The North Carolina Whig.

"Be true to God, to your Country, and to your Duty."

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HOLTON & WILLIAMSON,
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Poetry.

FOR THE NORTH CAROLINA WHIG.

To Stella.

Ah! dost thou remember, sweet Stella, the spot,
Where we stood by the side of the murmuring stream?
When so naively poured forth was each innocent thought,
'Neath the holly-tree bush, whose leaves were so green?

Dost remember the hour, 'twas at pale eventide!
How the winds were so low, and the leaflets so still
That naught could be heard, save the voice by my side,
And the glad, gurgling sounds of that beautiful rill?

Dost remember the words, which were whispered so low,
While thy small, fairy hand lay trembling in mine?
Ah! they fell on my heart in their musical flow,
Like the voices that live, in sweet Tennyson's rhyme.

Fair Stella! bright Stella! those words were the charm,
That wrought out for me the long dream of my youth.
And the words, which I spoke,—did they cause thee alarm?
The Angels in Heaven may witness their truth.

That hour, was an hour, in the life of a boy,
Whose days had been shrouded in premature gloom;
When an Angel-bird's song, came laden with joy,
The Hope-reft altars, in my heart to relume.

Through dreams full of sadness, I strove to *that* hour,
Through the suns of Summer and snows of December;
Yet, that twilight's soft glow and the holly-tree bower,
Though forget I all else, will I ever remember.

Shall the joy of that hour, be the dream of a day,
When the black wings of woe will brood nevermore?
But tell me, sweet Stella, Oh! tell me I say!
Wilt thou beam on my path, for a light evermore?

April 21, 1853. OTTO.

Miscellaneous.

GRACE MARLAND;
OR,
FRIENDS and FORTUNE.

BY MISS EMMA T. WILSON.

CHAPTER I.

'Why are you so sad, Miss Marland?' asked Mr. Frederick Gray, of a young and beautiful girl, who was leaning against the window in a brilliantly lighted ball-room, looking sadly out at the stars.

Miss Grace Marland was an orphan: her father and mother dying when she was about twelve years of age, she was left in the care of her maternal uncle, Mr. William Shaw. She was immensely wealthy, having had a fortune left her by her father's brother, Mr. James Marland who died a few years after his brother. She was just eighteen; superbly handsome, with dark eyes which one moment melted with defiance on any offender, but whose abiding expression was gentleness; hair dark brown, looking black in the shade, and auburn in the sun; complexion dazzlingly fair, rather pale, but when under any excitement glowing with a rich tinge of crimson. The lips were the chief beauty of the face; they re-assured you.—Silently as may blaze those eyes, there is a word of charity, tenderness, forbearance, and firmness, upon which you might throw yourself with all your sins and sorrows, and bosom of sympathy, and comfort and repose. She was rather tall, but beautifully proportioned, and exquisitely graceful.—Her dress of amber colored satin set off her graceful figure to the greatest advantage; her hair, looped up with a jewelled comb, showed the swan-like throat encircled with a necklace of pearl; whose whiteness was rivaled by the beautiful neck. Such was the *tout ensemble* of the owner of the splendid palace-like house to which we have introduced our readers, and the giver of a splendid ball. Well might Frederick Gray ask why she looked sad!

'Why, do I look sad?' she repeated. 'It was a foolish fancy,' she said, smiling, and turning to look on the festive scene. 'I was thinking whether, by an unforeseen chance, my fortune should be wrested from me, if half of these friends here would know me. No;' she said, her smile fading away, 'there are not more than a dozen people here, if so many, who would notice me if I might be—more worthy then than now, perhaps.'

'Mr. Gray bowed; but whether in acquiescence with her remarks, or whether for some other reason she could not tell. She turned again to the window, and it seemed with half a sigh, and gazed up to the bright clear stars, wholly unconscious of the look of yearning passionate love beaming from the dark eyes of Mr. Gray. All at once recollecting herself, she left the window, and taking her companion's proffered arm, walked thro the halls, giving a smile to this one, a word to that, and winning all hearts by her gentleness and beauty.

