

MINERS' & FARMERS' JOURNAL.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY, BY NOBLE & HOLMES, CHARLOTTE, MECKLENBURG COUNTY, NORTH-CAROLINA.

I WILL TEACH YOU TO PIERCE THE BOWELS OF THE EARTH AND BRING OUT FROM THE CAVERNS OF THE MOUNTAINS, METALS WHICH WILL GIVE STRENGTH TO OUR HANDS AND SUBJECT ALL NATURE TO OUR USE AND PLEASURE.—DR. JOHNSON.

VOL. I.

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 1831.

NO. 29.

TERMS.

THE MINERS' AND FARMERS' JOURNAL.
Is printed and published every Thursday morning, at Two Dollars and Fifty Cents per annum, if paid in advance; Three Dollars a year, if not paid until after the expiration of six months. ADVERTISEMENTS will be inserted at Fifty cents per square (not exceeding 20 lines), for the first insertion, and 25 cents for each succeeding week—or \$1 for three weeks, for one square.—A liberal discount will be made to those who advertise by the year. On all advertisements communicated for publication, the number of insertions must be noted on the margin of the manuscript, or they will be continued until forbid, and charged accordingly.

All communications to the Editors must come in sealed envelopes, or they may not be attended to.

MINING.

THE MEXICANS IN 1830. AN EXTRACT.

Mexican mines are indeed much fallen off, and no longer the same source of wealth as formerly, although three great impediments were removed at the revolution: 1.—The duty on silver and gold was reduced to 3 per cent. it was 10 per cent. before. 2.—Quicksilver for amalgamation has been made duty free. 3.—Several local mints have been established; formerly all the bullion was to be coined in Mexico alone. Besides foreign capital and machinery were introduced, but could not compensate for the Spanish capital withdrawn, (140 millions,) and the local difficulties of insecurity, prejudices, inexperience, want of fuel, &c.

In 1823 was established the first English mining company. There are now 10; English, 7; North American, 2; German, 1. They have spent twelve millions of dollars, or more, in draining old or exhausted mines, instead of seeking for new ones; introducing useless and expensive machinery, importing miners from England, who are of less use than the Indians; and the result has been that all these companies, (except perhaps the German, which was more judiciously conducted) have failed in their expectations of great wealth, sunk a vast capital, (some mines are not yet drained, after five years labor,) produced but little silver, and become discouraged. But the mineral wealth of Mexico is not exhausted. There is about 200 millions of silver have been drawn from them in three hundred years, or an average of ten millions of dollars per annum; as much remains, if not more, but it must be sought for, and the practical simple mode of the Indians resorted to again. In the single smaller mint of the patriots, in Zacatecas, they have coined fifty four millions of dollars between 1810 and 1827, in the midst of a cruel civil war, averaging three millions per annum. It is expected that in 1835, if peace then prevails, 24 millions of bullion may be produced in all metals, as before the revolution.

It has lately been ascertained that the great mineral wealth extends far to the N. W. beyond the supposed limits of lat. 24, and much beyond Sonora; and there the ore is richer, yielding six per cent. of pure silver, but in Mexico it is rather a manufacture of bullion. A great deal depends on a good location. In old mines the working is always half of the amount or more. The baneful system of the *Mita*, or compulsory labour of the Indians, at the mines of Peru, was never introduced. The usual mode lately was to work on shares, the owner allowing half the silver to the Indian miners: this they liked well, because it gave them a chance of great profit. The mining companies will be compelled to return to this plan.

COPPER MINES IN CONNECTICUT.

