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Some Account of Valuable Precious Stones Brought to Light, and Some Notes on Mineral Localities in North Carolina by Prof. Wm. Earl Hid-

den.

The somewhat recent discovery of Hiddenite in Alexander county, has given an impetus to searching for prefous stones, and among the most ardent and zealous in the work is Prof. Wm. E. Hidden, for whom the stone has been named, and J. A. D. Stephenson, Esq., of Statesville. Anything on the subject of the mines and minerals of the State is interesting to THE OB-SERVER and most of its readers, and we take pleasure in reproducing the following "notes" on the precious minerals of the State by Prof. Hidden, and first published in the American Journal of Science:

MONAZITE from Milholland's Mill, Alexander county.-In August last 1880) I obtained at this locality some very beautiful crystals of geniculated rutile, which had been found there oose in the soil. Permission having been obtained to work the property I succeeded on the first day's working in finding these rutiles in situ. In connection with the work I "panned down" some of the loose vein material, and in this manner the monazite crystals were first discovered. There is every probability that if the work at the locality is continued the monazite will be found in place in the vein. The rock is a garnetiferous mica schist. The vein (or pocket as it may yet prove to be) is about a foot wide at its widest and thus far has been uncovered only about eight feet. My operations were necessarily limited, and the locality merits further examination. The associated minerals are muscovite (?), emerald green through the prism, very abundant and making up 95 per cent of the vein, crystals thin hexagonal tables and unusually perfect; quartz crystals, elongated prisms commonly doubly terminated and in parallel groupings, often cavernous; rutile, finely genicu-

ated and splendent; some decomposed. pyrites with cavities containing native sulphur; a few pseudomorphs of limonite after siderite, in rhombohedrons having the basal and scalenohedral planes.

In concentrating by "panning," say 15 lbs. of the loose vein material, many Vaporous poison, spreading disease and death in many localities, for which quinine is no genuine the microscope, the majority of the minute monazite crystals are seen to modified terminations, the prism havng the shape of an acute rhomboid, thus differing from those previously figured. One of the monazites partly enclosed a crystal of mica, which fact would point conclusively to its forma-tion in the vein and also to its later formation. The monazite of this local-ity, as regards occurrence and form, is essentially the turnerite of Levy, which has been shown to be identical with monazite, as was long ago suggested by Prof. J. D. Dana. The mode of occurrence and the associated minerals are nearly identical with the Tavetsch, Switzerland, locality; the titanic acid here taking the form of rutile instead of octahedrite. An analysis by Dr. J. Lawrence Smith is now under way. and the crystallography and general physical characters of the mineral will be described by Dr. E. S. Dana. Other localities for monazite.-In Burke county, monazite is very abundant, particularly at J. C. Mill's gold mine in the Brindletown district. I obtained over fifty pounds of gravel washings from this mine that afforded sixty per cent of monazite Fourteen ounces of chemically pure monazite were obtained here by sifting old "tailings" and picking out the largest crys-tals; these were sent to Mr. T. A. Edison, who desired the mineral for the thorina which it was supposed to contain. The crystals are usually well formed and vary considerably in habit. They are usually very small, though some were found of 14th inch in diameter. The color is light brown. The common occurrence of this mineral in the gold gravels of North Carolina is worthy of note. I believe that pannings from any of the streams where the local rocks are mica schists would bring it Polk counties, N. C., it was noticed in every "panning." In Mitchell county, at the Deake mica mine, I found well formed crystals of monazite in situ in mica schist. They were of uncommon size. One measured 1½ inches long by ¾ inch in width, and was one of a group. Half a pound of crystals were obtained in. all. They were partly coated with autunite, and were intimately associated with uraninite, gummite, garnet, etc. The characteristic perfect basal cleavage was commonly observed at this locality. In Yancey county, at the Ray mica mine on Hurricane Moun-tain, I found monazite in white orthoclase. The crystals were very fine, and complex in form; specific gravity 5.243. Dr. F. A. Genth has been at work for some years on the monazite of North Carolina and has separated over a Ing, picking, spinning and weaving, the value of ninety per cent. of the crop would be increased one per cent. per pound, by way of saving one-half the labor and one-half the power now used in its outfit, and I may say barbarous method of preparation. Your market has been, so nearly overstocked this

nassive hatchettolite, or a new species QUARTZ CRYSTALS, from Alexander county.—Some interesting quartz crystals are found in Alexander county. Only in the counties of Iredell, Catawba, Alexander and Burke in North Carolina, and at Cumberland, R. I., have I found crystals having this interesting form. Right and left-handed crystals are found.

