

# THE PINE KNOT.

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

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## THE PINE KNOT.

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"He who gives promptly gives twice" is an old and true saying, and he who pays promptly pays at least once and a half is not less true if not as old.

As the time for high winds is now upon us people can not be too cautious in the use of fire. A little carelessness, especially in making fires out of doors, may cause untold destruction. It seems a marvel to anyone who has observed the construction of chimneys in the negro cabins that they do not burn up at once. It is no uncommon sight to see flames bursting out through the cracks where the mud-and-stick chimney is boarded up with pine. What keeps these boards from catching fire oftener than they do is a mystery.

Speaking of fire reminds us that the terrible fires that have occurred at Durham, Oxford and Franklinton ought to serve as a warning to other towns not to neglect proper precautions against fire. But they don't. The rest of the towns will move right on in the calm consciousness that they are too good to be burnt, until they find the Devourer upon them. Every town, however small, should have at least a public reservoir and a hand engine if nothing more.

The entire civilized world is probably just now watching with strained eyes for the some time heralded American Navy. We hope we shall get it and that it will be something to be proud of. We believe the situation to be somewhat thus: If we can only have it we shall not need it, but if we don't have it we shall need it terribly and before long too. It's been promised so long however and so little progress has been made that sometimes a cold fear chills our spinal cord when we think of the possibility that the millenium may dawn just as our new war ships, shining with fresh paint, shall glide forth upon the deep. Think over the situation! All the nations of the world at peace with each other; the lamb reposing by the lion's side; the chicken roosting on our colored brother's hat brim without fear of molestation; Lord Randolph Churchill and W. E. Gladstone chopping on opposite sides of the same tree, and the United State just sending forth its Invincibles, Terrors, Destructions and Thunderers. Well it would be a good joke of huge dimensions, and no great loss would be entailed either, for no doubt the new cruisers could be made over into Mississippi flat boats without much change.

## TO WHAT GOOD END?

We have hoped that the generation of fools was dying out. We even allowed ourselves to believe that the children of this generation are wiser than their fathers. But we incline to the opposite belief now. The number of fools is increasing. Wicked, tricky Puck cannot keep pace with this folly by saying once "What fools these mortals be," but on wings swifter than the wind he must traverse all lands and shout with mocking laughter "What fools, what fools, what fools these mortals be!"

The latest foolishness in this country seems to be irresistibly drawn toward Niagara. When, some years ago, Capt. Webb lost his life in attempting to swim the rapids there was a thrill of horror all over the land and a general cry of protest against such exhibitions of foolhardiness. There was a feeling of pity for his bereaved family, but no admiration for the bravery of the act. Even if he had passed through safely, nothing would have been proved except that he was a lucky man. Since then there have been numerous attempts at the same feat, some successful, others fatal. Hitherto this particular kind of foolishness has been confined to the male sex, but now a young woman springs into unenviable notoriety according to the following:

NIAGARA FALLS, N. Y., November 28.—George Hazlett and Miss Sadie Allen, of Buffalo, went through the rapids and whirlpool this afternoon in the torpedo-shaped barrel used by Hazlett and Potts last summer. They were in the rapids and whirlpool five minutes, and were taken out of the eddy on the Canadian side, just below the whirlpool, three-quarters of an hour later in good condition. Miss Allen is a respectable girl, eighteen years old, petite, a brunette and rather pretty.

Who next? Will it become as common for young men and maidens to go through Niagara rapids together as to go driving or boating? Will the phrase be—"Miss A., will you take a bump in a barrel with me through the rapids this afternoon?" or "May I have the pleasure of escorting you through the winding mazes of the whirlpool?"

We are accustomed to smile at the extravagances of the knights of old, their absurd vows; their vainglorious boasting; their displays of useless bravery, but withal we can but admire their sincerity and honest endeavor to do worthy deeds. Our modern knights of the barrel and cork suit are not in any wise to be

compared with those of old. They have no lofty aim, no self-sacrificing purpose. It generally transpires that the only object is money or notoriety, or both. It is to be hoped that if people will take such criminal liberties with their own lives more stringent precautions will be taken by the authorities at Niagara Falls to prevent the carrying out of their plans.

## RAILROAD MOVEMENT IN THE SOUTH.

LYNCHBURG, November 27.—Track laying on the South Atlantic and Ohio railroad began yesterday. The work will be pushed forward to Cumberland Gap as rapidly as possible. Immense coal and iron beds are found on the line of the road. A proposition from the London Investment Company has been received to extend the road from Bristol to Statesville, North Carolina, which will take it through immense fields of the magnetic iron belt. Investments in mineral and timber lands are being made daily by northern capitalists.

The Pennsylvania Railroad Company and the Atlantic and Gulf Coast Line have had a misunderstanding, the latter, it is stated, having gone so far as to refuse a bill of lading from the former. This is one of the principal reasons, it is understood, why the Pennsylvania Railroad Company will enter cordially into the scheme proposed by the friends of the New York, Philadelphia and Norfolk Railroad Company to extend that line South, from Norfolk to Jacksonville, Fla.

It is understood that this new road will pass through North Carolina, near Charlotte, possibly through Monroe. The route from that place to Atlanta, it is stated, has already been surveyed.

Rockingham Rocket;—Our county commissioners will be solicited to order an election to be held in the county on the proposition to subscribe a stated amount to aid in the construction of the railroad from Smithville, N. C., via Rockingham and Mt. Gilead to Bristol, Tenn., the terminal point of the line. The county of Montgomery will hold an election on December 7th. Stanly has already voted its bonds to the amount of one hundred thousand dollars in aid of the project, a two-thirds majority of the registered voters in the county having declared in favor of the specified amount.

Forest fires that have been burning in Brunswick county for some time past broke out with renewed fury the past week, swept over a great extent of country and caused no inconsiderable amount of damage to farmers. Barns and out-houses and a great deal of fencing have been destroyed, as well as much valuable timber. The prolonged drought has made everything as dry as tinder and a fire once started spreads with astonishing rapidity.