A Pamphlet is lying before us entitled *Proposals of the Phoenix Mining Company*, giving a view of the history and character of the Simsbury Copper Mines in the State of Connecticut, and of the investigation lately made to determine the richness of the ore. It appears that they began to be worked at a very early period of our colonial history. When they were first opened is not known. An act of the colony of Connecticut, relating to the Simsbury Mines, was passed in 1709, by which it appears that their discovery was antecedent to that period. Early in the eighteenth century they were worked under the direction of Governor Belcher of Massachusetts, for the proprietors in London, Amsterdam and New York. The business of extracting copper from these mines continued to be carried on for about forty years, during which the rock had been excavated to considerable extent, and mills had been erected for stamping the ore. Copper ore is set down among the articles of export from the Colonies to Great Britain, from 1725 to 1730. The mines were abandoned, it is supposed, about the year 1744, for causes which at the present distance of time can only be conjectured. They were afterwards used as the State Prison of Connec-

ticut, known by the name of New-gate, and the convicts were immured in cells framed in the ancient excavities in the solid rock.

An enterprise is now on foot for resuming the working of these mines. The Phoenix Mining Company have purchased the mines and buildings which formerly constituted the prison, and have obtained leases of the neighboring farms, embracing about three miles of the mining field north and south, granting the exclusive privilege of mining for the term of nine hundred and ninety-nine years. The pamphlet before us contains some testimony in regard to the richness of the Simsbury ore, and a comparison of its value with that of copper ore in other parts of the world. Samples of the ore have been assayed by various persons in Europe; and in this country, by which it appears that their average product is about 12 per cent. of copper, being, as the pamphlet affirms it to be, nearly 50 per cent. more than than ores of Cornwall. Several certificates in respect to the value of these ores are given, by which it appears that the English smelters would pay for them an average of \$33 per ton. Two other points are treated of, viz. whether the mines can be worked to advantage, and whether the ore is abundant—both which questions are answered in the affirmative. The pamphlet is published for the purpose of attracting public attention to the enterprise, as the company are about to take measures for receiving subscriptions for a portion of the stock.—*Evening Post.*

Gold Mines.—The Washington News states that there is a mine in the fourth district of Haldersham county, Georgia, superior to any heretofore discovered, and promises to be inexhaustible. The mine was formerly known as Collins' Mine, the one half of which, at this time is owned by Capt. Michael Brown, of Savannah, Major James P. Heath, of Baltimore, and Dr. Reed, of Kentucky; the other half is owned by a company of gentlemen in Philadelphia, one of whom is at present in Georgia. The editor has seen a sample of the gold extracted from this mine, and also some of the rock taken from it, which, from appearance and weight, justifies the opinion declared by those who have experimentally examined it.

The Movers of Physics.—What more certain will make any man believe that in the space of time, in one beat of the pendulum of a clock, a ray of light travels over 192,000 miles, and would therefore perform the tour of the world in about the same time that it requires to walk with our eyes closed, and in much less than a swift runner occupies in taking a single stride? What mortal man can be made to believe, without demonstration, that the sun is almost a million times larger than the earth; and that, although so remote from us, that a cannon ball shot directly towards it, and maintaining its full speed, would be twenty years in reaching it, it yet affects the earth by its attraction in an inappreciable instant of time? Who would not ask for demonstration, when told that a magnet's swing, in its ordinary beat, beats more close together would not extend an inch? But what are these to the astonishing truths which modern optical inquiries have disclosed, which teach us that every point of a medium through which a ray of light passes is affected with a succession of periodical movements, regularly recurring at equal intervals, no less than 500 millions of millions of times in a single second; that it is by such movements, communicated to the nerves of our eyes, that we see—may more, that it is the difference in the frequency of their recurrence which affects us with the sense of the diversity of color, that, for instance, in acquiring the sensation of redness, our eyes are affected 482 millions of millions of times; of yellowness, 542 millions of millions of times; and of violet, 707 millions of millions of times per second. Do not such things sound more like the ravings of madmen, than the sober conclusions of people in their waking senses? They are, nevertheless, conclusions to which any one may most certainly arrive, who will only be at the trouble of examining the chain of reasoning by which they have been obtained.

Herschel's Discourse.

