

LETTER FROM PROF. EMMONS.

We are gratified to have in our power to lay before our readers the following interesting and important letter from Prof. Emmons, State Geologist, in relation to the Chatham coal-fields:

FAYETTEVILLE, Feb. 7, 1852. To his Excellency, Gov. Reid:

Sir: I have executed the preliminary examination of the Chatham coal-field, which your Excellency proposed when I visited Raleigh. The results of this examination are highly satisfactory. I began it at Farmersville, the most easterly point where coal had been discovered, and have been able to trace it in its outcrop seventeen or eighteen miles. Along this outcrop, it rises to the surface at nearly a uniform dip and strike, pursuing nearly a direct line from point to point, and maintaining withal, through the whole distance, an average thickness of at least six and a half feet. The principal bed exceeds seven feet at one or two points. A two foot bed lies below the main one, with ten or twelve inches of slate only between them. Another three foot bed lies thirteen feet beneath, with bituminous slate intervening. The thickness of the main bed is all that can be wished, inasmuch as it is more profitable than one of nine or ten feet.

As there can be no question, then, as to the length of the outcrop and the thickness of the respective beds, the important question is, will these beds thin out and become lost in the shales, or will they preserve their present average thickness? This question, though it cannot be decided positively, still, if we may place confidence in geological principles, we may feel a great degree of assurance that they will prove as permanent as the beds of coal of Virginia and Pennsylvania. In the first place, diluvial action, as it is sometimes termed, has never been felt here. There is no drift. The beds of pebbles are not transported masses, like our Northern drift, but simply the remains of an old sea bottom. Beds of coal have not, therefore, been swept away. In the second place, we find all the usual accompaniments of coal, as shale, fossils, beds of the hydrous peroxide of iron &c. In the third place, there is a sufficient breadth and depth to the coal series, though the amount of coal is not always in proportion to the breadth and depth of strata; thus in the coal-field of Nova Scotia, which I examined in 1835, I found only one bed of coal of four feet in strata, whose aggregate thickness is fourteen thousand feet. In the fourth place, there is an uplift or undulation of the strata, by which the main bed of coal is brought to the surface at one and a half or two miles south from the first outcrop, which last is within the outer rim of the basin. There can scarcely be a doubt, therefore, that there is a breadth of coal of two miles, at least, and which extends seventeen or eighteen miles continuously. I have, however, no idea that the coal-field is thus restricted either in length or breadth.

There is only one place where a bed thins out, and this is the effect of a local disturbance common to all formations. From the facts and phenomena, then, of the Chatham coal-field, we have little reason to fear its early failure. It is proper for me to observe, in this connexion, that I do not regard this coal-field as extensive as many others in this country. The Appalachian, the Illinois and Michigan coal-fields are much longer and wider—the former being nearly 900 miles long and from 150 to 200 broad.

The quality of the coal of Chatham is excellent. It is adapted to parlor use, but particularly to the manufacture of gas for lighting houses and streets; and also for coke, which may be employed in the manufacture of the best kinds of bar iron. I see no reason why it may not supersede the foreign bituminous coals. It is remarkably free from the sulphuretted iron. This mineral, however, is disseminated through the black shales—an important fact to be borne in mind when large quantities are to be sent to market, for if this shale is mixed with the coal in considerable quantities, it may produce spontaneous combustion.

I am, most respectfully yours, E. EMMONS.

FAYETTEVILLE AND CENTRE PLANK ROAD.—We learn from the report of Jno. Eccles, Esq., Engineer to the Directors, that the actual location of the road, except upon the 2d section, has been made to the Western bank of Puppy Creek. In the location, the line has been shortened and generally improved.

J. A. Williams, Esq., Contractor for 3 sections, has completed the clearing of the road, except upon a portion of the 2d section not located. Col. Gillis, Contractor on 3 sections, has nearly completed the bridge at Bone's Creek, and has commenced clearing. Mr McCoolman has commenced clearing on the 12th and 13th sections.—On the 14th and 15th, operations are not yet commenced, but no delay is anticipated by the Engineer.

