

THE PINE KNOT.

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

VOL. 2.

SOUTHERN PINES, N. C., SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 1888.

NO. 27

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TOBACCO WORSHIP.

For the popularity of the tobacco habit women are considerably to blame. They tacitly consent, and in many cases openly encourage its use. Books by women novelists often throw such a halo around the fragrant cigar that young men are inclined to think themselves heroes of romance if only they can "blow a cloud" bravely. But there is nothing romantic or heroic about stale tobacco smoke or the chewed end of a cigar—or spittoons. These latter just as surely attend the tobacco habit in any of its forms, as death follows disease. There are women who have become so accustomed to the smoker's breath, to the sickening odor of his clothing that they don't mind it, or say they don't, but it is simply because their sense of smell is blunted in that particular direction. To contend that the smell of cold tobacco smoke is agreeable or even inoffensive would be about like trying to promote the pole cat to a place on the hearth rug. We've said nothing about the habit of chewing, because there is no glimmer of romance about that. It is so hopelessly dirty a practice that we think it will never secure a defender among women. Neither have we said anything about the cigarette. The smoking of cigarettes is a dude disease and we would not cry out against any instrumentality that is making the number of these tailor-made things less, but it is against the insidious cigar that we would enter a protest. It parades as a thing of grace, beauty and delight, but in the end it comes to nothing but dirt, disgust and disease. If a man is to become more attractive by possessing a foul breath and an unsteady hand, why your blear-eyed, shaking, reeking whiskey guzzler should be a very king. Bah! If men will use tobacco, let us call it a bad habit and have done with it; not pretend that there is anything lovely about it.

It is hard to tell what will be the result of the settlement of affairs at the State National Bank. There are many rumors afloat, but nothing definite can be told for several days to come. Meanwhile it is best for depositors and others who have claims against the bank to be as cheerful as if they were sure of 100 cents on the dollar, and as resigned as if they were sure not to get anything. The latest reports go to show that forgery is to be added to the list of crimes that the defaulters have committed. If this is so, they can be brought back from Canada and made to suffer the penalty of their misdeeds.

CHEAP RATES FOR PROSPECTORS.

The liberal and progressive Seaboard Air Line falls into line with an offer of reduced rates, and proposes to sell round trip tickets to points along its line at greatly reduced figures. Round trip tickets to all points on the Raleigh & Gaston Railroad, the Raleigh & Augusta Air Line Railroad and the Carolina Central Railroad will be sold on March 13 and 27, April 10th and 24th, with privilege to stop off ten days when south-bound, and good to return for thirty days. Round trip tickets from Norfolk to Raleigh will be sold on the above dates at \$5.30, and to other points at correspondingly low rates.

EASTER SERVICES AT SALEM.

According to the custom of the Moravians, Easter will be observed in Salem this year as usual. The graves of the dead in the lovely old graveyard will be decorated with flowers, and the Salem band will play grand old German Easter hymns, and the service on Easter morning just as the sun begins to rise, will be, as it always is, interesting and impressive. There are always many visitors from all parts of the country to witness these services, which are of a sort not to be seen anywhere else in the South.

—News-Observer.

THE V. I. SOCIETY.

The Improvement Society met at A. M. Clarke's Tuesday evening March 27th, and on account of the rain only a few members were present. The sociable next Tuesday evening will be at the same place, and it is hoped there will be a large attendance. In accordance with a vote, previously taken, next Thursday is to be observed as a day of general labor on the high-ways. Everybody, whether a member of the Society or not, is requested to lay aside his usual occupation and cooperate in this enterprise. It is a matter in which all are equally interested and every prejudice should be laid aside to advance as far and as fast as possible this good work of home-making. Enough has already been accomplished by the Society to prove that they are in earnest and mean business. It is no temporary alliance, but a permanent organization that has been formed, and every one who has the good of the place at heart should be represented next Thursday.

Come early and bring tools, axes, spades and grubbing hoes. If we can not make "the wilderness to bloom and blossom as the rose" all at once we will at least "cast up the high-ways and gather out the stones" in anticipation of the time when the "waste places" shall be comforted, as was Zion of old.

A body of very rich gold ore was struck a day or two ago in the 850 foot shaft at the Rudisill mine, located in the western suburbs of the city. The ore will assay \$180 per ton. The vein is broad.—Charlotte Chronicle.