

GROWING TOWNS. HOT SPRINGS.

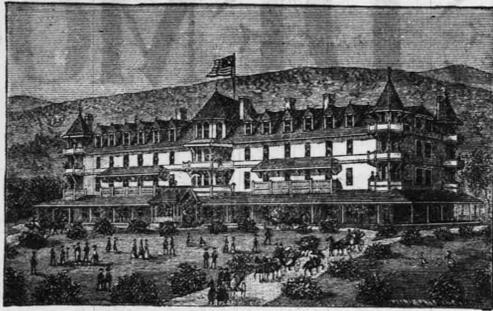
Happy Homes and Prosperous People—Internal Improvement and Commercial Importance.

In Madison county, at the junction of the W. N. C. and E. T. V. and G. railroads, is one of the prettiest small towns in the State. Evroned by a complete circle of mighty mountains, the level plateau upon which the town is built shows up with splendid effect. The population of the place numbers, all told, about five hundred persons. These people are active, industrious, energetic and intelligent. They carry on all the various branches of industry, and in almost every instance are successful and well-to-do. Agriculture, merchandising, milling, stock raising, etc., are the principal pursuits of the inhabitants of the place, and the capital involved is extensive.

The mayor of the town, Hon. Beverly W. Hill, is now serving his second term in that capacity and is one of the most prominent citizens of Madison county. He is active and alive to the interests of the pretty town, whose municipal head he is. A gentleman of sound business judgment, a shrewd financier and a close and careful observer of events, he has won the confidence and esteem of his friends and the respect of his enemies, by reason of his very superior method of discharging the duties thrust upon him by his people. Mr. Hill is also largely interested in the mercantile business, an extensive planter, and is reputed to be one of the wealthiest men in the county. He married a daughter of Col. J. A. Rumbough, formerly of Hot Springs, and has an exceedingly interesting family. Mayor Hill resides in one of the handsomest mansions about the place, and his home is noted for the elegant hospitality always accorded to his guests.

Located here also is the famous Mountain Park hotel, owned by the Southern Improvement Company, of New York, and managed by Mr. W. G. Doolittle, late of Richfield Springs, in the same State. The hotel has been completely refurbished and many improvements have been added since Mr. D. assumed control. The entire building is now being repainted—a feature that will add much to the attractiveness of the celebrated hostelry. The grounds surrounding the hotel have also been carefully laid out in drives, walks, grass plats and flower beds, rockeries, etc. Tennis courts, croquet lawns, baseball grounds, and a race course are provided for those who delight in such sports, while over at "The Island," a beautiful summer garden, with pavilions, rustic seats, swings, etc., have been laid out. A straight water-course, one mile in length, skirts this garden on the South, and here bathers and rowing teams can find all the pleasures they wish in these pastimes. Connected with the hotel is a splendid ballroom, billiard and pool parlors, bowling alley, etc. The cuisine of the hotel is first-class, and the service excellent. The sleeping rooms are all splendidly furnished and equipped, and the parlors, reading rooms, reception rooms, are models of beauty and comfort. The entire hotel is surrounded by broad verandahs, enclosed by glass in winter, affording at all times a delightful promenade. The celebrated hot baths are liberally patronized by guests, and in nearly every instance have resulted in a perfect cure of the malady for which they were taken. Elegant marble bath tubs are found in the main hotel building, as well as at the bath house, somewhat removed from the main building. The temperature of these baths runs all the way from 96° to 104° Fahrenheit, and are delightful in their effects. Cardinal Gibbons, Mr. Geo. F. Scott, president of the R. and D. system, Dr. Lewis A. Sayre, the eminent orthopedic physician, of New York, Maj. John D. Kelly, the Garretts of Baltimore, and other well known people North and South, are frequent visitors at the Springs. They come chiefly for the bath, from which they derive much benefit.

The scenery about Hot Springs is simply wonderful. Round Top Mountain, a lofty eminence; Spring Creek Falls and valley; the drive to Paint Rock; "The Island"; "Lovers' Leap Mount-



MOUNTAIN PARK HOTEL, HOT SPRINGS, N. C.

ain"; the beautiful French Broad, are all features worth a journey of many hundreds of miles to see.

There are many elegant residences at Hot Springs, notable among which is "Loretta Hall," Col. Rumbough's fine place; the residence of Mayor Hill, and the mansion occupied by Mrs. Smith.

The Episcopal, Catholic, Methodist and Baptist churches are handsome edifices, in charge of learned and able divines who administer regularly to the spiritual needs of the inhabitants of Hot Springs.

There are several general merchandise stores at this place and each house does a good business. The cash system prevails, and very few chattel mortgages for supplies are given by the farmers of Madison.

