

THE PINE KNOT.

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

VOL. I.

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In the death of Gen. Hazen the country has lost an efficient public officer. He may have been a trifle cranky on some points, but a man who has to deal constantly with the weather can hardly be expected to be otherwise.

It seems that Mr. Kope Elias can not claim to be the original and only Hebrew who has sat (or tried to) in the legislative halls of North Carolina. The original was a Mr. Jacob Henry who was returned from Carteret county about 1808.

For a moving panorama of progress in the South we know of nothing better than the *Manufacturers' Record*, of Baltimore. It gives fifty-two scenes each year, and each is a varied and striking representation of material advancement in the South. It is invaluable to the business man and the investor.

It is sickening to read as in the case of Cluverius, that "after the drop fell there were violent struggles lasting several minutes, showing that death was produced by strangulation." If torture is one of the objects of the death penalty why not tear the victim limb from limb. We think the French do better with Mademoiselle Guillotine.

PLAYING WITH WORDS.

It is gratifying to note that the Blair bill is making good progress in the favor of state legislatures. It is a worthy bill and ought to become an act. It is promulgated in the interest of the entire nation, North, East, South and West. There is in it, therefore, no idea of charity from the North to the South, and the South should not let false pride stand in the way of accepting this much needed assistance. National ignorance is a national menace, and the surplus in our treasury cannot be better applied than to the defense of the people against the perils of illiteracy. We suppose there would be no question of constitutionality if, in providing for our coast defences, it were found necessary to draw on this surplus or to appropriate a larger sum of money for the South than for the North. A too sensitive pride and a sort of fetish-worship of the constitution seem to be the failings of our honest friends who honestly oppose this bill. We believe in the constitution too, and have great regard for it, but we do not believe in a worship of the word

which blinds to the real meaning, the fact of which the word is only a symbol.

In fact the opponents of the Blair bill seem to have spent most of their strength in an ingenious ball-play of words. "Paternal Pedagogy" they cry and seem to think that somewhere hidden in the twists of this uncouth alliteration is the fatal explosive that shall blow the Blair bill into the realm of the never-to-be-attained hereafter. Literally interpreted what does Paternal Pedagogy mean? Simply this: Education by a parent. Applied to the Blair bill it means that the general government shall distribute a portion of its surplus to the States, in proportion to their needs for the purpose of education. And why not? As we have just said it is a question of national defence against the dangers of an ignorant and degraded population. There can be no doubt of its constitutionality.

But another cry is raised: Demagogism! The Republican party want to retain the War Tariff, therefore the Blair bill is presented and if carried will give a good excuse for continued high taxes and consequent surplus revenue. Now dear reader let us reason together. Probably you are a stanch Republican or a stanch Democrat. If so, we may respect you sincerely but can't agree with either of you. We think that both parties have considerably outlived their usefulness, that, having had their day, they ought to be ready to join

"The innumerable caravan that moves to the pale realms of shade."

But the stubborn fact is that both Republicans and Democrats are here, and are as hard at it as ever pounding each other with bladders. The further fact remains that the best men in both parties are in favor of the Blair bill. So you see that bad word Demagogism must, like a bird of Paradise, either

"Flit for aye, but never light."

or else is as likely to descend upon a Democrat as a Republican. There is no doubt but that the tariff is too high, that it ought to be immediately revised; that both Republicans and Democrats have promised to revise, but have not done it; but is that any reason why we should reject much needed aid for public education? Reduce the cost of the necessities of life by all means. Take off this wretched war tariff. But while this is being done let us not stand off and punt, refusing to take what is offered. The price of wisdom is far above rubies, and if we feel aggrieved because the government has taken from us our

rubies let us not refuse the help she offers toward the attainment of wisdom.

MINING NOTES.

Probably the largest known deposits of talc are found in the Western counties of North Carolina. The talc found there differs from most masses of this character by virtue of its peculiar freedom from impurities.

Mr. A. G. Kinsey's quarry, on the Notla river, about five miles from Murphy, in Cherokee county, is one of the most striking masses of talc in the State; if anything, it exceeds the famous Nantahaeh river deposits. Mr. Kinsey has put this quarry in condition for rapid handling and has, in this way, thrown on the dumps more than a thousand tons of talc. He has also accomplished the feat of reducing quarrying to the minimum cost. Think of 25 cents per ton! Besides talc, both iron and marble are found on this property and in sufficient quantity to work.

There is a large area in western North Carolina where talc is encountered by the explorer; in fact, it may be found there in any desired quantity—enough to supply the demands of the whole world for a number of years.

A NEW FIND of magnetic iron ore is reported near Webster, in Jackson county. It was found by a miner named Schreiber, who has been exploring in that section of the State. The ore is said to form a bed covering a large area, and is claimed to be highly magnetic.

FROM ALL SIDES come favorable reports of progress in all branches of mining—for the precious metals; for copper; for iron; for useful minerals—mica, corundum, asbestos, chromic oxide; for gems—hiddenite, beryls, chryso-beryls, emeralds, garnets, &c.

From the Charlotte assay office comes the cheering report that business with that office was brisk during December of the old year, that the deposits of golden bars were a third greater than for the same month last year; that the business of the year just gone was nearly double that of the year previous. That is moving!

Activity in mining, both in practical work and in transfer of real estate, is unusual for the season. It points to far greater results for our new year of '87.

At an early day the results of the past year will be dealt with in a more statistical manner, and the forecast for this year can be made with more accuracy than the information at hand now will justify.

All newspapers should warn forest owners in the South against selling for a song the best timber standing in their forests, and also against the wanton destruction of timber in clearing lands. A gentleman in Watauga county sold \$50 worth of wild cherry felled five or six years ago and rolled into heaps on the side of the field.—*T. K. Bruner in Manufacturers' Record.*