

THE PINE KNOT.

LIGHTED FOR THE ILLUMINATION OF TAR HEELS, BOTH NATIVE AND ADOPTED.

VOL. I.

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THE PINE KNOT

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OUR NAME.

It was a question much debated. We wanted something, suggestive; not too hackneyed nor too sentimental.

News? Too common. Journal, ditto. Star? Higher above the heads and hearts of the people than we wish to get. Besides:

"The sky hath a million stars."

Sun? Too hot for our climate. Moon? Good but not appropriate, as we do not mean to shine by reflected light. A candid friend suggested *The Buzzard*. The spot where his body now lies is marked simply by a rude slab.

THE PINE KNOT.

In a country where the rich yellow pine abounds, what could be better? It suggests light, warmth, comfort. When evenings are cool, a sturdy fire of pine knots sends out its glow from the broad hearth. It lights our faces and warms our hearts. In the poorer families it is the only illumination, for so abundant is it that even the poorest may possess it. So THE PINE KNOT is here and we trust that before very long our readers will be ready to add with hearty good will, "and long may it burn."

OUR AIM.

Is to please, to instruct, to help. We shall try to give all the local news in full, a condensation of general news for the week, crisp editorials on live topics, information for all classes of readers, stories, poems, essays, sayings supposed to be funny, and sayings supposed to be wise. There will be special information for Northern readers who desire to learn about North Carolina; how to get here, where to locate, what to do and how to do it. THE PINE KNOT has peculiar facilities for furnishing information of real value in this line.

There will be a household department which we think will be useful to the mothers, wives and daughters, and the various other departments will, we think, explain and commend themselves.

OUR FAME.

"A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches." We know that country editors as a rule are very wealthy, but we do not care for riches. We do want the name of being a thoroughly good and useful paper. If that is your verdict concerning us, tell it to your neighbors and that shall be our fame.

NORTHERN MEN'S CONVENTION.

The Convention of Northern men at Raleigh, Oct. 26th, will be important for the interests of immigration in North Carolina. It will give people from the North who have settled in this state an opportunity to become better acquainted with each other, to compare experiences, exchange views and devise means for the diffusion of information concerning their adopted state among friends in the North who are looking this way for homes.

It is to be hoped that every Northern man will consider it a duty as well as a privilege to attend and help. Occurring as it does at the same time as the annual State Fair it will give an opportunity for better acquaintance between the Northern settlers and the native residents of the state. It will also prove a corrective of any tendency to exalt the merits of one section of the state over those of another. Very naturally Mr. A., of Vermont thinks that particular spot in North Carolina which he, out of his superlative wisdom, has chosen for a home must be better than any other spot and uses all his eloquence to persuade others to adopt the same view, which is well enough if not carried too far. But at the Convention he meets B., from New York, and learns that the latter has found another earthly Paradise in an entirely different quarter. There will probably be some difference of opinion and much good natured discussion, but the result will be good for all who attend and for the interests of North Carolina generally.

We have been invited to go into politics, but felt obliged to decline the honor. The hill top from which we look abroad over the earth (as far as the pine trees will allow us) furnishes plenty of pure white sand, but no mud; consequently, dear and acute reader, you will see that we are ill furnished for political journalism. We are not too proud to publish a political newspaper, but we are too busy. More-over—but a little anecdote will better illustrate our meaning:—

A worthy citizen of a small town a

thousand miles, more or less, from Brooklyn, N. Y. lost his dog. The animal was of no particular breed and of no particular value except to his fond master and it was strange that any one could have taken such a violent fancy for him as to abduct him. But strange as it seemed, it was a fact. He had been last seen in the company of a suspicious looking individual who registered at the village hotel as from Brooklyn, N. Y. A letter to the Chief of Police in the last named city, in course of time, brought a reply which cheered the heart of the bereaved one. His dog was found. Along with the information came an inquiry as to what disposal should be made of the canine. The owner wrote back that he should be carefully placed in a box and forwarded at once. To this the polite official replied that, while he was not too proud for such occupation, he felt that he had a better job than boxing dogs. "The point of this story lies in the application of it."

THE PINE KNOT has come to stay with you. If you like it, take it and pay for it. *Don't borrow it.* If you can't afford the dollar, stop using tobacco a few weeks and then you can.

My dear Northern friend, whose distressing cough of last winter has lasted through the spring and along toward midsummer, you may as well make up your mind to come to North Carolina. Don't be deceived. The few weeks of warm weather may have relieved, but they have not cured you. Better come to the pine woods now; they will cure you if you delay not too long.

Grasses in the South.

Grass is the greatest need of the South. Without a rotation of crops, there cannot be any successful agriculture; and without grass or clover, there cannot be any successful rotation of crops, nor, without these and other feeding crops, can there be any manure at all adequate to the necessities of the land. The great advantage of grass and clover is the roots and stubble of these crops, and the occasional plowing under of the whole growth, which furnishes a large amount of fertilizing matter. This most important branch of agriculture is almost unknown in the Southern States, and, in consequence of it, the yield of the crops commonly grown, and which are exceedingly exhaustive is exceedingly meager, and wholly unprofitable to the farmers. This is proved by the general average as shown by the statistics of the Agricultural Department, by which it is seen that the yield of cotton is no more than 150 pounds to the acre, worth, at the present price, less than \$9, while the yield of corn is no more than five to seven bushels in the majority of cases and that of wheat is no more. This is the inevitable result of the present system in which grass has no place at all.

Grass, however, flourishes as well in the South as anywhere else, and some indigenous varieties grow there to a perfection known in no other part of the Union. We have recently passed through three of the best Southern agricultural states, and have specially noticed the Bermuda grass, which is one of the most alarming bugbears of the cotton planter, and have observed its very great value for permanent pasture and hay. This is the lawn grass of the Southern climate, and its running roots cause it to make dense sod, which is green the whole year, excepting for a few weeks in the driest of the hot season of late summer and early fall. It seems impossible to kill this grass, excepting by plowing and cultivating, because of its peculiar habit, which gives it a special value for field growth. This grass yields a large quantity of hay, and the finest pasture. As much as four tons of hay per acre has been made in an ordinary season at one cutting, when the grass has been put in in the best manner on good soil. This has been stated repeatedly by the best and most experienced practical farmers in the South, and can be readily believed by one who observes its growth and habit with a practiced eye.

Clover, contrary to the belief, grows luxuriantly in the South, and we have recently seen large fields of it which will easily make two tons of hay per acre at the first cutting. This is a most important fact for Southern farmers, who can easily figure up for themselves the value of such a crop, grown with such little labor. Hay is now worth \$20 a ton, and we have seen large piles of it in bales at every distributing point on the railroads traversed, which have been brought from Northern markets for the use of planters who are growing cotton for the paltry sum of \$8 to \$15 per acre, when they might realize \$40 per acre for one cutting of clover. The plowing in of the second crop, or the manuring of the land with the refuse from feeding the first crop would easily quadruple the yield of cotton. A farmer who has done this for three years past has grown 700 pounds of ginned cotton to the acre, as the result of this enlightened method of culture.

Orchard grass is also an excellent variety for the South, and thousands of acres of it are grown specially for seed in Kentucky and parts of Tennessee. This is one of the permanent grasses, and is valuable for both hay and pasture. Kentucky blue grass is another most valuable pasture grass, and its running and spreading roots soon fill the soil and cover the land with a dense verdure, which affords, when reserved for the purpose, a fine Winter pasture for stock. These grasses alone would enrich the South, not only by their intrinsic value for feeding, but by their culture changing the present exhaustive and wasteful system, would increase the value of the land permanently.—N. Y. *Independent.*