Good boarding houses and hotels, clever, hospitable and generous people, pleasant homes and magnificent climate and scenery, make Hot Springs a place in which one may wish to live forever.

Fun for the Fireside.

The Power of Example.

Master Tommy was strutting about, very proud of his first pair of pants.

"And now," remarked a member of the family, "you're quite a man."

"Yes," added the youngster, "and I can swear just like papa."—Judge.

He Was Thoughtful.

"Can you furnish bail in the sum of \$200?" was asked a prisoner in the police court the other day.

"Yes, I suppose I could, but

"Who will go on your bond?"

"I was going to say that the President of the United States would probably be only too glad to, but I hate to bother him with such a trifle. I'll—"

"Get some one else?"

"No, I'll go to jail. This is Mr. Harrison's busy day, and I don't want to disturb him."

They Cry for Husbands.

A bigamist lately captured in Iowa owned up to eleven different marriages as calmly as one would light a cigar. He said that a common good looking man, who would carry a lot of bogus bank checks in his wallet and talk big could marry a new wife once a month for twenty years. All of his wives married him on three or four weeks' acquaintance.

It Was a Shock.

The other morning, when a Chicago paper made the statement that the water supply of that city was costing \$1,000,000 per year, thousands of citizens gave a start of surprise. They knew they never used any, and the extravagant waste of others stunned and amazed them.

He Takes it Easy.

A French naturalist has given a year or two of his valuable time to the frog, and has learned that the average frog, if undisturbed, will not jump over ten yards per day. Most of his time will be spent in deep meditation or profound calculation.

Only a Difference of \$100,000,000.

It will cost \$100,000,000 to put our sea coast in a state of defense against a foreign foe, while it won't cost us ten cents to mind our business and keep out of a row with the rest of the world.

An Apt Quotation.

"Better late than never," said Miss Beatrice Neverwon, aged 50, as she became Mrs. Ketchum Late.

"Are you doing much gardening, Miss Struckoyle?"

"No; not much. You see I have not yet got the proper stockings for such work."

"Got what?"

"The proper stockings—the rubber garden hose I see advertised in the papers."

Save Your Strength.

Young mothers, be as chary of your strength as a miser of his money. You will have abundant use for all at your command in the rearing of your children. All used unnecessarily is wasted, squandered. You have a certain life supply, and when that is exhausted you must fail, though that exhaustion may occur at 40 years of age. Like the moments, never returning, the vital supply that was intended for the whole life cannot return when once wasted. Let little feet run up and down stairs to do little errands. It will do the little children no harm to do that much and will favor you very much. Do not lift a whole tub or even a pail of water if it in any way overexerts you. A little planning, a little time taken for a hard effort, a little rest taken when you are weary will prove economy. Overwork is as disastrous as the payment of exorbitant interest.

Good Farming.

Mr. J. W. King, near Crowells, runs a two-horse farm with results more profitable than come to many who run ten-horse farms, as the following will show:

This year he has raised on a two-horse crop twelve bags of cotton, fifty barrels of corn, five thousand pounds of fodder, two thousand pounds of hay, one hundred bushels of peanuts, two hundred bushels of potatoes, ten bushels of corn-field peas, five thousand pounds of oats, and will fatten one thousand pounds of meat.

The product of this crop this year will be worth \$1,100. He has not hired a day's labor during the year, and the entire outlay to make the crop was \$150. He works himself with the help of his boys, lives plentifully, subscribes to four newspapers and pays in advance for them all.—Scotland Neck Democrat.

The Worm Turned.

Mr. Bully Ragg—Now, sir, you have stated, under oath, that this man had the appearance of a gentleman. Will you be good enough to tell the jury how a gentleman looks, in your estimation?

Down-trodden witness—Well, er—a gentleman looks—er—like—er—

Mr. Bully Ragg—I don't want any of your ers, sir; and remember that you are on oath. Can you see anybody in this court room who looks like a gentleman?

Witness (with sudden asperity)—I can if you'll stand out of the way. You're not transparent.—Puck.

Egg-Stractions.

The hen is very methodical. She lays out her work every morning.—Yonkers Statesman.

When the rooster gets a comb he reaches the top-knotch of his ambition.—Merchant Traveler.

The hen is a splendid example of perseverance, but she is an example you can't always set.—Terre Haute Express.

Compte of Peaches.

Cut the fruit in two, take out the stones, and throw in boiling water for one minute, then put in cold water, take out and peel; put a pint of water in a saucepan and set over the fire; when boiling, put in the fruit, let cook until soft, take up, lay in a deep dish and pour over a syrup made of a pound of sugar and a pint of water.

A Heart's Trial.