BERYLS, from Alexander county.-This crystal was at first mistaken for This crystal was at first mistaken for quartz. It was quite small, clear, had both ends terminated and with only a slight tint of green apparent. A crys-tal of this type but of more interest was collected by Mr. Stephenson from this same locality. They have been found loose in the soil, of a light chrome green color, having prisms of six and twelve sides and with polished termi-

twelvesides, and with polished terminations; the prismatic faces have a characteristic feature of being striated horizontally as if hay-ing been scratched with a very coarse file. As yet they have not been found of sufficient depth of color and transparency for use as gems, but are quite unsurpassed by any beryls heretofore found in the United States. Those occurring in the soil have weathered out of cavities in the rock where they were formed. They were never imbedded, as some late work at the locality has well proven. Heretofore the only dependence for them has been the

soil; now a narrow vein bearing them has been found by the writer and a shaft twenty-four feet deep has been sunk on it. It was the beautiful color of these beryls that prompted the work that so unexpectedly yielded the new variety of spodumene. There are good indications of yet here the true beryl emerald, and it is with this end in view coupled with the mining of the new spodumene emerald, that the writer is now at work in this State.

PLATINUM.-A diligent search for traces of this metal for five months in the auriferous regions of the Southern States in the interest of Mr. T. A. Edison resulted in finding no traces of itsexistence. The five reported localities in this State (N. C.) were carefully examined without success.

To the generous publicity that the late Professor Humphreys and Mr. J. Adlai D. Stephenson have given to their mineral researches in North Carolina, and to the sight of some of the many beautiful specimens they have sent North, the writer owes the impelling motive of his going to that State and the knowledge which has enabled him to succeed in his explorations. Octahedrite from Burke County

North Carolina .- This rare mineral was found by the writer in the auriferous gravels of Brindletown in the summer of 1879. Subsequent search has

proved its distribution through all the gold placers of the surrounding counhundred minute crystrals of monazite try. Its best locality is on the northwould be found, perhaps only a half a ern slope of the Pilot Mountain, esdozen of which would exceed 1-20th pecially at the mine of Capt. J. C. Mills. inch in diameter; rarely, crystals were found of 1/4th inch in length. Under in form, consisting of the planes, though crystals have been observed of the common octahedral habit. Some be perfectly transparent and of a topaz few were highly modified. The planes color. The planes are very highly are as a rule splendent excepting the basal plane which is dull and striated are uniformly long, prismatic with cleavage can often be seen. The crystals are well preserved and nnusually large, some measuring one-third of an inch across; they average a line in thickness. Color from greenish-yellow to black. Some few are quite colorless and transparent and would admit of polariscopic examination. In only one case were they found implanted and that on quartz. They occur loose in the gravel, having been derived from the disintegration of the local schists. The accompanying minerals are monazite, xenotime, fergusonite, samarskite, zircon, brookite and thirty-five other

Brooklyn Eagle. It is only thirty-four years ago that the first postage stamp was used in this country. Prior to 1847 postage was charged by the mile, and the postman received the price of the letter on deivering it to the person to whom it was addressed. For instance, in 1790 a letter was carried from Savannah to New York for thirty-six and three-quarter cents, and from Boston to New York for seventeen cents. Between the two points last mentioned the mails were carried on horseback, and the time occupied in going from one point to the other was three days in winter and two in summer. In King James' time the rates of postage in Great Britain were 2d for a letter of a distance less than eighty miles, 4d up to 140 miles, and 6d for any longer distance in England, and 8d for. any place in Scotland. Our stamps were issued on the first of July, 1847, in denominations of five and ten cents only. In July, 1851, a new series was adopted, consisting of one, three, ive, ten, twelve, twenty-four, thirty and ninety cents. These continued in use till 1861, when another series of the same denomination as the foregoing, but of lifferent designs and colors, was adopted. The two cent stamp was first used on the first of July, 1863, to accommolate the local rate of postage. In the month of March, 1869, the six cent stamp was substituted for the five cent one but the change was not considered a wise one. In May, 1870, the following series was adopted : One cent-Franklin; profile bust, af-

