

THE PINE KNOT.

SOUTHERN PINES. N. C.

Mr. Vivian, a London grain broker, estimates the world's supply of wheat in 1886 at 2,114,877,702 bushels, of which Europe furnished 1,175,505,234 bushels and the United States 939,332,468 bushels.

It would seem that with age people outgrow the tendency to commit crime. Mr. Z. R. Brockway, in the *November Forum*, points out that of 15,000 prisoners in New York State 10,000 of them are not more than thirty years of age, while probably 8,000 are under twenty-five years.

A medical journal says "the application of a bit of ice to the lobe of the ear will stop hiccupping." Commenting upon this statement the *New York Graphic* facetiously observes: "All a man who is accustomed to hiccupping has to do then is to carry a bit of ice around in his vest pocket and he can cure himself instantly. Without medical journals this world would be a very sickly world."

"Some idea of the immense resources of this country," says the *Washington Post*, "may be gained from the fact that since 1855 the Government has paid in pensions, in round numbers, \$385,000,000, and of this enormous sum all except \$25,000,000 was paid since the Civil War. In 1867 the interest on the national debt was \$144,000,000, and in those thirty-one years \$1,315,000,000 has been paid to the holders of Government bonds."

A metropolitan paper has this to say about the practice of docking horses' tails. "Henry Bergh will do a good work if he succeeds in stopping the cruelty involved in the docking of horses' tails. A horse with his tail complete looks better than a horse with only a stump of a tail, and his defense against flies is too obvious an argument to need mentioning. If, however, the docking is to be continued, the owners of the horses thus disfigured ought to be made to serve the animals in dry time. An old gentleman who rides a stout, bob-tailed horse in the Park every warm day sets the example. The tail of which his horse was robbed, or rather the hair belonging to it, has been carefully dried and fitted to a light stock, and as he rides the old gentleman keeps it going with all the industry and more than the dexterity of the original owner. The spectacle afforded by this congenial pair, the horse being as sedate and dignified as its rider, is one of complete harmony and solid satisfaction; and if Mr. Bergh will take the pains to encounter it, a most any fine afternoon in the vicinity of the Eight avenue entrance or beyond, it will do his soul good."

A successful attempt at co-operative farming is reported in England. A company of city workmen, tradesmen and mechanics in London, who were out of employment, united in an association which rented a running-down farm of 150 acres near London. They paid a comparatively high rental for such land, thirty-five shillings (\$8.75) per acre, but put so much labor on it that the enterprise was a success. The land was enriched and devoted largely to market gardening and dairying, the latter increasing as the association secured capital to purchase cows. Formerly only four men were employed on the farm. Now it gives constant employment to forty, with proportionate increase of profit. This, the *New York Mail and Express* thinks, is possibly a suggestive experiment for unemployed workmen in this country. It is comparatively easy to secure land on favorable terms.

A wonderful mountain of slate has been discovered in Blount County, Tennessee. It is described as "a solid wall of slate, illimitable in extent and of very superior quality."

A person with a bad temper should adopt a vegetarian diet. Meat makes people of bad dispositions want to fight or quarrel upon slight provocation. Anyone addicted to drink can overcome the dangerous habit much easier by adopting a proper diet of vegetables, cereals and fruit. Meat eating, especially pork, bacon and ham, has a tendency to lead to intemperate habits.

Mr. Carpenter, an American correspondent who has been making a tour of the British Isles, was much struck with this point that follows: The fact that England is the workshop of the world can only be appreciated by a ride through it and by the thousands and tens of thousands of factories which one sees during a trip across it in any direction. There are about five persons here engaged in manufacturing to one engaged in agriculture.

A newly married couple from the interior of Nevada, who had evidently never before ventured upon a railroad train, took the cars to go upon their wedding trip. When the conductor came around to collect the tickets, the bridegroom was so flustered by the novelty of the situation that he handed out his marriage certificate. The conductor looked at it approvingly and handed it back with the remark that it was a highly useful document in its place, and one he had often contemplated securing for himself, but that its possession did not entitle the holder to free passage over that railroad.