At a late hour the party, or rather the ball, broke up, every one going home wearied, but perfectly well satisfied with themselves, and every body else; a rare thing where so many are concerned. The lights are out, and the late lively rooms looked forlorn and deserted; but wholly deserted it was not, for standing by a rich table loaded with flowers which now looked faded and dead, stood Grace and her bosom friend, Florence Wyman; they stood with arms round each other, and their heads slightly down.

'Well,' said Grace, after a pause, and with sly glances at Florence, 'I shall have to give up all this splendor; and when uncle William has gone to England, I shall have to earn my bread; how many of to-night's firm life-lasting friends shall I have then; who will visit the poor dressmaker? Very few, I am afraid.'

'Well, we shall see, Grace, darling, you may be sure that you shall have all of my patronage;' and kissing her, Florence rushed down stairs to join her brother, who had been calling that the carriage was waiting sometime.

'Yes,' soliloquized Grace, as she took a candle and glanced slowly round the room, as she left it, 'I shall prove them when I have my quiet little room in a secluded street, and do dress-making; when this rich satin is changed for a cheap calico, and my arms minus these gems, then I shall see who are my friends and who are not;' and bowing with meek dignity, to the mirror, as she caught a reflection of herself in it, she exclaimed 'Good night, Miss Gray, heiress, for to-morrow you will be only Miss Gray, the dress-maker, or seamstress.'

Two days after the ball, the beautiful house is for sale? The house is thrown open and the rooms are thronged, not as two days before, with beauty and fashion to dance and enjoy themselves at a ball, but mostly for curiosity to see the whole house. To most of the people the drawing-rooms were familiar, and they desired to see if the house was so elegantly and tastefully furnished throughout. Standing in a recess, partly furnished by curtains, was Grace, looking very pale—not rendered so by loss of riches, but by the dread of losing friends. She was dressed plainly, almost meanly; and as she stood there so very pale, with her small white hands clasped tightly together, her lips slightly compressed, and her eyes half closed, as if to shut out the misery of her feelings, few would have recognised the courted heiress and belle of a few evenings ago; or recognizing, could help pitying her sad fate. Numerous groups of people were standing about; some examining the rich furniture and costly decorations, and others speaking unhesitatingly of her past conduct, and wondering what she would do now.

Mrs. Willis and her daughters sailed by her in all the majesty of velvets and brocades, not deigning to notice her, except by a bold stare and ill repressed laugh. They had fawned upon her, called her their dear Miss Marland, visited her, ridden in her carriage and now—passed her coldly by with only an insulting stare. Florence Hyman passed her by with a cold, though perfectly polite bow, and instantly began admiring an exquisite vase of porcelain which stood on a little inland table, both of which she declared aloud she must have. Poor Grace, overwhelmed, shrunk farther back into the recess, and allowed the superb damask curtains to fall so as almost wholly to conceal her.

'O,' she exclaimed, 'I have hoped, even at this late hour, friends might be found who would save my home from this dreaded disgrace; the disgrace of being bought piecemeal.'

'And there has been somebody found who will buy it,' said Mr. Gray, stepping to her side, for she had spoken aloud without being aware of it. 'A strange gentleman has taken the whole house, just as it is, although he does not intend occupying it at present.' He stopped, seeing her grow very pale, and following the direction of her eye, was in time to see a young man, whom he had often seen as a visitor there, coolly lift his eye glass, and stare at her, and turn away. And turning to Grace, Mr. Gray said, very gently, almost tenderly:

'Miss Marland, this is dreadful. I cannot bear to see you suffer thus; you will kill yourself.'

'I cannot help it. Only go away and leave me; I shall be better soon.'

'No, you will not; you have seen too much already. You are worn, harrassed to death; you want sympathy and society, not solitude. You must come home with me; my mother expects you; I came here on purpose for you; I have brought her carriage to take you back.'

'No, no, it is impossible.'

'Forgive me, Miss Marland, but this is romance: very unlike your usual strong sense. What can you do here! What can you prevent? Nothing. You will only expose yourself to needless pain, and perhaps insult. Among the many people who are here to-day, few appreciate your motive for remaining. Forgive me for speaking thus, but you are brave enough to hear the truth.'

'I cannot go without seeing the house once more.'

'Very well, we will go together. So come, take my arm, and you shall have your way.'