The Contractors, says the report, are carrying on their operations with spirit and energy, and the prospect of the speedy grading of the road is very cheering.—Observer.

A Washington letter writer states Mr Clay is constantly receiving boxes, and bottles and packages of quack medicines, from all parts of the country, recommended for all sorts and descriptions of diseases.

DISTRESSING.—Mr Spruce McRary, of Davidson county, a young man, of 24 or 25 years, became mentally deranged on Saturday last. The immediate cause of it, was the death of his father, Wilson McRary, who died on the day previous. His friends, we learn, have taken him to the Lunatic Asylum, at Columbia, S. C.—Salisbury Watchman.

NORTH CAROLINA AND THE PRESIDENCY.

We sincerely believe that if a suitable candidate be presented, and a vigorous and united effort be made, the vote of North Carolina can and will be secured for the democratic candidate for the Presidency.—The prospects are fair for the occurrence of such an event, and with such prospects, we think it right and proper that the voice of North Carolina should be heard and have its due influence in determining the choice of the national convention.

We are now and always have been opposed to any such committal in favor of one candidate as might imply the existence of hostility or distrust towards other worthy and prominent members of the party, who may be preferred by other States or sections, and may eventually be the selection of the national convention. But at the same time, we think it not only right and proper, but eminently due to the people themselves that they should, at their various primary meetings, designate their first choice, by way of guidance and instruction to their delegates. Such designation or expression of a choice can fairly be made, without disparagement to the first choice of others, or implying any antagonism to any of them who may receive the nomination in preference.

We have every reason to believe that the democracy of this State has already made its selection, and that its first choice for the Presidency has fallen upon Hon. James Buchanan, of Pennsylvania, with whose name is associated that of a distinguished citizen of our own State, Hon. Robert Strange. This ticket having been presented by the sterling democracy of Duplin, and having been received favorably by various papers throughout the State.

The name of the Hon. J. J. McKay has, on more occasions than one, we believe, been brought before the convention by the North Carolina delegation.—We do not know whether that gentleman would receive a nomination, even if tendered. His reputation would confer more lustre upon the Vice Presidency, than the possession of that office could upon him.—These are our own ideas, and may be regarded in the light of a suggestion or not, just as may happen; we have not made up our own mind on the subject.

It may then be regarded as almost certain that Mr Buchanan is the first choice of this State for the Presidency, with some of our own distinguished citizens for the Vice Presidency. Judge Strange occupies at present the most prominent position. His fitness for the office requires no endorsement from us. In Mr Buchanan we have the fullest confidence.—So we have in many other prominent gentlemen, both at the North and at the South, and we have little doubt but that any sound democrat (and we take it for granted that the convention will nominate none other) will receive the united and enthusiastic support of the Democracy of this State, whether he may have been their own first choice or not. Still as the action of the national convention must be founded in a great measure upon the views of the people as far as they can be ascertained, and as we hope and expect to do something towards the success of the Democratic candidate, it is but right that our views should be expressed and have their due weight in the choice of such candidates. The Goldsboro' Republican and Patriot, the Warrenton News, and the Graham Democrat, have already expressed a preference for Mr Buchanan.

THE CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS.