Weeping.—“Young women are full of tears. They weep as bitterly for the loss of a new dress as for the loss of an old lover. They will weep for any thing or for nothing. They will weep you to death for accidentally tearing a new gown, and weep for spite that they cannot be revenged on you. They will play the coquette in your presence, and weep when you are absent. They will weep because they cannot go to a ball or a tea party, or because their parents will not permit them to run away with a blackguard; and they will weep because they cannot have every thing in their own way. Married women weep to conquer. Tears are the most potent arm of matrimo-

nal warfare. If a gruff husband has abused his wife, she weeps, and he relents and promises better behaviour. How many men have gone to bed in wrath, and risen in the morning quite subdued with tears and a certain lecture?—Woman weep to get at their husband's secrets, and weep because their own have been revealed. They weep through pride, through vanity, through folly, through cunning, and through weakness. They will weep for a husband's misfortunes, while they scold himself. A woman will weep over the dead body of her husband, while her vanity will ask her neighbors how she is fitted with her mourning. She weeps for one husband that she may get another. The widow of Ephebus bedewed the grave of her spouse with one eye, while she squinted love to a young soldier with the other.” Rather severe this!

Rosy Checks.—A writer in the United States Gazette (Philadelphia) has started a novel theory, “that it is not their hilly country nor their fine climate, but their sweet brown bread,” to which the rosy cheeks of New England's lads and lasses are to be attributed. The only proof deduced in support of his theory, is that when he eats “brown bread it makes him contented and happy.” Every one to his taste—*trium sit panis candidus a ter—* for ourself, we were sworn at Highgate, never to eat brown bread when we can get white. The theory is about as correct, as if the writer had attributed the gazelle eyes and coral horns of Southern girls, to new corn homony.—*Transcript.*

Smelling Bottles, &c.—It frequently happens, that the glass stoppers of vials and bottles, filled with scents, and chemical preparations, become fixed so tightly that they cannot be removed by force without the risk of breaking the vessel. The following is a very simple and efficacious method of unstopping them. Take a skein of worsted, or woolen yarn; pass it once round the neck of the bottle, attach one end of this band to some fixed object, hold the other, and then draw the bottle briskly backwards and forwards. The friction will soon heat the neck of the bottle, and with the heat, the neck will expand sufficiently to allow of the stopper being extracted.

Simple means of Purifying Water.—It is not so generally known as it ought to be, that pounded alum possesses the property of purifying water. A large table spoonful of pulverised alum, sprinkled into a noggin of water, (the water stirred round at the time,) will alter the lapse of a few hours, by precipitating to the bottom the impure particles, so pure it, that it will be found to possess nearly all the freshness and clearness of the finest spring water. A pail full, containing four gallons, may be purified with a single tea spoonful.

Transpiration of Plants.—Dr. Hales found that a sun flower, in 12 hours, transpired by its leaves, one pound fourteen ounces of water, all of which must have been imbibed from the soil. A similar solution is imparted to a plant in a manner analogous to the nourishment imparted to the animal system by the food which passes into the stomach. Hence the growth of the plant depends much on the presence of moisture, as well as vegetable matter, in the soil, and upon the sufficiency of roots to take it up and convey it to the tank. Thus a tree divested of a great portion of its roots in transplanting, makes new wood only in proportion as these are replaced by a new growth; and thus also a plant grows faster in a moist than in a dry soil (the fertility of both being alike) and faster in a mellow soil, where the roots can fully extend and multiply, than in a hard one.

These facts suggest to the farmer the impropriety of ploughing deep between his rows of corn and other crops, whereby the roots are broken and wounded, and exposed to the drying influence of the sun and winds. 2. The importance of keeping his crops clear of weeds and all useless plants which rob the soil of food and moisture. And 3. The propriety of transplanting his trees while young, when the system of roots can be preserved nearly entire, and of surrounding the roots with a bed of mellow, rich earth.—*N. E. Farmer.*

We are requested to publish the following receipt.