And so silently and passively, she went through the house. Not a room, not a closet, not a window that was not dear to her. And yet she neither spoke nor wept as she passed them by. Finally they came to the hall door, and turning to Mr. Gray, she said:

'Do not follow me, if you have any regard for my feelings. Some time you may find where I live, perhaps from your lady friends, for I must now earn my own living; and shall probably sew articles for friends whom I have received as guests in this house.' Saying this, she drew her veil over her face, and then turned and sped swiftly down the steps.

CHAPTER II.

When next we see Grace, she is seated in a small, second story room, perfectly neat, although scantily furnished; by an open window, the blue and white striped curtain are parted, and she is gazing intently down the narrow secluded street in which the house she occupies stands. As she gazes, a carriage draws up and stops before the house, and a young lady springs out and the next instant she is clasped in the arms of Florence.

'Have you found me out already?' she asked. 'Love must indeed be a diviner, then; for never even to you, darling, did I show by word or hint, where my future home was to be.'

Florence smiled. 'O, did I not know that my Grace had a passion for narrow, secluded streets, I should not have found you so quickly, had I not seen you at the window.'

'Well, now that you have found me, you must recommend me to as many of my old friends as possible and get me some embroidering to do; and you can give me some yourself, to keep me from starving.'

'Do not be afraid, my dear,' she answered, gaily; 'I will see that you have plenty to do. I will get some of my friends to come to-morrow and then you will be able to ask for embroidering, dress-making or plain sewing, whichever you fancy you can do best.' But Grace was not particularly cheerful; there was a heaviness at her heart she could not account for. Taking a chair and drawing it up to a little table, she produced paper and pencil, and began a note to a dear friend: at least she called herself so whenever they met. She commenced several and was dissatisfied with all; at last she finished the following:

MRS. WILMOUTH.—Owing to my change of fortune, I am obliged to sew or do something for my living; and I apply to you, knowing that you are very charitable, and always have something to be embroidered or sewed. Will you be so kind as to send me something as soon as you receive this note? My room is in No. 18, Wilson Street.
GRACE MARLAND.'

Having folded the letter up, she took it down stairs, and knocked at the door of her land-lady's apartment, she asked if her little boy, a child of twelve years old could take the note. Mrs. Daniel was a widow, a smart, bustling little body, with a good natured, fair face, and kind gentle eyes; and she asked Grace to come in and sit down while she washed Joseph's face and put on a clean collar, and then he might go. Mrs. Daniel talked kindly, and thinking Grace looked sad, encouragingly, and ended, as the boy went off with the note, and Grace was going up stairs, by saying that if at any time she felt lonely or tired, she must come and sit with her, an offer for which Grace thanked her kindly, and going up stairs, she thought she would like to avail herself of it, for Mrs. Daniel was a woman who had seen better days, and even now, her room showed evidence of a refined taste, and altogether looked so very inviting that she fain would have sat there most of her time.

To be Continued.

A SINGULAR FAMILY.

In a small village in the Bouches du Rhone, (France) there is a family of three persons—husband, wife and daughter—who had made a solemn vow to preserve the most profound silence. A traveller who lately passed their dwelling, finding it necessary to make some "inquiries" respecting his way, applied to these eccentric people. Not receiving any answer to his questions, he reprimanded them, when, to his great astonishment, they, in a fit of exasperation, seized a cudgel, tongs and turn spit, and threatened him with summary castigation. This extraordinary conduct is explained by the fact that the parties had become the dupes of a clerical imposter, who had taken advantage of their credulity by holding out to them the acquisition of a great treasure, on condition of their maintaining a strict silence. They have formed the resolution to keep such silence for the space of nine years, only one half of which term has yet expired. But as so complete an interdiction of the use of the tongue could not fail to become intolerable to the female portion of the family, the impostor granted them to indulge their natural propensity any where beyond the limits of their Commune. In order to avail themselves of this privilege the two women regularly repair every market day to the little town of Belfort, where they enjoy the conversation of their neighbors and mitigate to some degree the privation which they voluntarily endure.—*Courier du Etats Unis.*

MRS. HARRIET BEECHER STOWE'S CHARITY.