Postage Stamps.

ter Rubricht; color, imperial ultramarine blue.

Two cent-Jackson ; profile bust, af ter Powers; color, velvet brown. Three cent-Washington ; profile bust

after Houdon; color, milori green. Five cent-Profile bust of Jackson; color, dark blue.

Six cent-Lincoln; profile bust, after Volk; color, cochineal red. Ten cent-Jefferson; profile bust, af

ter Powers; color, chocolate. Fifteen cent-Webster; profile bust

after Clevenger; color, orange. Thirty cent-Hamilton; profile bust,

after Cerrachi; color, black. Ninety cent-Com. O. H. Perry; pro-

twelve cent stamp, which had Henry Clay's portrait, and the twenty-four cent stamp, with the bust of Gen. Winfield Scott, have been discontinued.

The postage-due stamp is a recent invention. It came into use on the 9th day of May, 1879. It is used for collecting short-paid postage. These stamps are of the following denominations: One, two, three, five ten, thirty, and fifty cents. The color is a reddish brown, and the figure representing the denomination is placed in the centre of the stamp, surrounded by an eval of delicate lattice-work. On the upper border

of this oval are the words, "Postage LOUISIANA





distinct mineral species. FERGUSONITE.-(A tantalo-cylumbate of yttria and allied earths.)

This very rare mineral I found to exist quite abundantly in the placers of county. The occurring form is a very acute octahedron, with the basal and hemihedral planes somewhat developed. Color brown-black. Crystals mostly small and covered with a gray crust, and faces hardly smooth. Thin splinters reddish-brown. Fracture bril-liant conchoidal. This is the only American locality where this mineral can be readily obtained. It has been found at Rockport, Mass., very sparingly in granite. Dr. Smith reports over 40 per cent of yttria and allied earths. Supposed to be identical with the Rutherfordite of Shepard found many years ago in the vicinity of Brindletown.

Xenotime, from Burke County, N.C. -Symmetrically compounded crystals of xenotime and zircon, much like those first noticed by E. Zschau, have been lately discovered by the writer in the auriferous gravels of Brindletown, Burke county, N. C. The form is some-what different from those of Zschau, from Hitteroe, Norway; but the occurto light. In the auriferous gravels of ring planes are the same. The Burke McDowell, Rutherford, Burke and county crystals are compound of a lightcounty crystals are compound of a light-brown zircon, with a yellowish-gray xenotime. The crystals are sometimes

1/4 inch in diameter, though rarely; they are oftener 1-10 an inch through. About one in fifty of the xenotimes from this locality are thus compounded.

Handling Cotton.

The following extract is from a paper read before the annual meeting of the Mississippi Valley Cotton Planters' As-sociation, Memphis, May 25, 1881, by Edward Atkinson, Esq., of Boston: Nine-tenths of each crop of cotion is depreciated by the bad methods of gin-ning, pressing and baling, and by being exposed to dust, rain and mud-ten per cent. between the time it is picked and the time it is delivered at the door of the factory. That is to say, if cotton were treated with a reasonable degree pound of the oxalates of the rare earths of attention and care, and if as much of the cerium group from it. We shall skill were applied to ginning, pressing and baling as is now applied to opening, picking, spinning and weaving, the

ue," in white letters, and on the lower border is the denominational letter in the same color. On each side of the oval are the letters U.S., in small white fund of over \$420,000 has since been added. shields.

The highest price paid for a stamp is twenty-four dollars. These stamps are only used on newspaper bundles, and they are not often called for, nor is there much demand for ninety cent letter stamps, only one having been sold at the Brooklyn office during 1880.

