

# THE PINE KNOT.

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VOL. I.

SOUTHERN PINES, N. C., SATURDAY, SEPT. 10, 1887.

NO. 50.

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Wilmington has a building association. At a recent meeting two hundred and ninety-six shares were taken and much enthusiasm prevailed.

We think Capt. James Barron Hope, of the Norfolk *Landmark*, would hardly recognize himself in the disguise of Capt. James Bannon, as one of our exchanges prints it.

The North Carolina *Teacher*, for September, comes to hand, as neat, bright and snappy a five-year-old as one often sees. It is doing first-class work for education in North Carolina, and every teacher ought to take it.

The contents are: Rev. W. S. Long—portrait and sketch; How Shall we Teach? My Lost Hour; Historic Analogies; What is an Adjective? Bill Nye on Education; School Government; Girls, Have a Purpose; Big Words; About our Schools; and the usual departments. Edited by Eugene G. Harrell and published by A. Williams & Co., Raleigh, N. C.

In the South fifty-four million bushels of corn more this year than last, on a low estimate, says the *Baltimore Manufacturers' Record*. The cotton is good, but not phenomenal, as it would have been but for the last rains.

New industries are springing up all about; capital is being shaken out of old stockings and cracked teapots, beside the millions that are pouring in from outside sources. Surely the South has reason to rejoice and be grateful as the harvest time draws on. But let her not sit down to her rejoicing; but with loins girded to toil on, with brain and hand strongly seconding the work which God hath wrought in her behalf.

The Star of Bethlehem, so much talked of and even reported to be again visible, has but little to show that it is the star that hung over the birthplace of Christ. The basis of the belief is only this: In 1572 Tycho Brahe, the Danish astronomer, discovered an apparently new star, which rapidly increased in brightness and then faded away, and is now only visible by the telescope. Astronomical records show that bright stars appeared near the same quarter of the heavens in 1263 and 956. If this star, then, is the same one it is a variable, with a period of about 309 years, and counting back by such periods would bring one of its appearances not far from the beginning of the Christian era. Counting forward, it should be blazing forth at about this time, but it is certain that no such phenomenon has yet appeared.

THE CROPS IN NORTH CAROLINA.

Raleigh, N. C., Aug. 29, 1887.—The wheat crop of North Carolina has been a very fair one in yield, the quality unusually good. Oat crop very fine, especially spring sown. The corn crop will be the largest grown for twenty years. The cotton crop, if the weather is favorable from this on, that is, if we have very little rain, will be a very full one. The light sandy lands of the State have been injured by excessive rains, but still there are localities where the crops have been improved by the continued rains and, upon the whole, the cotton crop at this time is unusually good.

Manufactories of all kinds are on the increase. The agriculturists of the State are looking more to the advancement of their calling than ever before. Farmers' Institutes are being held generally throughout the State, and are largely attended and participated in by the farmers and public generally, which, I take it, indicates a good time coming for the intelligent tiller of the soil. There is a strong growing disposition among the farmers to produce all they consume, and when they do that they are nearing the road to success. The outlook for business during the coming fall is very encouraging. JNO. ROBINSON, Commissioner of Agriculture. —*Manufacturers' Record*.

THE NORMAL COLLEGE.

The teachers, in their recent Assembly at Morehead City, were very emphatic in their desire for a "North Carolina Normal College," such as they are asking the State to establish for them. This expression of opinion is now getting so strong that the Legislature cannot afford to delay longer in the matter of establishing the Normal College. When a great and strong organization, representing three thousand leading North Carolina teachers demands a reasonable thing so positively "they mean business," and it is well for the authorities to heed so urgent and so commendable a request. The days of the rickety log-cabin school house and the incompetent teacher are passing away. North Carolina demands and deserves something better, the State is able to provide something better, and the first great step toward progress and independence will be the Normal College. North Carolina teachers are to-day doing more to improve, develop and benefit the State than any other class of people within our borders; they are leading our children steadily and surely from the gloom of ignorance into the bright light of intelligence; and if their entire work should absolutely cease for ten years we doubt that there would be left in the State a hundred leading families, if they could possibly get away. We are proud of our teachers and of their faithful work, and while we all enjoy and share the blessings of their labors it is our duty to provide every means which they desire for their improvement, so far as our ability will admit.—*North Carolina Teacher*.