There was recently (says the N. York National Democrat,) a family of thirty slaves in Virginia, which the owner offered to sell into freedom at a very small price. Some benevolent parties in Philadelphia undertook to raise the amount by subscription. The facts were presented, by lettter, to Mrs. Sigourney, who immediately enclosed twenty-five dollars for the object. Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe was also written to, and, of course she responded by sending a very large amount of money for the "glorious purpose." She had just realized an immense fortune by her abolitionism—she was just on the eve of starting for England, to be feted by the Duchess of Sutherland, and caressed by the band of the nobility, and of course she gave a *very* large sum to purchase these thirty slaves. No, good reader, she gave *not one cent*. She sent a letter back full of sweet sympathy, abounding with the charity of advice and approval, but as empty of money as her own face is of shame at the contemptible part she is now playing in England of forging a State's evidence against her country. No, she had no money for the "poor slaves." As her eminent friend and co-laborer, Mr. Aminadab Sleek, would say, "It is not in our way." Her "mission" is to make money *out of* negro-philanthropy, and not *for* it.

GEOLOGY.

PRACTICAL GEOLOGY,
Condensed from Professor Emmon's Report.

The importance of understanding the composition of soils and the best means of improving their capabilities, is a subject now generally acknowledged to be worthy of the attentive consideration of every farmer. In every civilized community, all classes of its citizens are alike dependent on the products of the soil for subsistence; and hence every one should feel interested in the promotion of successful agriculture. To obtain this desirable end Geology and Agricultural Chemistry lend us valuable aid, and indicate the system, based on science, to secure the most happy, is best calculated [illegible]

It is not generally known that, about thirty years since, the Legislature of North Carolina authorized a Geological Survey of the State. The performance of this work was assigned to Prof. Olmstead, then attached to the State University. During the vacation of collegiate duties he made a rapid survey of several portions of the State, and published the results of his labors in two pamphlet Reports addressed to the "Board of Agriculture." These Reports were necessarily imperfect for want of time, yet they gave ample proof of the variety and importance of our mineral wealth. To the honor of the good Old North State be it said, this was the *first* Geological Survey ordered by public authority in the United States! Since that time, nearly all of the States, and several of the Territories have followed her example in carrying on similar praise-worthy undertakings.

Aware of the great importance of more fully developing our hidden resources, and more clearly pointing out to the great mass of our citizens their useful applications, the Legislature of North Carolina, at its session in Jany. 1851, authorized a Geological, Mineralogical, Botanical and Agricultural Survey of the State. The execution of this work has been commited to Prof. Emmons, one of the distinguished Geologists employed, a few years since, in the New York Survey.

The result of Prof. Emmon's labors thus far, confined principally to the Estern portion of the State, is now before us in a valuable Report of 171 pages. Knowing the deep interest an intelligent community will naturally take in receiving reliable information on the extent and value of our mineral resources, we have hastily prepared, for the benefit of those who may not be in possession of the Report, a condensed statement of its most important discoveries and conclusions.

The Report is confined to the investigation of two principal subjects. 1. The soils and Agriculture of the Eastern Counties; and 2. The coal fields of Rockingham, Stokes, Chatham and Moore Counties.

The most important principles of Agriculture and Geology are first properly introduced and defined. On page 5th, the Prof. remarks, "Among many points which have been established of late years, there are four of very great importance, namely: *That soils must contain a sufficiency of certain inorganic elements; that these elements are necessary to the life of the plant; that no seed can be perfected without them; and finally that they are essential to the life of the animal subsisting on vegetable food.* It follows from these established points, that some at least, of the important products of life are derived from the soil; it being possible to trace them back from the animal, through the plant, to the soil." The most essential elements of soil are the following, namely, Oxygen, Hydrogen, Nitrogen, Carbon, Phosphoric Acid, Sulpher, Potash, Soda, Lime, Magnesia, Oxide of Iron, Silica, Water, Ammonia, Chlorine, and small quantities of Fluorine. Of these it may be remarked that, Oxygen, Hydrogen, Nitrogen, Carbon and Ammonia are derived from the atmosphere as well as from the soil.

The Prof. then proceeds to define, somewhat in detail, these elements. The definitions are here briefly condensed, with such additional explanations, for the benefit of the common reader, as the subject may seem to demand.

