

SUNSHINE COLUMN

NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF INTERNATIONAL SUNSHINE SOCIETY.

Mrs. J. M. Ransier, State President, Hendersonville, N. C.
The constitution, by-laws and names of officers of the society will be furnished on application. Each correspondent should enclose stamp for reply.
International Colors—Yellow and White.
State Colors—Turquoise, Blue.
International Flower—Coreopsis.
State Flower—Marguerite.
Motto—Good Cheer.
Society Song—Scatter Sunshine.

MRS. RANSIER'S LETTER.

The Croaker.

Once, by the edge of a pleasant pool,
Under the bank, where 'twas dark and cool

Where bushes over the water hung,
And grasses nodded and rushes swung—

Just where the brook flowed out of the bog—

There lived a gouty and mean old Frog,

Who'd sit all day in the mud, and soak,

And do just nothing but croak and croak.

Till a Blackbird whistled: "I say, you know,

What is the trouble down there below?

Are you in sorrow, or pain, or what?"

The Frog said: "Mine is a gruesome lot!

Nothing but mud, and dirt, and slime,
For me to look at the livelong time.

'Tis a dismal world!" so he sadly spoke,

And voiced his woes in a dismal croak.

"But you're looking down!" the Blackbird said.

"Look at the blossoms overhead;
Look at the lively summer skies;

Look at the bees and the butterflies—
Look up, old fellow! Why, bless your soul,

You're looking down in a muskrat's hole!"

But still, with his gurgling sob and choke,

The Frog continued to croak and croak.

And a wise old Turtle who boarded near,

Said to the Blackbird: "Friend, see here,

Don't shed your tears over him, for he

Is wretched just 'cause he likes to be!
He's one of the kind who won't be glad;

It makes him happy to think he's sad.
I'll tell you something—and it's no joke—

Don't waste your pity on those who croak!"

—Joe Lincoln.

* * *

See what one of our "sunniest" has to say this week, in a letter to me:

"I enjoy your letters so much in The Progressive Farmer. I always look at the Sunshine Column first. The poem 'Inasmuch,' is so pretty and teaches such a good lesson. I don't remember ever seeing it before. Won't you please publish the words of the song 'Scatter Sunshine,' or tell me in what song book I will find it? I am interested in the new Rest Home, and hope that all the plans can be carried out. If you will send me the address of the lady who offered to make quilts, I will send her some pieces. I haven't the time to make them."

* * *

The Liberty Normal College—Sunshiners, of course,—send out from

their reading rooms, all papers, magazines, etc., as soon as they are read, to neighbors, friends, and others who are in need of them. I will see that another copy of The Progressive Farmer joins the assortment.

* * *

Mrs. Irene Marsh, of Marshville, is the President of the oldest circle in North Carolina, and sends in a very long and interesting account of the work that they have done, and we regret that we have not the space to tell you of it. The young people have just formed a Junior Circle, and will give much valuable assistance. Mrs. Marsh sends in a nice lot of Uncle Sam's red stamps for the stamp fund.

* * *

The St. Paul Globe gives the North Carolina Rest Home generous space in the late issue—and there seems to be a widespread interest in the work—many letters coming to us from several States.

* * *

The correspondence circles promise to be very popular, and the newest calls for new circles are 29 and 40—already a few members in those. If you do not understand all about the circles write to headquarters for full information.

* * *

The new North Carolina Badges are ready, and if you have none, send to headquarters and see what a beauty it is. Two styles—one at 5 cents and one at 10 cents.

Something like twenty-five letters in regard to the new Rest Home within the past week from Progressive Farmer readers. Work is being done on some of the cottages and we will begin on the dining hall next week. Everything will be in good shape by June 1st. Any one wishing to furnish a cot in the free Bungalow can do so at any time.

* * *

I. D. Marshall, vice-president of the McClure Newspaper Syndicate, New York City, in a letter of March 4, to the president of the Nye Memorial Circle, says: "I valued the friendship of Mr. Nye very highly during life. I shall take pleasure in sending a personal contribution to the fund. I wish you the very best success in your worthy enterprise, for it is a worthy enterprise to build a monument to one who gave pleasure to millions of readers."

The Nye Memorial Fund is growing a little almost every day.

* * *

The president wishes to thank all those who so kindly remembered her with birthday letters, but it will be impossible to answer all of them by mail at once, as the work is very heavy at headquarters all the time.

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