Modern inventions have kept pace with all the requirements of social life and made possible housekeeping on an appearance of elegance even in one room. The variety of folding beds and other articles of furniture is surprising. A handsome parlor with bookcases, cabinets, easy chairs and lounges can be transformed in a twinkling into a bedroom or dining room, or even a kitchen. The novelties of this class make possible the change of a parlor to the nursery, and a child's bath tub and other useful articles can be evolved from ornamental and innocent appearing parlor tables. It must be perplexing occasionally to the owners of a roomful of this furniture how to prepare against sudden changes.

An interesting story is told of Geoffrey Goodman, a wealthy farmer of Lawrenceburg, Indiana, who is now an insane leper. The leprosy appeared several months ago, and physicians recommended a trip to Hot Springs, Arkansas. While the steamer on which he, in company with his brother and sister, took passage stopped at a small place along the river, the latter escaped from his relatives and ran ashore, where he was soon lost amid the dense undergrowth. Continued search failed to find him. Recently, however, the people living in the vicinity have been excited over stories of a wild man who had been seen on a high cliff waving his arms and shouting incoherently. These stories met the eye of Goodman's brother, who knew at once that the wild man must be none other than the demented leper, and he set out to look for him. Goodman was found in a cave, eating a piece of raw mutton, and he willingly submitted to be taken home. He was destitute of clothing, and his hair and beard were long and matted. It is a curious feature of the story that the insane man's instincts followed the old idea that lepers must be outcasts from society.

WOMAN'S WORLD.

PLEASANT LITERATURE FOR FEMINE READERS.

"Tit for Tat."

A Boston lady who has just returned from abroad tells a very amusing story of how a lady of the American Legation in Paris paid her respects to Ouida, the novelist. Mrs. Bigelow was in Florence. She desired to see Ouida. For Mrs. Bigelow to desire to do a thing is but one step from doing it. She therefore, drove out to Ouida's and presented herself in her usual emphatic way at the door. She was shown into a reception room, and in a very loud voice said to the valet: "Would you tell Mlle. de la Ramée that Mrs. John Bigelow, of New York, would like to speak with her."

Hardly had the message been given when a voice from the next room was heard in tones equally loud to reply: "Tell Mrs. John Bigelow, of New York, that I don't want to see her or any other American! I don't like them."

Mrs. Bigelow rose and answered the invisible lady of the home with: "You ought to be ashamed of yourself. We're the only fools that read your nasty books, anyway."

In another moment the two well-matched women were face to face; and within half an hour the novelist was urging her American caller to become her guest.

"Do come and stay a month with me," she urged. "I should so enjoy studying your character."

"I would do you good," was Mrs. Bigelow's quick response; "you don't seem to have known any decent women."

—*Boston Home Journal*.

Mexican Landresses.

In the town of Texcoco, about thirty miles from the city of Mexico—with which it has recently been connected by a railroad—the pawns and household servants are, as a general rule, devoted to their masters, and the patriarchal familiarity existing there is really delightful, for the Indians are always respectful, or at least rarely presumptuous.

The most remarkable women among the Servidumbre are the landresses; they hear all the gossip of the day while going from house to house to collect or return linen and seem privileged to be more familiar than other servants. One summer a wealthy Mexican family took to their country seat in Texcoco their children's Professor de Ingles—an old American lady. It chanced that one day while the lady was sitting alone in her room, greatly depressed and absolutely yearning for the dear ones of her distant home, the old silver-haired landress, Chonita, a very intelligent woman, entered. The American, scarcely looking up, handed her a slip of paper from the table, saying: "Here is the list: the chambermaid will give you my clothes."

Chonita took the paper, looked at the Professor earnestly a moment, then, kneeling before her, said, without any circumlocution: "You are sad; tell me your troubles, for that will ease your heart."

Surprised, and even offended, by this familiarity, the American lady drew back and was about to reply haughtily, when, looking into the sympathetic old face, she recognized the kindly intent of the Indian woman, and replied gently: "It is nothing, Madre, but that I am a little homesick, for yesterday I went to Mexico, expecting to receive letters from my family, and there was not a line for me at the legation."

