

THE HIGHLANDER.

Vol. 2.

HIGHLANDS, MACON COUNTY, N. C., FRIDAY, FEB. 18, 1887.

No. 28.

"WHERE SHALL WE GO FOR THE SUMMER?"

Was the title of an article which appeared in an exchange the other day. We did not read the article, since this is a matter upon which residents of Highlands need no advice. Taking all things into consideration we have probably the finest summer climate to be found in North America. In the Rocky mountains the air in summer is exhilarating in the extreme, but the constant winds, and the excessive dryness of the air, often affect the nervous system injuriously. Add to this fact that in many localities the water is impregnated with alkali, and it will be seen that there must be a large class of summer pilgrims which does not find what it seeks in Colorado. In the Adirondacks with very cool, often cold nights, with beautiful lakes, good fishing and hunting, there is, owing to the preponderance of coniferous trees, a good deal of monotony in the forest scenery, and countless swarms of mosquitoes and black flies torment the camper-out. These pests also make woodland life uncomfortable in many parts of Maine and Canada, as well as in Minnesota, in which latter State the summer heat is often excessive.

The White Mountains from their vicinity to the great centres of population have become such thoroughfares of travel, that many avoid them for this reason, preferring to take their vacation trips farther afield. To such, and to all seeking change, rest, health, fine scenery and cool weather, we suggest that they come to Highlands. With a considerable rainfall the climate of this elevated plateau is moist enough to encourage abundant vegetation, and to prove soothing to restless nerves, while the soil is so permeable and so thoroughly drained naturally that no mud follows the heaviest summer showers. The altitude 3,800 feet, gives us summers as cool as can be found anywhere south of the eastern provinces of Canada; the average temperature for June, July and August for three years, from observations taken three times daily, according to the Signal Service rules, was 66.21 degrees. The scenery is beautiful, the flora of the country is rich in the extreme, and there are no mosquitoes or black flies. In addition, there will be next summer, as never before except to a very limited extent, comfortable accommodations for a goodly number of guests.

We would urge upon the residents of Highlands and its vicinity, who own a little land and who keep any stock, the importance of improving it to its utmost capacity, by means of manure and thorough tillage for the purpose of raising hay or other forage for winter use. People here have been buying a large part of their fodder from the farmers scattered through these mountains, doing so less now perhaps, than a few years ago. Talk about Yankee shrewdness and over-reaching! These farmers will beat them at that game every time. For a while they compelled these non-producers to pay exorbitant prices, sometimes as much as 2½ and 3 cents a bundle for blades. Finally the buyers rebelled against such prices, and they have come down to 1½ cents. But now the dodge is small bundles, and we are paying about as much as when the price was double. We must buy by weight and that is the only fair way. But the best way out of the difficulty is for every man who has land, to raise all he can, and thus come to be self-supporting. There is no reason why we villagers should not raise all the fodder we need. There is land enough which only needs to be tickled with a hoe to laugh with a crop. We should save and use all the manure we can get. It will pay to use it here as it will all through the Middle and Eastern States. We have not the rich malaria breeding soils of the West. If a rich soil is all we want, and we care nothing for a salubrious climate, we should have gone West!

Heavy rain last night; apparently clearing this morning. Thermometer 52 degs.

The concert at the Methodist church on Tuesday evening was a success. We have never before in Highlands heard choruses so well sung; great pains had evidently been taken in their preparation and much credit is due to those who so carefully trained the singers in their parts. All the numbers were pleasing, and one not named in the programme was especially good, "Our Barque Upon the Stream." "Memories of Galilee," "O How I Love My Mountain Home," "Queen of the Night," trio, and "Fly Tender Birdling," duett, were very pretty. The comic quartette, "Prophundo Basso" provoked much laughter, and Dr. O'Farrell's recital, "The Debating Society," was capitally given. Would not a choral society, meeting weekly for the purpose of keeping the young people of the town in constant practice, be a good thing, if under careful supervision?

There is a good opportunity for any one who knows how to raise vegetables, to do a good business, in supplying the hotel and Islington House this summer. It is a business that will pay, and will grow better every year. There are in this place, and in the nature of things always will be, a good many non-producers, who depend on purchasing their vegetables. The most that are sold here are brought a distance of from 4 to 10 miles. This is absurd. There is not a soil in this country better adapted to the raising of vegetables than this. All that is needed is a man with knowledge of how the thing is done, and the energy necessary for success in any business in any place.

LIVINGSTON, Mont., Feb. 12.—There is serious apprehension that there will be appalling loss of human lives in Montana. Snow began falling in the middle of November, and there is now more on the ground than at any time in the last ten years. Most of the stage roads are entirely closed up. The supply of fuel is almost exhausted. Three days ago coal was selling at \$60 a ton at Fort Benton, and now it can hardly be purchased at less price. The snow is drifted to enormous depths and people living at mountain bases are in imminent danger of meeting a horrible fate beneath an avalanche or freezing to death. Should another protracted storm occur, it is believed hundreds would succumb to its terrors. As it is, more people have been frozen to death this winter than for a quarter of a century.

NOTICE.

Tax payers in Highlands township will please call on M. I. Skinner in Highlands, who is authorized to receive and receipt for taxes of 1886. Please attend to this at once, as Mr. Skinner is authorized to sue all who fail to settle, which will increase the amount to be paid.

R. A. JACOBS,
Tax Collector for 1886.

Mr. A. H. Isbel of Jackson believes that he has recently discovered tin ore in good quantities in that county. Should his conjectures prove true it would be a lucky find. * * A large lot of nickel property located in Jackson county, has recently been sold to a Northern firm.—*Asheville Citizen.*

A Florida company engaged in the manufacture of perfumery has built a factory at Jacksonville, and next spring will start a 200 acre flower plantation. They now have one plantation at San Mateo, and are putting seven acres at Jacksonville in flowers.—*Manufacturer's Record.*

According to the Vermont Journal 72¼ inches of snow have already fallen in that State, this winter. On Feb. 8, in Windsor county it was twenty inches deep on a level. Average temperature at Proctorsville, for January, 11 degrees.

The President has approved the bill providing for the erection of the public buildings at Charleston. These buildings were rendered untenable by the earthquake shock of Aug. 31.—*Hendersonville Times.*

During the past week we have had a few colder nights, and a heavy rain on Monday. Saturday 12th, 34 degs.; 13th, 25 degs.; 14th, 18 degs.; 15th, 43 degs.; 16th, 45 degs.; 17th, 34 degs. All at 7 a.m.

Rev. N. D. Franklin will preach at the Methodist church on Sunday at 11 o'clock.

Mr. Ravenel and family have left town for a visit to Philadelphia.

Miss F. Davis returned to Highlands last Monday.

Messrs. H. P. Terhume and R. Lozier, of New Jersey, are in town.

A bill to incorporate the town of Whittier is before the Legislature.

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Jan. 11th, 1887. no231yr.

H. M. BASCOM,

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Highlands, Macon Co.,
N. C.

EDUCATIONAL NOTICE.

An Academy will be opened at Highlands, Macon Co., N. C., on Monday, November 8th, 1886. The Academy is designed to fit pupils for College, for Business, or for Teaching. It offers the advantage of three separate courses, viz: The College Preparatory Course, The Teacher's Normal Course, and The Common School Course. Instruction will also be given in Vocal and Instrumental Music. For a catalogue or further particulars address

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