Dysentery.—To a common tumbler full of cold water, add a table spoonful of wheat flour; stir it well together, and drink the whole dose. This should be repeated once in an hour or two, until cure is effected.

New Hampshire Paper.

While on a visit to the eastern part of the State, during last autumn, I experienced a violent attack of dysentery, which notwithstanding the use of various medicines, common in such cases, increased to an alarming degree. After three or four days intense suffering, a old acquaintance

prescribed the above remedy, which effected a perfect cure in the course of one afternoon. My friend stated that he had seen this simple antidote used in a variety of cases, and that he had never known it to fail of effecting a speedy cure. A remedy so simple and efficacious, should be known to every person.

From the Columbus (Ohio) Advertiser.

THE WEST.

With what unparalleled strides, in comparison with any example in the annals of the world, is the great West advancing in population, wealth and power. What, but a few years since was deemed but an interminable forest, and scarcely destined to be visited by the hand of civilization and science, now presents a scene of improvement in many respects grand and sublime—a scene which, when the thirteen United States burst the fetters of tyranny, could only have presented itself to the imagination of some prophetic genius. Towns, cities and States have risen up as it were by the hand of magic—Ohio alone presents to the Union a population of nearly one million!—and she has a cordon of sister States north and west of the Ohio and Mississippi, fast approximating to the like number. Already have works been projected and nearly completed, which have not their parallel in magnitude, in all New England. The bosom of her lakes and rivers and canals team with life and prosperity, as innumerable water craft glide along, bearing the products of her industry. All the diversified pursuits of men, are here put in exercise, as though generation had succeeded generation, and in times long gone by, been gathered to their fathers. But when shall this great flood of population cease to advance, which is so continually pouring into this once far, far off western wild. How long will it be, ere the Rocky Mountains themselves will only present a partial barrier, to the progress of the tide of emigration, which is now encroaching towards their base. It would seem as though their towering peaks and projecting brows, stand as guards, frowning upon the intrusion, which is about to disturb their long wonted silence and sublime state of nature.

But such is the character and enterprize of the American people, that no obstacles or difficulties to them seem insurmountable.—Their march is onward! Even the shores of the Pacific Ocean will probably in time be imprinted by the plough, and become subservient to the thrift of the white man—exhibit smiling villages—and the din and rattle of bustling cities.

The Gulf of California and the mouth of the Oregon may, with some probability, yet be known as harbors, bearing upon their bosoms shipping from all parts of the commercial world. Oh, fancy,—how far wilt thou carry the imagination! The world itself will not bound thee!

UNION.—Let us hold fast the holy legacy of our fathers. Once broken, the sacred ties of our Union will never again be united. Once let the noble materials which now form our glory and strength be disseminated, apart from each other—and that strength which has bowed the proud knee of nations at our feet, and that glory which has lighted up as with a new sun the political and moral atmosphere of the world, will know us no more. Another united America will never bless our children.

N. E. Review.

GOVERNMENT.

GOVERNMENT is the great organ of civil society, and we should appreciate the former more justly, if we better understood the nature and foundation of the latter. I say, then, that society is throughout a moral institution. It is something very different from an assemblage of animals feeding in the same pasture. It is the combinations of rational beings for the security of Right. Right, a moral idea, lies at the very foundation of civil communities; and the highest happiness which they confer, is the gratification of moral affections. We are sometimes taught, that society is the creature of compact and selfish calculation; that men agree to live together for the protection of private interests. But no. Society is of earlier and higher origin. It is God's ordinance, and answers to what is most godlike in our nature. The chief ties that hold men together in communities, are not self-interest, or compacts, or positive institutions, or force. They are invisible, refined, spiritual ties, bonds of the mind and heart. Our best powers and affections crave instinctively for society as the sphere in which they are to find their life and happiness. That men may greatly strengthen and improve society by written constitutions, I readily grant. There is however a constitution which precedes all of men's making, and after which all others are to be formed; a constitution, the great lines of which are drawn in our very nature: a primitive law of justice, rectitude, and philanthropy, from which all others derive their validity and worth.—*Canning.*

INDEPENDENCE OF THE FARMER.

