

THE HIGHLANDER.

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Mr. Geer and the Dimick children left for Florida on Tuesday.

Mr. Watterson, of the Louisville Courier-Journal, is thought to be on the way to recovery.

Jno. B. Gough, the temperance lecturer, is dead.

In the villages of East Tennessee, butter is selling at 8½ cents per pound.—Asheville Citizen.

The House has passed a bill reducing from eight cents to five the charge for money orders not exceeding \$5.

Mr. and Mrs. Cleaveland are to be congratulated on the birth of a son, on the 23rd inst.

Generals Howard and Terry are likely to succeed Hancock dead, and Pope, "retired," as Major Generals.

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Co. contemplate extending their Shenandoah Valley line to Atlanta by way of Asheville.

Some fine corundum from the Buck Creek mines is being shipped from Webster to New York.—North Carolina Herald.

If the Blair bill becomes law, North Carolina will receive \$5,749,121.37, to be divided over eight years, or on an average \$718,640.17 per year for eight years. North Carolina Herald.

There is a movement to transplant Mormonism into Mexico, negotiations for large tracts of land being, it is said, under way. President Diaz is reported to favor the transfer.

Dr. Shradly, editor of the Medical Record, laughs at the recent hydrophobia scare, and says there have been only three genuine cases of hydrophobia in the United States in ten years.

An agent representing an English sporting club has purchased 30,000 acres of land in Burke County, N. C. A large number of quail have been turned loose on the land.

A fire in Wilmington on the 21st destroyed all the wharves and most of the property on and near the river front of the city. It originated on the steamer Bladen. It was the worst fire that ever occurred in North Carolina, the loss being estimated at \$1,500,000.

It is said in Washington that President Cleveland is very anxious to make a Southern tour. He has expressed a desire to attend the Exposition at New Orleans, and has said that, if possible, he will attend, accompanied by several members of the Cabinet.—Charleston News and Courier.

The change of guage which is to take place simultaneously on June 1st on all the railroads in the country where the present five-foot guage is in use, is an immense piece of work to be done in a single day. The change to be made is from five feet to four feet nine inches. A matter requiring equal promptitude will be the changing of the trucks, of engines, coaches and box cars, the width must be reduced to correspond with the contraction of the track.

From all the region between Boston and St. Louis, come reports of the most disastrous floods. Great damage has been done, and there was danger still ahead at the last accounts. We do not realize how well off we are in North Carolina, and in this section of the State particularly.—Asheville Citizen.

There are more attractions for labor and capital in the South to-day than in any other part of the world, and labor and capital are quick to recognize the field where they may be employed to the best advantage. They are already pouring into our territory, in small and widely separated streams it may be, but the cur-

rent once turned this way will never be stayed or turned aside. The tide will grow larger and stronger every year, and the children of to-day will see the flood ere they reach man's estate.—Baltimore Manufacturers' Record.

Our readers will find below an interesting description of Southern California, taken from a letter written by C. C. Hutchinson, Esq., one of the founders of Highlands.

Southern California, which has made such a fuss in the world, is really a small region—that is, the advertised portion around Los Angeles, and no one there has yet made any money by tilling the ground or selling fruits. Many acres of grapes were not picked this year. The various diseases and insect pests are numerous and serious. In my view, the water question is more serious. The artesian wells are diminishing in flow as the number increases, and they are bored deeper. I now refer specially to Fresno county. At Riverside, the wells, new and old, are freely flowing; but they are, or something is, drying up or diminishing the water supply at San Bernardino, an old place a few miles north. There is no law of the State governing water rights, and it is understood that under the "Old English Common Law" (which California statute provides shall govern water rights), no man has a right to deprive another of his water simply because he is the first to take it out of the stream. And so it is probable that in time, after litigation, engineers will be called upon to divide the water supply of each stream, apportioning it to the land needing it. It will be a troublesome question, and some, certainly, will be deprived of a part of the amount they have bought. I should want water out of a strong, short stream, or to go in with a settlement that took all the water, and all the land that could possibly claim any of it. Of course there are many such.