It is well known that, in 1842, the Democrats were in power in the Legislature of this State, and that the duty of re-arranging the Congressional Districts devolved upon the Legislature which assembled during that year. This duty was performed, and, according to usage and custom it was expected, by all conservative and fair-minded citizens, that the Districts, thus laid off, would stand for ten years. But not so. The Whig leaders became so hungry for "the spoils" that they overleaped both usage and custom, and set every consideration in favor of conservatism and permanent legislation at defiance, by repealing the act of 1842, and by substituting in its place an act designed and expressly framed with the view of securing to themselves two-thirds of the Districts. This they did at the session of 1846—47; and their main argument in favor of this action was, that they had the majority in the State, and were, therefore, entitled to a majority of the members. This is history. Claiming to be, of all parties, the conservative party, and professing above all other men to hold in the highest respect the time-honored usages of the State, they nevertheless went forward in the perpetration of an act which had no other principle to sustain it than the mere accidental majority of numbers. The result was that they got most of the seats in Congress, but public opinion was stifled. Well, the Democrats came into power again in 1850.—They were sustained by a popular majority of over two thousand, and they had both branches of the Legislature; and what course did they adopt? They found the law of 1842 repealed, and the Raynermander of 1846 in operation, and they felt, upon a survey of the entire field, that their right to repeal this Raynermander and restore the first act, was by far more than that of their opponents to repeal the original law; but they preferred the repose of the public mind and the ascendancy of conservative doctrines to their own interests as a party, and so they permitted the Raynermander to stand. This, too, is history. Read it, and then say which party has most regard for law, order, and those conservative principles which lie at the foundation of our Republican system.

But there is one point connected with this subject which we desire to bring distinctly before the public mind. It is this: The Whig leaders claim, as a fixed principle, that the party which has the popular majority is entitled to a majority of Congress. Well, the Democrats have the popular majority now, and they had it at the last session. And now, was it not the duty of these leaders, at the last session, according to their own doctrine, to come forward and offer to the Democrats a change in the Districts, so as to give the latter a majority of the members? Were they not bound, as consistent and honest men, to make this surrender? It will not do to say the Democrats might not or would not have accepted it—the point is, were not these leaders, according to their own principle of action, and from the regard they profess to have for the popular majority, bound to make the offer? That is the point and we now call upon the Raleigh Register, in the presence of the people, to meet it and dispose of it.

FOUL MURDER.

A most horrible affair was developed in the District of Richmond, Philadelphia, on the 30th ultimo, which, for excessive brutality is without a parallel in modern days.

Three sacks were discovered in the flats of the river, frozen in the ice. They were brought out, and found to contain portions of human remains. The coroner was sent for, and soon there were not less than 1500 persons assembled. Upon examining the sacks a most bloody and horrible spectacle was presented. In one was a head, and legs and feet; in another a thorax, arms and hand, with the viscera of the chest; and in the third, the lower portion of the trunk, and the hips and thighs, with the viscera of the abdominal region. The portions of the body in the different sacks were, with parts of the clothing of the deceased, fixed and tied together so as to occupy the least space. In each sack was a heavy paving stone.

The head had been severed from the trunk, the body hewn in twain, the legs clopped off at the knees, and the feet partly cut from the legs, at the ankles, so that they might be bent upwards! There had also been an attempt to cut the thorax in two lengthwise. On the top of the head were two frightful wounds, fracturing the skull. The nose was likewise broken and the eyes blackened.

The supposed victim of this diabolical tragedy, was the son of Aaron Lehnian, aged 17 years, a German Jew pedlar, above Franklin Avenue, Penn. District. When last seen he had with him about \$200 worth of common watches, jewelry, and fancy articles, which comprised almost the entire stock in trade of his father.

There never has been a parallel to this monstrous homicide in the annals of crime in Philadelphia. It even exceeds in atrocity the murder of the Bartle family, in Roxborough.

There was strong circumstantial testimony against three Hungarian refugees, who occupied a house in the vicinity where the remains of the unfortunate youth were found. The deceased was last seen about entering this house, and had previously stated these men had fooled him by pretending they desired to purchase jewelry from him to present to their sister. Before moving away the Hungarians sold their goods and a quantity of geese feathers resembling those found in the sacks with the remains.

