

## THE PINE KNOT.

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E. A. GOODRIDGE, - Editor.

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In the office of one of the big clock concerns is the timepiece by which a native missionary in South Africa preached his sermons. It is a brass bowl with a little hole in the bottom. The bowl is placed in a gourd of water, and when it fills and sinks the preacher knows that an hour has elapsed, and if he is wise he concludes his sermon. It is alleged that a wag once plugged this timepiece, and the preacher, seeing it still above water talked on and on until his sermon dragged on its appalling length over three hours, which caused so much dissatisfaction among the congregation that the minister purchased a nickel-plated \$2 watch and became the marvel and envy of all his townsmen.

A notable phase of railway industry is a railway tie nursery, situated near the little town of Farlington, Kansas, in the southern part of that State. It is said to be the largest artificial plantation of forest trees in North America, and is owned by the Southern Pacific. The different sections have been planted, respectively, two, four, and six years, one-fourth being planted with the ailanthus, the rest with the catalpa, together with a few of white ash. Those first planted are now about twenty-five in height, the last about twelve, and some of the taller are seven inches through the stem. There are in all about three million trees, in full vigor, on the plantation; all were planted four feet apart each way, to shade the ground, though eight feet is the ultimate intention, this plan allowing three-fourths of the trees to be cut out. When they are fit for fence posts. When rather larger it is expected the trees will make excellent railway ties in great numbers—that is, after a thinning-out process there will be some nine hundred thousand trees to come to maturity. The area of this vast railway tie nursery is to be still further increased.

### Queer Things in Persia.

A Mr. Neesan lectured in New York not long ago on Persian life. The young ladies of the audience laughed when Mr. Neesan told how the Persian youth was allowed to take one kiss from his future wife on the eve before their marriage, provided he could find her in a dark room full of other ladies. They were silent and sympathetic when he told how, although he was engaged for three years, he never got one kiss in all that time. Mr. Neesan was forced to confess that the Persian newspapers are rather slow. They are divided into two classes—those published every week and those published every seventh day—and all Persia has just one of each class. Some time after Cleveland was elected Mr. Neesan received a copy of some of these papers. He looked anxiously to see if the election returns had reached the enterprising editor, but the only mention he found of America was its discovery by one Christopher Columbus. He doesn't expect to live long enough for the editor to go through the subsequent history of America and give his readers some comparatively recent news concerning the United States.

## WORDS OF WISDOM.

The good we have received from a man should make us bear with the ill he does us.

It is a strange desire to seek power over others, and lose power over a man's self.

Bashfulness has as little in common with modesty as impudence has with courage.

Anxiety is the poison of life, the sure destroyer of health; parent of many sins, and of more miseries.

In all negotiations of difficulty, a man may not look to sow and reap at once, but must prepare business, and so ripen it by degrees.

Real merit of any kind cannot long be concealed; it will be discovered, and nothing can depreciate it but a man's exhibiting it himself. It may not always be rewarded as it ought; but it will always be known.

The weak man is he who forms many purposes and drops one after another in the face of difficulties. The strong is he who forms a few purposes, but, in the face of all opposition carries each one through to successful issues.

Our healing is not in the storm or in the whirlwind, it is not in monarchies, or aristocracies, or democracies, but will be the still, small voice that speaks to the conscience and the heart, prompting us to a wider and wiser humanity.

Make thy recreation servant to thy business, lest thou become a slave to thy recreation. When thou goest up into the mountain, leave this servant in the valley; when thou goest to the city, leave him in the suburbs, and remember the servant must not be greater than the master.

It is not necessary or right that all men should enjoy art, nature or music to make them useful or honorable. When we go a pleasuring at least let us be honest, and not pretend to a liking for white bait, when we hunger for a good meal of wholesome coarse bread and salt herring.

### Four Rich New Yorkers.

In a cheap restaurant on Park row four shabbily dressed men seated themselves at different tables and called for "coffee and cakes"—price ten cents. The poorest looking of the four is the President of a pie-baking company and owns stocks and real estate representing \$5,000,000. The second of the quartet is a builder worth at least \$2,000,000. He sat next to a peddler of collar buttons, who looked as though a bath would be beneficial. The builder started life as a brick layer. He grumbled at the diminutive proportion of the cakes. The third individual of note is the proprietor of a large co-operative and has all he can do to spend a fraction of his income. His estate is valued at a million. At one time he drove a truck. The fourth man in his day owned two gambling houses on Ann street. He is engaged at present in missionary work for a confidence establishment on Broadway near Eighth street. His victims are numerous and his commissions large. His clothes are rusty, but his pockets are always well filled. As he went out he chatted with the proprietor and appropriated a cigar without paying for it. It costs the pie man less than \$10 a week to live; the builder something like twice that sum; the co-operative man not more than \$12; and the ex-gambler nothing at all if he can help it.—Mail and Express.

### An Astonished Governor.

Governor Gray was one of the most astonished persons ever seen for a few moments the other afternoon, says the Indianapolis Journal of recent date. Among the sightseers at the new State capitol building were two nicely dressed ladies, who, after meeting the Governor and being shown through with a great deal of courtesy, stopped before one of the beautiful lambrequins, which cost something over \$300, and both modestly requested that they be permitted to cut "just a small little piece," as they were making "such lovely crazy quilts," and they wanted so much to have some of that lovely material in them. If women could vote the Governor would surely lose those two when the occasion presented itself. After the ladies had somewhat hastily departed he said in conversation that it was remarkable what some people would ask for. Only recently he was asked to mail some of the ground of the State House yard to a man in Illinois, who stated in his letter that he had a little dirt from the grounds of every State House in the Union except Indiana. He got the dirt.

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