

THE PINE KNOT.

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

VOL. I.

SOUTHERN PINES, N. C., SATURDAY, AUG. 20, 1887.

NO. 47.

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A few more railroad horrors like that at Chatsworth, supposing the belief as to its cause to be correct, and it would be justifiable to shoot tramps, at sight, like dangerous wild beasts.

Editor Kingsbury of the *Wilmington Star* is often urged to write a history of North Carolina. It is a pity that the pressure of ill health and business will not allow him to undertake this work, for which he is so admirably fitted. We should expect great things in that history, because the *Star* gives daily evidence of what its editor can do in the way of clean-cut and vigorous English.

We have received a copy of the *American Federalist*, published at Westerly, R. I. If we mistake not, brother Murchison is the North Carolina editor who exchanged papers with the editor of the *Westerly News and Telephone*. The *Federalist* is a lively sheet and claims to advocate more reforms than any paper in the United States. Go slow, friend Murchison! One reform in a life-time is enough for any man or any newspaper.

GRAPES FOR NORTHERN MARKETS.

The scientists have compared North Carolina with nearly every good place on the face of the earth; they have said much of its climate, its soil, and its adaptability in many ways as a grape growing state, but it is at last admitted that it is unlike any other grape growing country. We must study the peculiar laws which govern its culture here by the experience of our farmers, and not from foreign teachers.

North Carolina was declared unfit for grape culture after many experiments with foreign grapes (*Vitis Vinifera*). A hundred and twenty varieties, carefully selected, were planted by one farmer, in the hope of finding one suitable for his place. Most of them were the identical varieties that produced the famous Tokays, Joham, Clarets, Sherries and Madeiras, and were brought from the renowned Luxembourg gardens, together with the *Lachryma Christi*, the wine grape of Vesuvius. They would not grow here and the bright hopes of quaffing these choice wines were dissipated. Others planted the native vines and gave them plenty of room; they grew with a profusion of vine over trees and trellises, yielding an abundance of poor fruit that would not ripen. Hence the verdict that North Carolina was not the land for grapes.

About this time Mr. Longworth and others were raising grapes to perfection in the damp and murky valley of the Ohio. But where did they get the vines? From the banks of the Ca-

tawba and Cape Fear rivers of North Carolina.

Nearly all of the table grapes that have any excellence at all, and the grapes now used and most popular throughout our country are seedlings of the Catawba and Laspeyre (*Vitis Labrusca*), natives of our State, and improved here and transported to different parts of the country by their admirers. Now you see that North Carolina has proved to be the Eschol of America.

The celebrated Scuppernong (*Vitis Vulpina*) and family are decided by those who know them to be the best for table or wine of any grape in the known world. Some may differ with us, but what you wish to know is what is the best grape for the Northern market, and how to cultivate it. The object sought is to realize the best profits with the least outlay of capital and labor and in the shortest time.

First, select your soil. It is the general opinion that you must have good clay subsoil, but not necessarily so; grapes rot most on such soil, on account of its retentiveness of excessive moisture. Rich sandy lands produce the sweetest and largest grapes. You find, for instance, the Scuppernong revelling in the sandy soil of our coast. I would prefer what is called worn out land, that has been planted from time to time in corn, cotton, tobacco or other crops, provided it is well drained. Old washed, red sandy hills make fine grapes. * * * * *

In order to facilitate the gathering of grapes, keep the vines well tied up. We should attempt to cultivate the taste of our customers and teach them to like our grapes. No one accustomed to eating the Scuppernong grape will deny its value either for table or wine. The Hopkins (*Vitis Vulpina*) is the largest and showiest grape known anywhere in the world; of a beautiful purple color and with delicious flavor and lacking that peculiarity which epicures call foxy, thought to belong to all the grapes of that family.

To get the best price for your grapes they must be attractive. To secure this you must keep the canes young, healthy and vigorous. * * * * *

Grape culture in North Carolina is a settled question and no longer an experiment. Our people have been waiting for others to teach them, and assumed that we could not raise grapes, while the Northern states have taken our vines and made a success of them.—*Extracts from Capt. S. W. Nobles' Address at Mt. Holly.*

A syndicate of Buffalo capitalists has purchased a tract of timber land of about 400 square miles, comprising the greater part of Dare county and a portion of Tyrrell county. The price paid was over \$750,000.

An English colony of seven or eight families has settled in Henderson county, along Willow Creek. They have purchased several thousand acres of land.