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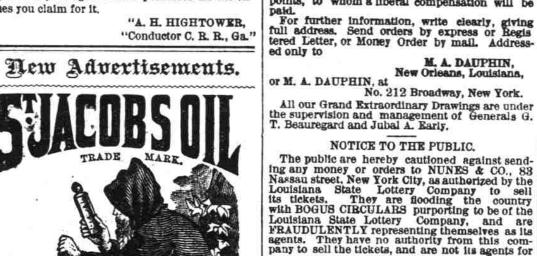
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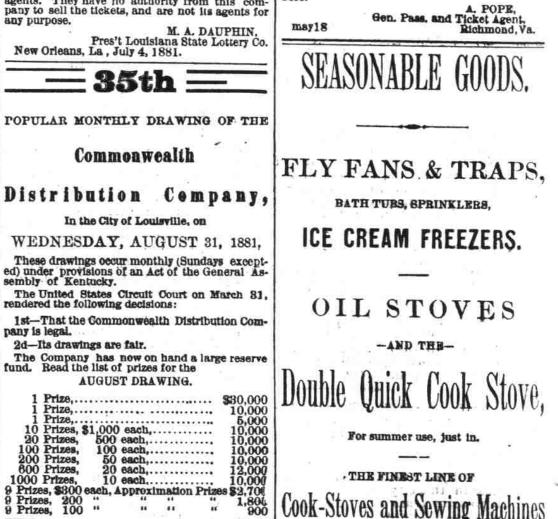
ĥ	Incorporated in 1868 for 25 years by the Legis-		Daily.	Daily.	Daily
8	lature for Educational and Charitable purposes- with a capital of \$1,000.000-to which a reserve	Ly. Richmond "Burkeville		12.00 M 2.48 PM	
Ð	fund of over \$420,000 has since been added.	Arr. N. Danville	7.00 AM	6.05 PM	
	By an overwhelming popular vote its franchise	Lv. " "	1 7.25 AM		
8	was made a part of the present State Constitution	Danville Arr. Greensboro	7.27 AM		
A	adopted December 2d. A. D. 1879.	Ly. "	0.20 AM	8.17 PM 8.37 PM	*******
ř	Its GRAND SINGLE NUMBER Drawings will take place monthly.	" Salisbury		10.33 PM	
ŝ		Arr. A L. Junction	12.45 PM	12.15 AM	
t	It never scales or postpones. Look at the follow- ing distribution:	" Charlotte	1.00 PM	12.20 AM	Conception (Conception)
-		Lv. Richmond		*********	
n	CAPITAL PRIZE, \$30,000.	" Jetersville " Drak's Br'ch		• • • • • • • • • • •	
).	100,000 Tickets at Two Dollars each. Half-Tick-	" Barksdale		••••	
1	ets, One Dollar,	" Danville		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	7.20 Ph
Г	LIST OF PRIZES :	" Benaia			
	1 Capital Prize\$30,000	" Greensboro			9.27 PM
1	1 Capital Prize	" Salisbury	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		11.05 PM
•	1 Capital Prize	Arr. A-L. Junction			
	2 Prizes of \$2,500	Arr. Charlotte	•••••		10.00
	5 Prizes of 1.000 5.000	Arr. Cuarlowe			12.30 AM
	20 Prizes 01 500	SALEM BRANCH.			
	100 Prizes of 100 10,000 200 Prizes of 50 10,000	NO. 10	Dette		
	500 Prizes of 20 10.000		Daily, exce		
D	1,000 Prizes of 10 10,000	Leave Greensboro.			9.40 PM
•	Sol 142	Arrive Salem			
7	APPROXIMATION PRIZES. NO. 47-Daily, except Sunday.				
1	9 Approximation Prizes of \$300 \$2,700 9 Approximation Prizes of 200 1,800	Leave Salem			
-	9 Approximation Prizes of 100 900	Arrives Greensboro.			9.00 AM
1		NO. 42-1	Daily, exce	pt Sunday.	
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