She—Ashburton O'Donohue, it is in vain you plead. I never kin be your'n. I am told you have seven dollars and a half in the savings bank, and my frens will say I married yer fer yer money. I am sorry yer wuzent poor, for then—but no matter—depart and go—leave me!—Life.

Making love in an orchard is something of an apple-paring.—Washington Capital.

Live up to your engagements.

FARM, FIELD AND GARDEN.

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF FARMERS AND DAIRYMEN.

Apples for Winter Consumption—The Question of Early and Late Harvesting of the Fruit Tested—A Word About the Desirability of Fall Plowing.

Obviously the proper time for picking apples must vary so much in different latitudes and different seasons that no fixed date can be given that will be applicable in all cases or with all varieties. For the winter sorts it has commonly been believed that the longer they would hold on firmly, the longer the picking might be advantageously delayed, and that in such cases late gatherings would keep better than earlier ones from the same trees.

For a practical test in this matter of early and late picking upon the keeping qualities of apples, an experiment was begun at the Ohio station, Sept. 26 of last year, in which five well known varieties were chosen, of which 100 perfect apples of each variety were selected at each of the four several pickings, which occurred Sept. 26, Oct. 6, Oct. 13 and Oct. 20, the latest date at which a sufficient number of perfect specimens could be obtained.

The selected varieties were Baldwin, Roxbury russet, Newtown pippin, Jonathan and Ben Davis. The apples were stored in crates in an ordinary cellar. The weight of each lot was taken at the time of picking and at frequent intervals during the experiment. Rotten specimens were removed at the same time. The shrinkage in weight, due to loss of water by evaporation, occurred mostly before the expiration of two months. The loss was greater in the early picked apples than in the late.

A tabulated statement of the experiment at its close, 256 days from picking, also for a shorter period, or 227 days from the date of the picking, also of intermediate pickings, makes it apparent that the results with the varieties included in the experiment agree substantially in the following particulars: 1. No difference in keeping qualities between early and late pickings was manifest at the expiration of two months from the date of the picking. 2. Baldwin, Roxbury russet and Jonathan showed a difference in favor of early picking before the expiration of six months from the date of picking. Newtown pippin and Ben Davis did not exhibit a difference between early and late pickings until after the expiration of six months. 3. After the expiration of six months the difference between early and late pickings increased until the close of the experiment.

The conclusion reached was that early picking of apples improves their keeping qualities, but no difference is manifest for nearly six months after picking. If kept for a longer period than six months the early picked apples show a decided gain over those picked late. The greater part of the loss in weight, caused by drying, occurs within six months after picking. The early picked apples lose slightly more in weight than those that are picked late.

Daily Care of a Horse's Feet.

George A. Martin, in his book, "The Family Horse," gives some advice on the care of horses' feet. When a horse returns to the stable from a drive, one of the first duties is to clean and pick out the feet and examine them to see if any stones have lodged above the shoe, or sharp pointed object has penetrated the sole. The hind feet should never be allowed to stand in an acid mass of filth and droppings. Neglect in this particular is a prolific source of thrush and other diseases of the foot. The old and almost universal practice of "stopping" the fore feet with cow dung, either alone or mixed with clay, is a pernicious one. The very books which recommend this practice also cite it as one of the most usual causes of thrush and canker. If the sole and frog are left as they should be, without interference, there will be less tendency to contraction of the feet. If the fore feet become dry and feverish from stabling upon a plank floor or traveling on hard roads, they may be soaked in the foot bath. There are also "water boots" and pads to be used for soaking the feet. "Hoof ointments" and nostrums of all kinds are worse than useless on feet which are properly shod and managed.

Covers for Grape Vines.

American Cultivator gives expression to the following: Grape growing is in this country yet in its infancy. We believe the time will come when successful grape growers will build over the trellises a slight protection, if only four or five feet in width, to shelter the grapes from rains and heavy dews. Vines thus protected from too much moisture would not be liable to mildew or the grapes to rot, or at least these diseases, now so prevalent, could be kept off at much less expense than under the present system. Under such a cover grapes would ripen one or two weeks earlier than if unprotected. The earliest, largest and best bunches of grapes on a vine running beside a house are found sheltered beneath eaves and cornices. It will cost something to try this, but its advantage in a wet, cold season like the present will pay large interest on the amount invested. The higher price for having the grapes even a week earlier will be enough in one or two years to pay the expense.

Draft Horses and Good Roadsters.

It is a fact that there is no surplus of draft horses. It is also true that there is a great deficiency of good roadsters, and we can see no other cause for the business not flourishing except that the horses produced are not the class most desired. There are of course a great many common horses in use, but they are not a ready sale and the prices are not to be compared with what is received for the best grade. If the grower's farm is well stocked with good mares weighing 1,100 pounds and upwards, instead of 1,100 pounds down to 700, there would be a great difference in the produce.

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