PHOSPHORIC ACID.—This substance in its separate state is very sour. It readily combines with Potash, Soda, Lime and other bodies, forming with them new compounds called *phosphates*. Of these, phosphate of lime is the most important; being found as a natural substance in rocks, and in the animal kingdom, principally in bones. When rocks containing it, as granite, greenstone, &c., decompose, it is mixed with the soil, and thus increases its fertility. The importance of this substance may be estimated when it is known that Indian corn, wheat, rye, oats, potatoes, &c., all contain it. A soil destitute of it is totally barren.

SULPHUR.—This substance is two well known to need description. It is an important element in the animal and vegetable kingdoms. It is found in the animal tissues; and also in peas and clover. Sulphate of lime, commonly called gypsum and Plaster of Paris, one of our most useful fertilizers, is a compound of Sulphuric Acid and lime.

POTASH.—This alkali is also well known. It is found in feldspar, one of the minerals forming granite, in the proportion of about 16 per cent. Owing to its presence, granite is subject to decomposition, forming the clay called *kaolin*, used in the manufacture of porcelain. One of the varieties of marl in the Estern Counties known as *green sand*, owes its fertilizing properties to potash. In combination with potash, silex is rendered soluble, and taken up into the plant. It imparts that firmness and strength to the straw of the different grains which is necessary to enable the plant to stand erect. To this substance, more than any other, ashes owe their value as fertilizers.

SODA.—This alkali is more abundant than potash, and its office is, in many respects, similar. Beds of *nitrate of soda* are found in climates where no rain falls. The great source of it is the sea, and beds of rock salt.

LIME.—This well known alkaline substance is an abundant ingredient of the mineral kingdom. In human bones, it is combined with phosphoric acid and carbonic acid, its proportions being about 51 per cent. of the phosphate, and 12 per cent. of the carbonate of lime. It also enters largely into the composition of the covering of shell-fish, corals, bark of trees, &c. From its universal diffusion, it is evident, it is one of the most important elements of the soil. Much uncertainty prevails in its use. Under the head of *marl* its judicious application will be more particularly pointed out.

MAGNESIA.—This is also an alkaline substance existing in soils. It is often maintained that Magnesia is hurtful to soils.—When caustic, it is true, it does not become mild as soon as lime; and hence is liable to absorb the water which is necessary for the growth of plants. *Phosphate of Magnesia* is a constant element of wheat, rye, corn, and also, of all vegetable food.

[illegible] this earth. In soils, it greatly varies in quantity. Its proper proportion is about 85 per cent. By being mixed with clay, it imparts porosity and looseness to the soil, and permits the roots to penetrate deeply. It is also necessary to the cereals (grains) to protect the straw and kernels and give strength to the whole plant. When the grains are special objects of culture, potash and lime are often added to free it from its insoluble combinations, and prepare it to be taken up into the tissues of plants.

OXIDE OF IRON.—It has been proved, by repeated analyses, that organic bodies contain iron. In those animals which have red blood it is fully demonstrated that it serves to maintain the heat of the body. In the soil, however, it is supposed to be concerned in developing ammonia. Iron, by itself, is rarely used as a fertilizer. The oxide from the smith's forge, mixed with refuse matter about the shop, has been found to be highly beneficial to fruit trees.

AMMONIA.—This substance is well known under the name of *hartshorn*. In this state, however, it is not applied to plants. It belongs both to the soil and to the atmosphere. It is supposed that the salts of ammonia are the means through which nitrogen gains access to the grains. Numerous experiments have been made which go to prove that if it is desired to increase the wheat crop, the preceding fertilizing substances *alone* are inefficient, unless they are mixed with ammoniacal compounds.

WATER.—This element, so indispensable to the wants of animated Nature, is the great solvent of the different inorganic bodies previously noticed. Nothing can become beneficial to vegetation unless it is dissolved in water. It is the medium through which all the essential substances find their way into the animal and vegetable tissues. Only a proper quantity, however, is necessary. Much water is injurious in diminishing the temperature of the soil, and rendering it too compact for cultivation. Draining lands of superfluous water raises their temperature several degrees. The soil is then made warm and loose—conditions necessary to the growth of the most important productions.