INTERESTING FACT.—The Rev. J. D. Tyler, Principal of the Deaf Mute Department of the Virginia Institution, states in his last interesting report, that our own country is the only one which the question whether the children of deaf mutes are themselves apt to be deaf, has approached solution. Two hundred educated deaf mutes assembled in Hartford, Conn. Sept. 25, 1850. Of these, 103 were married, some quite recently. Seventy-two were parents, the parents of 103 children, ninety-eight of whom can hear and speak. Instances are given of parents, both deaf from birth, having children able to hear and speak. "An instance," says Mr Tyler, "exists in our institution, in the case of an instructor and his amiable wife, both deaf from birth—but their two bright little boys have all their senses in perfection. So that the apprehension in question, "continues the Principal," is not sufficient ground for denying to deaf mutes the chief earthly happiness; the school and exercise of virtue—the state which preserves nations, and fills cities and churches and heaven itself."

IMPROVEMENT OF TAR RIVER.—We learn that Gov. Reid has appointed the following gentlemen as Commissioners under act of Assembly, to superintend the contemplated improvements in Tar river, to wit: William Norfleet, Esq., of Edgecombe. Richard H. Lewis, Esq., of Pitt. James K. Hatton, Esq., of Beaufort. These gentlemen have been selected from the Counties more immediately interested in this improvement, and there can be no doubt as to their fitness for the post assigned them. We hope that much benefit may result from the proposed improvement.—Standard.

DISGRACEFUL ENCOUNTER AT THE CAPITOL.—We learn from Washington that immediately after adjournment of the Senate on Thursday, Mr Kennedy, the Superintendent of the Census, approached Senator Borland, and sharp words ensued, which ended in a disgraceful conflict, during which, it is said, the Hon. Senator fractured the Superintendent's nose. Several Senators and others then interfered, and prevented further difficulty.

PRINTERS.—Mr Bigelow, of the New York Evening Post stated at the late Printer's Festival in New York, that while Inspector of the State Prison at Sing Sing, he found among the prisoners the representatives of every imaginable business, art, and calling in life, save one, and that calling was the art of Printing. There was not in that institution during the three years he was connected with it, nor had there been for a quarter of a century, a single setter of types.

In regard to the literary qualifications of journeymen printers, Mr Rives, of the firm of Blair & Rives, said: "I have seen the manuscript writings of most of the great men who have lived in this country during the last twenty years, and I think I may safely say that not twenty of them could stand the test of the scrutiny of one half of the journeymen printers employed in my office."

The Wilmington Herald announces that a new Episcopal Church is to be erected in Wilmington, the parish having become so large as to require division. The building proposed to be erected will be made of brick, and will cost from 12,000 to 15,000 dollars.

MESSAGE FROM EDGAR A. POE.

If the "spiritual writing manifestations" are a delusion, they are getting to be something more,—something approaching a very ingenious, persistent and unscrupulous attempt to palm and utter fraud upon the credulous, by men of rare power and genius. From recent developments, in this quarter, we are led inevitably, by the plainest deductions of reason and common sense, to the conclusion that there is little or no self-deception in the matter. Either the manifestations are of the general nature that they claim to be, viz:—those of other than incarnate intelligences, or they are the result of a studied deception, and guilty collusion, unequalled in the world's history.

The last number of the Spirit Messenger contains a message and a poem, purporting to have issued from the spirit of Edgar A. Poe. The poem, and the prose message introducing it, challenge attention, at once, by their intrinsic literary merit, and by a marvelously close alliance to the style of versification, thought and genius of the author from whose spirit they are alleged to have emanated. They were communicated through the "writing medium," Lydia Tenny. We ask for these productions a close examination, by all who have studied the erratic genius of Poe, who, whether good, bad or indifferent, as a writer, never had a parallel. We may over-rate these productions, yet while we are aware of certain limblings in the measure, they appear to us to be steeped in the very spirit of Poe, whether they emanated from his spirit or not. The allusion to the "fearful spirit-spasm," a phrase most felicitous in describing Poe's life of darkness; the "hideous but alluring fancies" in which he groined and on which he gloated, the incidental, hardly perceptible, allusion to that one soul that haunted all his poems—the "Lost Lenore"—all tend to show that it is the work of a rare master of deception, a most thorough adept in art, or that it is precisely what it claims to be.