They are having a practical trouble in many places, especially the great valleys, because there is no proper drainage, and the land soon becomes water-soaked, and of course unhealthy and unproductive. It seems about impossible to tell where certain fruits will grow and where they will not, except by actual trial. It is a very strange country. Its climate, fruit, &c., are very attractive. Excepting a few oranges called the "Navel," however, they are sour, poor fruit—juicy, but as sour as the poorest Sicily oranges sold East. I suppose improved varieties will prevail in time.

I really believe that if the same effort was made in the South, not only to grow in quantities but to dry and can in the best possible shape, it would be more profitable with such fruits as will grow. I send you a little circular on dried fruits, and you will see that most of these goods can be grown around Highlands, or not far away, certainly in the Southern States largely. The statistics of canned goods make almost the same showing. The capital, energy, faith and time, which have been applied to the building of this trade, would do wonders in the South, and labor is cheaper there. You see there is nothing to do here, except for the few months in fruit and grain harvest. I do not speak as predicting any back-set to California, although the Chinese question must hurt, because they have not the labor to care for fruit if the Chinese are immediately driven out. There is practically one sentiment here, that they are a curse to the country, and "must go."

The wonderful climate, and infinite variety of productions, and immense returns under irrigation, will continue to attract people. The talk that landowners want to divide the land is an error. They do not, to any great extent, and are about as

difficult to manage about that as the Southerners—that is, they get scared, and raise the price of land, if settlers begin to come in.

I wish I could try irrigation on some tracts in the South. I believe it would pay on some crops and fruits.

In the Charleston Weekly News and Courier of the 17th inst. may be found an interesting letter on grape culture. It is written by C. W. Wiecking, jr., of Walhalla. In view of the fact that grapes are so easily grown, and that the vines so soon become profitable, it is to be hoped that many of our neighboring—southern and eastern slopes may before very long be cultivated as vineyards. The experiment has been tried on a small scale in Horse Cove, and the fruit always meets with a ready sale at good prices, in Highlands, where much more could be sold.

Long ago it was thought and said that on the slopes of the Blue Ridge were to be found all the conditions most suitable for the growth of the vine, in greater perfection than anywhere else on the continent east of the Rocky Mountains; and there are doubtless very favorable situations quite close to our village. In the village itself the nights are too cool for the successful cultivation on a large scale of the finest sort of grapes, or those which are late in ripening, but a few vines trained on a building would no doubt grow and bear well.

As Mr. Wiecking says, the fact of the grape being readily transportable long distances, and not soon perishable, gives vineyardists a great advantage over the growers of strawberries, raspberries, &c., which can be kept at most but a few days and which never reach a distant market in perfection, owing to the fact that to bear carriage they must be gathered before fully ripe. Many varieties of grapes may be kept for some months, especially by using "cold storage."

Mr. Wiecking gives a short list of the varieties grown in his father's vineyard at Walhalla, some, and perhaps all of which would be found to succeed here.

Wilder, a fine black grape.
Massasoit, pale red, early and excellent
Lindley, pale red, an abundant bearer.
Goethe, pale red, considered by Mr. Wiecking the best of the Rogers' hybrids.
Concord, very productive and hardy, but the quality not so good as the preceding varieties, and it does not keep long.

There are many other sorts which might be added to these named by Mr. Wiecking, such as Brighton, Jefferson, &c. And it may also be said here, that one mistake is made every year by most of those who bring grapes to our market—that of gathering them too early, when they are hard and sour, the vine not having had time to elaborate the rich juices which give flavor and sweetness. If allowed to hang unpicked for three weeks or a month longer, they would be very greatly better.

HIGHLANDS MARKETS.

Wheat	.....	\$1 25 to	\$
Buckwheat	.....	50	
Corn, new	.....	50	
Oats	.....	65	
Rye	.....	65	
Flour, per 100 lbs.	.....	3 50	4 00
Western flour	.....	4 50	
Butter	.....	15	35
Eggs	.....	15	
Potatoes	.....	40	50
Onions	.....	60	
Apples	.....	50	60
Beans, per bushel	.....	1 00	1 50
Chickens	.....	10	15
Fodder, per 100	.....	1 50	
Hay, per 100 lbs.	.....	1 00	1 50
Sorghum syrup	.....	40	50
Dried apples, per lb.	.....	3	8
Dried peaches	4	15
Dried blackberries	5	10
Pork	6	8
Beef	6	7
Wood, per load	75	
Cabbage, per lb.	1	

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S. T. KELSEY,
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