CARBONIC ACID.—The atmosphere is regarded as the source from which this substance is chiefly obtained by plants. The leaves are supposed to absorb it from the atmosphere, and to receive, in this way, the carbon necessary to build up their structure. The water in the soil also hold it in solution, and furnishes it to the roots of the plant.

CHLORINE.—Common salt is a combination of soda and this substance. By itself, it is a poison; but in combination with soda its is a fertilizer. Its true value, however, is not well determined.

FLUORINE.—This substance in combination with lime, constitutes the mineral called *fluor spar*. It is found in the enamel of teeth, in bones, and in milk. It usually accompanies phosphate of lime, and is applied when that fertilizer is used.

The foregoing substances are detected in the ashes of plants, and are called their inorganic elements. When plants are carefully burnt we find that the particles composing the inorganic part present a reticulated structure, and appear as if woven. It seems, therefore, designed to serve as a skeleton to the plant, and give it firmness and elasticity. The organic part of a plant is that which is consumed during combustion, the products being volatile, are all dissipated. It forms much the greatest part of the vegetable. Its source is regarded, by Liebig, to be the atmosphere; but the soil, no doubt, furnished it in the form of organic soils in combination with alkaline matters.

It has been previously stated that certain elements are essential to a productive soil. Knowing before hand what those elements are, our efforts can be directed with much certainty to the improvement of any given soil. If a crop is defective in quality, and falls short of its former yield, it is evident that there is a want of those elements which have been described.

Prof. Emmons then proceeds to give the composition of several kinds of soils really poor, as well as those which are rich. The first sample analysed was taken from a sandy knoll of the Panola plantation at Tarboro', and gave the following result: Water, 1.13—Organic matter, 2.93—Silex, 93.70—Alumina and peroxide of iron, 1.33—Carbonate of lime, 0.28—Phosphate of lime, inappreciable—Magnesia 0.14—Soluble silica, 0.11—Potash, 0.03—Soda, 0.01. The composition of other sandy soils from the Estern Counties was found to be similar to the preceding. The palpable deficiencies are: 1. Alumina, and peroxide of iron; 2. Lime; 3. Potash and Soda; 4. Organic matter. For the improvement of these soils, *ashes* are strongly recommended; also straw, leaves, &c., hauled to the yards to be trodden by cattle. By this method, the capital required to be expended in the purchase of guano and other fertilizers is greatly diminished. In ashes, we find phosphate of lime, carbonate of lime, iron, potash, soda, and magnesia; in all of which substances, these soils are deficient. The ground pea, now extensively cultivated in some of the Eastern Counties, is constitutionally adapted, like the common pea and clover, to sandy soils. In this connexion, it will be instructive to exhibit the composition of a good soil—one which is adapted to general cultivation. The sample is from Halifax Co., of a brown color, and composed as follows: Water, 4.50—Organic matter, 5.20—Silex, 74.30—Alumina and peroxide of iron, 14.00—Phosphoric acid, appreciable—Carbonate of lime, 0.40.—Magnesia, 0.30—Potash, 0.65—Soda, 0.03. The essential elements are here found in fair proportions. Alumina or clay never enters into the composition of plants, altho' it is an essential element of all soils.

The analysis of a good *wheat* soil from Perquimons Co—equalling, in every respect, the soils of Gennessee Co. in New York, gave the following result: Water, 4.63—Organic matter, 4.69—Silex, 85.73—Alumina and iron, 7.40—Lime, 0.18—Magnesia, 0.92—Soluble Silica, 0.92—Potash, 0.06—Soda, 0.01—Phosphoric acid, appreciable—slightly varying results. And here it may be remarked that it is not so much the chemical as the physical constitution which converts a good general soil into one adapted to a specific use. The addition of alumina or clay is what makes the difference, altho, as previously stated, it is never assimilated in the animal body, or taken up by the roots of plants.

