political assessment agent, made an assessment last week of five per cent. on the salaries received by all of the employees of the Norfolk Navy Yard, and that this was the third assessment levied on the same employees by the same man inside of the year.

Dr. Gregory, Civil Service Commissioner, stated to-day, when asked about the letter, that as it had just been received, no investigation had been had into the charges or statements contained in it. The views expressed by Judge Thoman, in regard to political assessments, said Dr. Gregory, are in accord with those of the other commissioners. "I don't mean to say anything that looks like a menace, but it can be said, simply, that it is the serious and earnest intention of the commissioners to call the attention of the proper authorities to every violation of the law of which the government is guilty. When the charges made in the letter have been violated in any department, and we are satisfied of their truth, we will notify the secretary that such charge is made and we expect it to be true. If he neglects to take any action, or if he reports it to the President. As far as prosecution under the law is concerned, any man can make complaint to the grand jury. I don't see why Mr. Dezerford did not make his complaint to the grand jury. Every case of violation of law reported to the Commission cannot act upon hearsay testimony or statements of newspapers.

Chief Examiner Lyman, who was asked concerning the Dezerford letter, said he had no knowledge of the matter of fact, though he had heard of it. He had been informed that Clark was no government employee, and, therefore, did not come under the law. Senator Mahone was Chairman of the Virginia Campaign Committee, and it was an interesting question how far the acts of Clark as treasurer, involved other members of the committee. Lyman said that Dezerford would probably be asked whether or not Clark was a government employee, and if not, whether his solicitations of contributions had been made in any room or in any public building or other place, where it would come within the purview of the law. He quoted sections 11 and 12 of the Civil Service Act, which prohibit solicitation, receiving or paying of contributions directly or indirectly by any official or employee of the government, from or to any person other than the postoffice, and the solicitation of such contributions by any person not an employee of the government in any room in any public building, or other place where government service is performed; and said that whenever the Commission had any case of violation of the law, they would promptly lay the matter before executive authority. The Commission, he said, were not a prosecuting board, but they would, as a general rule, refer the matter to the law, and the Department would prosecute. The only question, he said, which he (Secretary Folger) had to decide, was whether the action of the bank in becoming the agent of the Lottery Company to receive its mail, was a possible object of investigation by the Treasury Department.

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**SWIFT VENGEANCE.**

**A Negro Villain Tied to a Tree and Shot, and then Sent to a Jail.**  
 (By Telegraph to the Morning Star.)  
 COLUMBIA, S. C., September 21.—A special to the *Daily Register*, from Sumter, S. C., says yesterday a negro, in the upper part of this county, outraged a white girl named Bettie Nixon, twenty years of age. A sister of the victim, in trying to protect her, was stabbed by the negro but fortunately. Last night a party of citizens took the negro, tied him to a tree and shot him, then beat him to a jelly and left him.

**FOREIGN.**

**Departure of the Nelson Tropic for America—The Irish National League, &c.**  
 (By Cable to the Morning Star.)  
 LONDON, Sept. 23.—Christine Nilsson sailed to-day for New York on the steamer *Gallia*, from Liverpool. The *Gallia*, which sailed to-day from Havre, took 383 members of the Nilsson troupe, including the ballet and a portion of the chorus and orchestra.

**MARYLAND.**  
**A Negro Desperado Convicted of Murder.**  
 (By Telegraph to the Morning Star.)  
 BALTIMORE, Sept. 23.—John Smith (colored) was convicted at Oakland, Garrett co., Md., yesterday, of murder in the first degree for the killing of Josiah Harding, near Elkins, on May 15th last. The evidence against Smith showed that he had been in Elkins drinking, and said he would go away next day; but before he went he decided to do something, which would make people remember him forever. He went to Harding's house and shot him dead, without provocation, and then dragged Mr. Harding out of the house and outraged her. Last Sunday Smith had made a plot to kill the company, and as he entered his cell he failed. During the trial the prisoner showed the utmost unconcern.

