

THE PINE KNOT.

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

VOL. 2.

SOUTHERN PINES, N. C., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1888.

NO. 20.

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We had the pleasure of coming down from Raleigh Wednesday evening with genial Capt. Dallas T. Ward, —his first trip on this road since November 4th. It is needless to say that we were glad to see him back and to grasp his hand. We think Capt. Ward must have felt that it was almost worth while to be sick, in order to find out how much he was beloved and appreciated by all his acquaintances and friends.

Those who have to burn off land anywhere in the vicinity of our village should attend to it at once. To be sure the burning of the last two years has made us comparatively safe on three sides, but it will be well to use great caution even now. Fire is a desperate fiend in these pine woods, and it is not best to give him any chance. The editor of this paper doesn't want to repeat his last year's experience of moving, getting off his biggest edition of the PINE KNOT and fighting fire all in the same day.

A WORD WITH CRITICS.

We get out of patience with people who come here and descant over the ugliness of the natural surroundings of Southern Pines. As a rule those critics have seen our village only in winter, when the oak leaves and grasses are brown and dry, and when, if ever, one may expect gray skies and rain clouds. To be sure the green of our great pines is a somber one, and their gnarled and twisted form is repulsive to some people. For our part we find the deep richness of color more to our taste, more appropriate to the rugged strength of the trees than a gayer hue would be. But, of course, too much of sombre color is depressing, and for relief what can be better than the vivid green of the holly, set off with berries of brightest red? Along the streams, even in winter, there are many evergreens, and at short intervals one may see great bunches of glossy mistletoe caught in the delicate web-like tracery of bare oak limbs and twigs. Soon shall we gaze once more on that flowery procession which begins in February, with the tender hopeful pink-and-white of the trailing arbutus and ends in November with the gentian's dauntless blue. In March the oaks will put on the bravery of new attire—garments of woven light, pale yellow, slowly deepening into vivid green; and on the slenderest, topmost spire of one of these domed houses of air will swing and sing our mocking bird, mad with merriment and

full of "quips and quirks and wanton wiles.

To those who do not care for nature unadorned, but "babble o'green fields," we would say that we have never seen a place where the natural advantages were better, or could be more easily utilized for attractive landscape gardening. Go in whatever direction you may from Southern Pines you will find the land diversified with hill and valley, sunny slopes and winding streams. We are familiar with the city of Newton, lying just outside of Boston, and have long thought that, given the same amount of expenditure, equal taste and half the time, Southern Pines could be made equally attractive. Now this is a great deal to say, for we believe Newton (or the Newtons, for its parts are legion) to be one of the loveliest cultivated spots anywhere, but we are the more ready to say it because we have had recent confirmation of our opinion by those better qualified to judge than we are.

A NEW ENTERPRISE.

Mr. George W. Baker, formerly of Tilton, N. H. and B. A. Goodridge, editor and proprietor of the PINE KNOT, have established a newspaper and job office at Jonesboro, in this county, and will begin to publish the JONESBORO LEADER in about ten days. Mr. Baker is a master of the "art preservative" in all its branches, and the new firm are willing to guarantee to their patrons the best of work at the lowest price at which good work can be afforded. The LEADER will be a five column, eight page paper, the largest in Moore county, we would like to say the best, but know that "the proof of the pudding is in the eating," and so we will content ourselves with saying that the editor does not propose to lose through it any of the reputation he may have gained by means of the PINE KNOT. Other things we will wait for our readers to say. In order to avoid the chance of misunderstanding we say again, that the PINE KNOT will go on without change (except for the better), and will continue to shed light where light is needed, just as it has been doing for nearly a year and a half.

RICH ORE IN MOORE COUNTY.

We have seen some very rich gold ore from the property of Mr. W. B. Walker, in Moore county. The mine is one of great promise and Mr. Walker proposes to develop it fully. He is a mining expert of considerable practical experience in California, Arizona and elsewhere, and is a native of Staunton, Va. He doubtless has, as he feels sure he has, a bonanza in his Moore county property. Our people do not fully realize their wealth of mineral resource. We believe this wealth has scarcely been touched. If we gave more attention to developing it we would probably be richer among the peoples of the earth.—News and Observer.