

PICNIC IN MID-WINTER.

Our Villagers Enjoy an Excursion to Raeford Academy.

On Thursday morning, the 23d inst., about one hundred people gathered at the Aberdeen & Asheboro railroad depot in our village to take a special train for Raeford Academy, where a basket picnic was to be held. Shortly after 9.30 the engine with three cars well-loaded with merry excursionists pulled out of the depot and the trip was begun.

The first stop was made at Aberdeen, and as the conductor calls out the name of the station all eyes are turned to the windows to catch a glimpse of this town of which they have heard so much. Only a brief stop is made here, however, and they are soon on their way again, and the conductor announces that the next stop will be at one of the largest saw mill plants in the state.

As the train slows up all make for the door, and crossing the track are at the mill. A log train was about due, and while waiting for it to arrive with logs for sawing, the excursionists ramble off to see the sights and many of the ladies gather pitcher plants which are found here in abundance.

But what is that coming down the track? Can it be an engine? If so it is worthy of a place in a museum, for it is a curiosity with its broad wheels running on the old wooden rails and with its machinery all on one side. The logs are soon unloaded and the party hastens back to see the saws at work. After seeing a number of logs transformed into lumber the party got aboard the train once more, many of the ladies having pine shingles as souvenirs, and are soon on their way to their destination.

On arriving at Raeford it is found that a rumor has been circulated that the excursion was to occur one day later, consequently there was no one at the depot to meet the party, who found themselves in a strange country without a guide. Undismayed, however, they start out to find the academy. On the way Yankee curiosity crops out among the leaders and they walk into the open door of the village store, followed by most of the party, which fills the building to its utmost capacity, much to the astonishment of the clerks employed there, and gives it the appearance of one of our mammoth metropolitan department stores on bargain day.

After making small purchases of fruit and confectionery, the party again starts on its way and finally arrives at the door of the academy, much to the surprise of teachers and pupils, who turn out to welcome their guests.

It is now 12 o'clock and many of the excursionists are ready for dinner, but they are told to wait a while until arrangements can be made. A team is soon seen approaching loaded with baskets and boxes filled with good things provided by Mr. Atwood of Holly Inn, Mr. Peck of the "Berkshire," and Mrs. Upham of the Casino, besides many baskets brought by the cottagers. Boards are quickly hoisted into the windows of the academy to serve as tables, and coffee is soon boiling, and at 1 o'clock many a happy group, from the two who are company enough for each other to larger parties of twenty or more, may be seen seated under the spreading boughs of the long-leaf pines or in the academy hall, enjoy-

ing the good things set before them.

But, I hear you say, have not the people mistaken the time of year for a basket picnic in the woods? Do they think it is the Fourth of July? Oh, no, my friends, it is the 23d of February, but we are in the Sunny South where the warm sun and balmy air make a picnic enjoyable even in mid-winter. One man said he didn't think he could eat anything, as he had a bad stomach, but in passing him at the table we should judge he had forgotten all about it by the way he was clearing the plates in front of him.

But the great bell at the academy is ringing and boxes and bags are put away and the party hastens to the school room for a feast of another kind. The students are all formed in line outside the door and as the excursionists enter the room the form of Judge Sample is seen on the centre of the platform, with Dr. Parcels sitting on his left and Mr. McLaughlin, one of the trustees of the academy, on his right.

When all were seated Judge Sample, who presided over the exercises, made a few pleasing remarks and introduced Mr. McLaughlin, whom he said was born in this place, as were also his father and mother, ninety years ago. While we would not like to accuse the judge of stretching the truth, yet we fear he must have imagined himself on the bench listening to some of the lawyers' stories, as the gentleman must live many years before he will reach that age. But he was equal to the occasion, and with true Southern hospitality gave the guests a hearty welcome to the homes and hearts of the people of Raeford.

At the close of his remarks a song of welcome was sung by the students, after which Dr. Parcels responded in a very pleasing manner, quoting several poems and relating a number of anecdotes in his usual happy manner. The doctor and the Raeford gentleman, who fought on opposite sides during the Civil war, met here as brothers. They spoke of the past as dead and gone and joined hand and heart in the bright future of our united country.

The doctor's address was followed by a song of friendship by the school, after which Miss Maud Clark, one of the Northern visitors, gave a violin solo that was well received. Mr. Rogers, the pilgrim, who is an annual visitor to Pinehurst, gave the "Hanthem," followed by "When Bill sang tenor and I sang bass."

The audience then had the pleasure of listening to Professor Currie who gave a short history of the school, which was started four years ago in the heart of the pine forest. Now there is a village of twenty houses and a store, all neatly painted. The academy has about ninety students.

After the professor concluded his address some of the people felt that they would like to help the school along, and a collection amounting to \$27.00 was taken for this purpose. After another selection by the orchestra the audience joined in singing "America," which concluded the exercises in the hall.

The excursionists then made a visit to a turpentine distillery which was located a short distance away and was being worked that day for the benefit of the visitors. The plant was thoroughly inspected and many of the Northern people dipped branches of holly and pine cones into the melted

rosin to carry home as souvenirs.

But all days come to an end and the time for departure came all too soon. The train was again loaded and with flags flying in front of the engine the return home was safely and pleasantly made, arriving about 6 o'clock. All were tired, but well pleased with the excursion, and are looking forward to another trip in the near future.

NOTES.

One darkey said he "should laugh for de nex' tree monts when he tought of all de Yankees he seed."

Mr. Tufts rode home in the private car of Mr. Page, president of the Aberdeen & Asheboro railroad.

Our villagers wish to tender their thanks to the managers of the railroads, the academy people, and others who contributed toward making the excursion a success.

Miss Gente Upham.

Miss Eugenie Upham, whose concert and readings for next Saturday evening are looked forward to with eager anticipation by her many friends and admirers, is a specimen of the highly cultured, quiet, self-poised and capable New England girl and woman. She was educated at Emerson college, Boston, and showed such pronounced histrionic ability, that soon after leaving college she became a member of Daly's famous dramatic company where she remained four years, visiting in that time London and several Continental cities where she appeared with Mrs. James Brown-Potter in more or less important roles.

There was every reason to expect success and honor in her chosen vocation, when her health failed and she was obliged to resign. The first year she came to Pinehurst she received so much benefit that she was enabled to continue her vocal music in New York City last season. She has mapped out for her future,—to sing in oratories. This means a combination of dramatic and musical talent which Miss Upham possesses to a marked degree.

One wonders how her voice climbs to such heights from such a slender girlish figure. Miss Upham's readings are very well chosen and rendered, and show refinement of taste and discrimination.

All Massachusetts people know what a fine old family the Uphams were, in the early Colonial period. Her father was a man of fine presence and important business connections, until his health became wrecked through over application, and after several years' illness he has but lately passed away.

May Pinehurst give Miss Upham such a send-off that she will remember it with gratified pride long after other and deserved honors are showered upon her.

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Golf Tournament.

The regular weekly handicap golf tournament was held at the Pinehurst links last Saturday and was won by Mr. Treadway. There were eleven entries. The three best scores were as follows:

Mr. Treadway,	132 less 40, 95
Mr. Owen,	115 less 14, 98
Mr. Keep,	126 less 26, 100

The other gentlemen entered were Messrs. Edwards, Dutton, Pfarre, L. Tufts, Bradford, Winchester, Prescott and Bill.

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