Then the following conversation ensued:

"Is your country far off, Senora?"

"Yes, Madre, far beyond this valley and these encircling mountains—away across the great, wide sea."

(The Central Railroad had just been commenced in those days and we had to go to the United States by sea.)

"Why did you leave your native land and your people?"

"Because I was very poor, and being old it would have been much more difficult for me to earn my bread there than it is here, for my countrymen are so active and energetic that all old people, excepting of course the rich or independent, seem to be in the way there; all prefer young teachers."

"Is it hard to be a professor, could you not work at something else?"

"No, Chonita; I don't know anything but books; but, even if I did, the customs of my country are so severe that, supposing I were strong enough to wash at a fountain as you do, while your grandchildren, Pancho and Mariquita,

play in the grass, I would not be allowed to do so; women in my land who belong to a certain class are obliged to sacrifice even their family affections to appearances."

Why, Senora! your king must be a great tyrant?"

"We have no King, Chonita; we are, nominally at least, a free people, but we are greatly oppressed by a tyrant called 'public opinion.' Ah, Madre mia, you are happier than I, for you can always have your family with you, and you are free to sit down with Pancho and Mariquita and eat your dinner on the grass by the fountain, or even in the shady plaza."

"True, Senora; we can always enjoy God's sunlight and the beautiful flowers. We need not be shut up in houses like the high-born people. How you must long to see your grandchildren, Senora."

"Yes, Chonita, I entreat God day and night to let me go home, for by remaining here so long I have missed the sweet babyhood of some of my grandchildren, and I fear all of them will soon forget their grandmama."

The Indian woman arose from her kneeling posture, stood for a moment silently before the foreigner, and then, with the air of a sibyl, said: "Be patient: God designed you should come here either for your own good or the benefit of others. Be submissive to His will, for He is wise, and as He is ever merciful, it may be that the evening of your life will be brighter than its dawn or its noon." Then, tenderly embracing the stranger, Chonita silently withdrew. —*Chicago Herald*.

Fashion Notes.

Onyx and pearl jewelry is again in fashion.

Ladies are again wearing open-faced watches.

Amber is popular for ornaments and trimmings.

Brocaded gauze has the outlines marked by tinsel.

Canvas woven silk has a heavy stripe with good thread embroidery.

Watered black silk and cashmere is a pretty and stylish combination.

The tendency to ornate styles in jewelry is growing, as is the disposition to wear it in greater profusion.

Bonnets are smaller than ever, and seem to be only the frame upon which the high trimming is arranged.

Many of the handsomest hats and bonnets are trimmed with loops of ribbon only, no feathers nor metal ornaments.

Pale pink veils are worn with every sort of bonnet. They are more becoming than the red ones so long in favor.

All American frocks for little girls are made short in the waist, full of skirt, and loose and comfortable in fit all over the person this fall.

Hand-made underwear is shown in plain and embroidered styles. It grows steadily in favor, and is among the best of ready-made goods of this class.

There is a revolt against small birds and feathers of the same for millinery ornaments among those ladies who wish to put a stop to the slaughter of the forest birds of America, and the whole world.

Friday in American History.

Friday has long been regarded as a day of evil omen, but it has been, to say the least, an eventful one in American history.

Friday Columbus sailed his voyage of discovery.

Friday, ten weeks after, he discovered America.

Friday, Henry VIII. of England gave John Cabot his commission, which led to the discovery of North America.

Friday, St. Augustine, the oldest town in the United States, was founded.

Friday, the Mayflower, with the Pilgrims, arrived at Plymouth; and on Friday they signed that august compact, the forerunner of the present Constitution.

Friday, George Washington was born.

Friday, Bunker Hill was seized and fortified.

Friday, the surrender of Saratoga was made.

Friday, Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown; and on Friday the motion was made in Congress that the United Colonies were, and of right ought to be, free and independent.

The United States has 6,000,000 miles of fence, which cost the farmers and stockmen about \$1,900,000, and have to be renewed every fifteen years.