We present these productions without further comment, simply remarking that regarded as a curiosity in literature, we have not seen its equal in many a day: "Listen to me and I will tell you of beautiful things—of thoughts both wild and tender, both soothing and tumultuous, which dwell in a human heart. A question which has moved the minds of millions is: What is the end and aim of imagination—for what was it implanted in the human organization?—What was my own? but a vortex rushing within itself, upon whose brink I could seem to stand and see what was being swallowed and reproduced—thorns, jagged rocks, beautiful flowers all in the whirl of this ceaseless current merged.

O, the dark, the awful chasm!
O, the fearful spirit-spasm!
Wrought by unresisted passion!
In my heart.
Fancies hideous, but alluring,
Love pure, but unending,
From time to time securing
Each a part.
Then embraced by seraph bands—
Drawn by tender, loving hands—
From those treacherous, hateful sands
Of despair.

How my soul was waked to gladness
And cast off the deadening sadness,
And the soul devouring madness
Of despair.
Then came dreams soft and holy,
Over roses wandering slowly,
With sweet music stealing lowly
To my ear.
Hark! I hear—I hear her calling,
In tones no more of wailing,
But in dewy sweetest sighing—
"Here—up here!"
Thanks, Great Heaven, I am stronger—
Slave to earthly lust no longer,
I am free.
O, this lightness! O, this brightness!
O, this pure and heavenly whiteness,
Marking thee!
Freed from earth and sin for ever,
Death can us no more dis sever,
Humbly thank Great God together,
Thou and me.

JEWELRY.—A writer who has been permitted to look at the rich things in a store in New York says that the proprietors informed him that they sometimes sell jewelry worth \$25,000. Sets worth \$15,000 or \$20,000 are more frequently sold; while from \$5,000 to \$10,000 is often paid for a necklace, bracelet, breast-pin, and ear-jewels. He saw some beautiful \$7,000 sets of jewelry, and some ladies watches, for which the modest sum of \$600 each was asked; also rings and breast-pins at the low price of \$15,000 each. Gold card-cases, set with diamonds, were to be had at \$300. They often sell from five to ten thousand dollars' worth of bridal presents per week.—Washington Telegraph.

Five hundred Persons destroyed by a Water Spout.—Intelligence has been received under date Malta, Monday, the 8th ult., of a most awful occurrence at the Island of Sicily, which had been swept by two enormous water spouts, accompanied by a terrific hurricane. Those who witnessed the phenomena described the water spouts as two immense spherical bodies of water reaching from the clouds, their cones nearly touching the earth, and as far as could be judged, at a quarter of a mile apart, travelling with immense velocity. They passed over the island near Marsala. In their progress houses were unroofed, trees uprooted, men and women, horses, cattle and sheep, were raised up, drawn into their vortex, and borne on to destruction; during their passage rain descended in cataracts, accompanied with hailstones of enormous size and masses of ice. Going over to Castellmarre, near Stabia, it destroyed half the town, and washed two hundred and ninety of the inhabitants into the sea, who all perished. Upwards of five hundred persons have been destroyed by this terrible visitation, and an immense amount of property, the country being laid waste for miles. The shipping in the harbor suffered severely, many vessels being destroyed, and their crews drowned. After the occurrence numbers of dead human bodies were picked up, all frightfully mutilated and swollen.—Eng. Paper.