The State of North Carolina owns large tracts of lands in the Eastern Counties the soil of which is eminently of vegetable origin. Thus we have *sandy soils* at one extreme of the varities, and *peaty soils*, at the other. The Open Ground Prarie, in Carteret Co., containing upwards of 50,000 acres, is of this peaty character. It is now fully established, that a soil purely vegetable, will not produce the cereals (grains)—neither will one of pure sand, or pure lime produce them. Organic matter, sand, clay and lime are all essential, and yet neither by itself can produce a ripe seed. There must be a mixture of organic and inorganic matter. One hundred grains of this peaty soil only gave by analysis three per cent. of inorganic matter; proving the almost total absence of any earthy compound. Soils of this description are greatly improved by the application of lime, and a heavy dressing of mud and sand. In using soils, there is added to the vegetable mould, the elements necessary for the production of the different kinds of grain. The physical properties of soil should be well understood. A productive soil has usually a due mixture of coarse and fine materials—course, that the air and moisture may penetrate them, —fine, that chemical action and solution may *be promoted*, and the fertilizing matter retained.

THE VATICAN.

This word is often used, but there are many who do not understand its import. The term refers to a collection of buildings on one of the seven hills of Rome, which cover a space of 1560 feet in length, and 1000 feet in breadth. It is built on the spot once occupied by the garden of the cruel Nero. It owes its origin to the bishop of Rome; who, in the early part of the sixth century, erected a humble residence on its site. About the year 1150, Pope Eugenius rebuilt it on a magnificent scale. Innocent II, a few years afterwards, gave it up as a lodging to Peter II, King of Arragon. In 1305, Clement V, at the instigation of the King of France, removed the Papal See from Rome to Avignon, when the Vatican remained in a condition of obscurity and neglect for more than 70 years. But soon after the return of the pontifical court to Rome, an event which had been so earnestly prayed for by the poor Petrarch, and which finally took place in 1376, the Vatican was put into a state of repair, again enlarged, and it was thenceforward considered as the regular palace and residence of the Popes, who one after the other, added fresh buildings to it, and gradually enriched it with antiquities, statues, pictures and books, until it became the richest depository in the world.

The Library of the Vatican was commenced fourteen hundred years ago. It contains 40,000 manuscripts, among which are some by Pliny, St. Thomas, St. Charles, Barromee, and many Hebrew, Syriac, Arabian and Armenian Bibles.

The whole of the immense buildings composing the Vatican are filled with statues, found beneath the ruins of Ancient Rome; with paintings by the masters, and with curious medals and antiquities of almost every description. When it is known that there have been exhumed more than 70,000 statues from the ruined temples and palaces of Rome, the reader can form some some idea of the riches of the Vatican.

The Vatican will ever be held in veneration by the student, the artist and the scholar. Rafael and Michael Angelo are enthroned there, and their throne will be as endurable as the love of beauty and genius in the hearts of their worshippers.

We copy the following, says the Newbern News, from the Patent Office Reports for 1851. We suppose it would hardly find a place in an Official Report by the United States Government, unless it was well authenticated:

"On land owned and cultivated by James Williams, an onion grew to the enormous weight of twenty-one pounds. On this same land a turnip was grown which equalled exactly in size the top of a flour barrel. On land owned and cultivated by Thomas Fallon, a Cabbage grew which measured while growing, 13 feet 6 inches around its body. The weight is not known. The various cereal grains grow to a height of from six to twelve feet. One red-wood tree known as Fremont's tree, measures over fifty feet in circumference, and is nearly three hundred feet high."

We learn from the Savanah *Republican* that the British ship *Alfred*, Capt. SMILEY, cleared at the Custom House in that city on Tuesday, for Liverpool, has on board the following large and valuable cargo, to wit:—4,349 bales upland cotton, 125 bales Sea Islands and 114,467 feet of P. P. timber. Total weight of cotton 1,971,367 pounds. Total value of cargo $212,722.00

WINTER IN THE ALPS.

Most of our readers are aware that the passages of the Alps between Switzerland Savoy are the most dangerous in the whole range of the natural "cloud cap tower;" and that on the slight table-land afforded on the top of the Great St. Bernard, an hospice has stood for ages. It is supported by the voluntary contributions of all nations.