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 (By Telegraph to the Morning Star.)  
 NEW YORK, Sept. 23.—The Western Union Telegraph Company has issued an order reducing rates in and between the Eastern and New England States, to take effect October 1st.

**Spirits Turpentine.**  
 —The Elizabeth City *Economist* gives the following item of news. It says: "One of the cases on the criminal docket at Camden Court which attracted much attention was that of a colored man and a white woman, who were indicted for fornication and adultery. The defendants in their behalf attempted to introduce a marriage license issued by the clerk of Norfolk city, which was ruled out, not being duly certified. The parties were convicted; the woman ordered to be confined in the State penitentiary for four months, and the man sentenced to jail for four months. The mystery is what were the Norfolk officials thinking about to issue a license to a negro to marry a white woman?"

—**Tarboro Southerner:** Thomas Settle, Jr., has been appointed to a position in the revenue service and is stationed at Raleigh. It is rumored on our streets that the Albemarle & Raleigh Railroad has changed hands, but we can give no definite information one way or the other.

—**Hon. J. F. Martin** who has just returned from Camden Court, tells us that the attorneys James E. Moore, of Martin, with the Democratic members of the Legislature, with the Republicans for the Congressional vacancy in the First district.

—**W. R. Thoman** was shown Tuesday a pea vine which came from an ordinary black pea, covering over two hundred square feet of ground. About one-half the peas have been gathered; these measured a little more than three pints, and numbered 5,700. When all the peas are gathered it is certain that the increase from this one pea will be less than that of the other. The vine will be of exhibition at the Fair.

—**Raleigh Recorder:** Thirteen were baptized at Pleasant Hill, near Hendersonville, last Lord's day. Rev. A. I. Justice is to baptize eight at Bethel next Sunday. Rev. Thos. J. Baker, of Robeson county, has received a call to the pastorate of the Church in Kingston. Twelve were baptized at Bent Creek, near J. C. Marshburn. Shelby, Romale College is doing finely. In the two first weeks of the present session 183 pupils have been enrolled. The West shows no improvement in more ways than one. Iron bridges are now to be constructed on the public roads over our streams, notably those over the French Broad at Marshall, and over the Swain. The growth of Asheville is remarkable. Property that sold for "hundreds" there of late, is now commanding "thousands." Dr. J. L. M. Curry has recently purchased a summer residence there.

—**Raleigh News-Observer:** There are now 147 students at Wake Forest College. No less than 147 newspapers are published in North Carolina. Bishop Lyman has returned from his Western visitation. In a week he will go to Philadelphia to attend the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Carolina, which is to be held at Pittsboro on the 13th. He was well known here and had many warm friends in this city and county. During the war he was a lieutenant in a Chatham county company, and was wounded in the gallantry receiving several bad wounds. The rain is damaging the cotton crop seriously. Much cotton is open and all of that will of course be injured. —Capt. John B. Broadfoot, writing from Fayetteville, says: "At a meeting of the company of Fayetteville Independent Light Infantry, I was appointed captain of our rifle team to shoot for the State flag at the approaching fair. It is desirable that we get a good representation of the officers of our company to shoot for the flag and also to shoot for a purse or some handsome prize. Let each team put up \$50 or \$100, so as to make it more interesting. We ought to be able to get twenty teams to shoot."

—**Fayetteville Observer:** The late rains have interfered with cotton picking, and the season in this section is very backward. The price was firm yesterday at 24 cents. The amount of water in the meter recorded 8 1/2 inches of water as the result of 36 hours rain, from Monday evening, Sept. 10, to Wednesday morning following. We regret to learn that the Cumberland county, on Big Rock, owned by Mr. J. W. Emmitt, was destroyed by fire last week. The fire was accidental. —On Tuesday evening last a dispatch was received by Mr. W. H. Atkinson, of the committee on correspondence, from the Rev. F. W. Eason, accepting a call to the pastorate of the Baptist Church of this town.