The merchant and manufacturer may be robbed of the reward of his labor, by changes in the foreign or domestic market entirely beyond his control, and may wind up a year, in which he has done every thing which intelligence and industry could do to insure success, not only without profit but with an actual diminution of capital. The strong arm of mechanic industry may be enfeebled or paralyzed by the prostration of those manufacturing or commercial interests to whose existence it so essentially contributes and on whom it turns it so essentially depends. But what has the industrious farmer to fear? His capital is invested in the solid ground; he draws on a fund which from time immemorial has never failed to honor all just demands; his profits may be diminished indeed but never wholly suspended; his success depends upon no earthly guarantee, but on the assurance of that great and beneficent Being who has declared that while the earth endureth, seed time and harvest shall not cease.

Gray's Address.

(From the New England Farmer.)

PRUNING OF PEACH TREES.

One remark will be offered as to the mode of pruning. This ought to be effected by heading down, that is cut off all the top, to within 5 or 6 feet of the ground once in four years at least; no injury will result, but more healthy and vigorous wood will be formed and a greater quantity of fruit be produced; as peach trees seldom bear more than one or two years in succession, the succeeding spring after a bearing year should be selected to perform the operation. Young wood will then be produced, and if the season be favorable, yield a good supply of fruit the next year, as the second year's growth is that which mostly, if not always, produces fruit in the peach tree. The evils of a contrary course of pruning consist in the limbs towards the bottom of the tree becoming sickly and dying; the top running up so high as to be exposed to the wind and consequently being broken off, and often splitting the trunk to the bottom and affording a less quantity of fruit, and that of an inferior quality. No better time for pruning peach trees perhaps can be selected than about the 1st of June. The mode and time of pruning may appear to those who have never made the attempt at variance with their ideas; but it is experience, not theory, that has dictated the above remarks.

SETH DAVIS.

Newton, March 1, 1831.

Medicine.—“A morbid appetite for medicine is another sin of our land.” “No sooner do some mothers,” says Dr. Reese, “imagine their infants sick, than dose after dose of nauseous physic is forced down their throats, with the barbarity of a savage, thus killing them by kindness, poisoning them lest they should be sick.” But many adults also are victims of the same morbid appetite for medicine. “They take it in health,” to prevent their being sick, as in the spring and fall, or when they conceive themselves bilious.—The symptoms thus other disorders of the body, in their beginning, might be removed by fasting a day or two, and suffering the powers of nature to be exerted in their own defence; instead of being bled or swallowing drugs, which disable the body and pervert nature.—For man to take physic, when in health, for fear of being sick, is to imitate the Italian count, on whose tomb it was inscribed, by his own request,

“I was well—Wished to be better, Took physic—And died.” N. Y. M. Eng.

Miseric of a Rich Man.—Who is dogged in the streets and knocked down at midnight? The rich man. Whose house is broken into at midnight? The rich man's. Who has his pockets cut out, and his coat spoiled in a crowd? The rich man. Who is in doubt whether the people are laughing at him in their sleeves when they are eating his dinner? The rich man. Who adds to his trouble by every story which he adds to his house? The rich man—for the higher he ascends, the colder is the atmosphere. A bank breaks, and who suffers? The rich stockholder and depositor. War blows his horn, and who trembles? Death approaches, and who fears to look him in the face? Why the rich man—and yet all the world envies the rich. Depend upon it, the length of your face will always be proportioned to the length of your purse. If you live in a two story house, be thankful, and not covet the loftier mansion of your neighbor. You but dishonor yourself, and insult your destiny, by fretting and repining.—*Boston Courier.*

The amount of property left in pledge with twelve pawn-brokers in New-York, during the year ending January, 1831, was \$108,000. Among the articles pledged, were no less than 420,000 garments, and 16,000 sheets, blankets and counterpanes.