Catholic and Protestant, Musselman and Hindoo, Christian and Pagan, all find here a neutral ground for the flow of that charity which difference of creed, or race, or clime, can never wholly dry up. And truly it is a noble institution—for the hospitable monks, though their revenue is scanty, open their doors to every stranger that presents himself. And that is by no means a rare occurrence, for in these lofty regions the traveller is often overtaken by [illegible] glitter in the sunshine, and the pink rosed[illegible] appear as if they were never to be sullied by the tempest. On these dreadful occasions the storm comes on with the swiftness of lightning; drifts of snow choke up the roads, and dreadful avalanches sweep into the valleys, carrying trees and fragments of rock before them. In these scenes of awful grandeur the monks mingle, doing their sacred, God-like ministry. They devote themselves to the dangerous task of searching for those unhappy persons who may have been overtaken by the sudden storm; and they are assisted in these Christain offices by a breed of dogs peculiar to the establishment, and whose renown is as universal as that of the chivalric monks themselves.

The sagacity of these animals is remarkable. When the traveller, benumbed with cold, and wearied in his search for the lost track, yields to the stupefying influences of frost, and sinks to the ground for the snow drift to cover him—it is then that the exquisite docility and keen scent of these admirable dogs is called into action. They are sent out in pairs, and though the perishing man be twenty feet beneath the snow, the delicacy of smell with which they can trace him, offers a chance of escape. They scratch away the snow with their feet, then set up a hoarse and solemn bark, which brings the monks and laborers of the convent to their assistance. To provide for the chances that the dogs without human help, may succeed in discovering the unfortunate traveller, one of them has a flask of spirits round his neck, to which the fainting man may apply for support, and another has a cloak to cover him.

The dog of the Great St. Bernard, a spot 8000 feet above the level of the sea, is, indeed, a beautiful and wonderful animal.—He belongs to the spaniel breed, but is peculiarly large and powerful, particularly high upon the legs, and generally of a milk white, or a tabby color. The breed having been cultivated with immense care and assiduity for such a number of years, and the natural faculties of this fine specimen of the dog having been sharpened by generations of training and experience, it is not surprising that their intelligence should be so highly developed, that actually a kind of language has been established between them and the monks. The instinctive intelligence of these dogs is shown by the curious fact, that if a whelp be placed on the snow for the first time, it will begin to scratch it, and sniff about as if in search of something.

As in the human community, so in the canine, there are degrees of excellence; and among the dogs of Great St. Bernard, this rule is strikingly apparent. The sagacity of some of the dogs is absolutely astonishing. The one whose portrait is given at the head of this brief notice, was one of the most splendid animals the convent ever possessed. During the wars of the Emperor Napoleon it was known to all travellers who crossed the passage of St. Bernard, and now the monks around their blazing fire, tell the story of his extraordinary career.

"He died about the year 1816, in an attempt to convey a poor traveller to his anxious family. The Piedmontese courier arrived at St. Bernard a very stormy season, laboring to make his way to the little village of St. Pierre, in the valley beneath the mountain, where his wife and children dwelt. It was in vain that the monks attempted to check his resolution to reach his family. They at last gave him two guides, each of whom was accompanied by a dog, of which one was the remarkable creature whose services had been so valuable to mankind. Descending from the convent, they were in an instant overwhelmed by an avalanche; and the same common destruction awaited the family of the poor courier, who were toiling up the mountain in the hope of obtaining some news of their expected protector and friend. They all perished.

But the most affecting incident recorded of this generous creature is embodied in our illustration.

One day he found a child in a frozen state between the bridge of Dronay and the ice-house of Balsora. He immediately began to lick him, and having succeeded in restoring animation and the perfect recovery of the boy, by means of his caresses, he induced the child to fix himself round his body. In this way he carried the poor little creature, as if in triumph, to the hospital. The body of the dog, we believe, is stuffed and carefully deposited in the Museum of the town of Bern, with the little bottle in which he carried hope and life to perishing travellers, still suspended from his neck.

☞ The extraordinary diamond recently found in Brazil, is said to be one of rare beauty. The discoverer was an old black slave woman, who immediately carried it to her master, a Brazilian, in very needy circumstances. He immediately gave the slave her liberty, and sent his brother to Rio, with the diamond. The Commercial Bank advanced him 1,000 contos, about £10,000 on the gem.