A Good Dog.—A little girl, the daughter of a gentleman with whom we are acquainted, was sent a few days since to a neighboring house for a garment that had been left there by her mother. The two houses were within view of each other, a common intervening. On entering the garden of the house to which she had been sent, she was attacked by three dogs, and thrown down; her clothes were torn, and one of the animals seized her by the foot. At her own home there was a big, good-natured dog, who had never before manifested any other positive qualities than a good appetite. But he seemed to have apprehended the danger the child was approaching; his eyes had followed her, and, with the first intimation of the attack, he bounded forward reached the scene of action in time to rescue the child, and sent her assailants howling. As she entered the lodge, he forced his way in beside her; and when the lady attempted to hand her the article for which she had been sent, he sprang between them; and in no other way could the child procure it than by taking it up from where it had been laid after the family had left the room. When she departed, the dog took his position between her and all possible assailants; and as she emerged from the premises he took place behind her, and followed slowly, and with a defiant air, until she had regained her own home, when he threw himself down at the threshold, with his face toward the theatre of his exploit, and relapsed into his accustomed reverie.—Wash. Telegraph.

Extraordinary Case of Mirage.—A telegraphic dispatch appeared in The Tribune of Wednesday last stating that, at 3 o'clock of the afternoon previous, a large steamship, with side-wheels, and three masts, apparently in sight of Newport Beach, was plainly in sight of Newport Beach, standing westward, and that, beyond doubt, it was the Arctic, then due at New York. It seems, however, that at that time the Arctic, (the steamer seen, as there was no other in the vicinity,) was above 60 miles from the beach. In explanation of this, Capt. Ezer, Commander of the Arctic, has furnished us with the annexed statement:

Steamship Arctic, Jan. 20, 1852.

Tuesday, 3 P. M. Beaver Tail Light off Newport Harbor bore true N. N. W. 4 W., distant 62 miles. At this time, a vapor like arising from hot water was floating over the sea, from one to four feet above its surface. Several of my passengers, observing and wondering at this appearance, asked the cause. That night, the lights all showed as two, one above the other; the lower or what seemed the reflected light, appearing several minutes before the upper or real light.

The phenomena seen on the beach and on board the Arctic form a most remarkable case of mirage. We do not recollect another instance in which this peculiar sort of atmospheric reflection was so strikingly manifested.

A PROCLAMATION.

By His Excellency, DAVID S. REID, Governor of the State of North Carolina.

Whereas, three-fifths of the whole number of members of each House of the General Assembly did at the last session pass the following Act:

AN ACT to amend the Constitution of North Carolina.

Whereas, the freehold qualification now required for the electors for members of the Senate conflicts with the fundamental principles of liberty; Therefore,

Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina, that it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, three-fifths of the whole number of members of each House concurring, that the second clause of the third section of the first article of the amended Constitution ratified by the people of North Carolina on the second Monday of November, A. D. 1835, be amended by striking out the words "and possessed of a freehold within the same district of fifty acres of land for six months next before and at the day of election," so that the said clause of said section shall read as follows: All free white men of the age of twenty-one years (except as is hereinafter declared) who have been inhabitants of any one district within the State twelve months immediately preceding the day of any election and shall have paid public taxes, shall be entitled to vote for a member of the Senate.

Sec. 2. Be it further enacted, That the Governor of the State be, and he is hereby directed, to issue his Proclamation to the people of North Carolina, at least six months before the next election for members of the General Assembly, setting forth the purport of this Act and the amendment to the Constitution herein proposed, which Proclamation shall be accompanied by a true and perfect copy of the Act, authenticated by the certificate of the Secretary of State, and both the Proclamation and the copy of this Act, the Governor of the State shall cause to be published in all the newspapers of this State, and posted in the Court Houses of the respective Counties in this State, at least six months before the election of members to the next General Assembly.

Read three times and agreed to by three-fifths of the whole number of members of each House, respectively, and ratified in General Assembly, this 26th day of January, 1851.

J. C. DOBBIN, S. H. C. W. N. EDWARDS, & S.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, Office of Secretary of State.

I, William Hill, Secretary of State, in and for the State of North Carolina, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and perfect copy of an Act of the General Assembly of this State, drawn off from the original on file in this office. Given under my hand, this 21st day of Dec. 1851.

WM. HILL, Sec'y of State.

And whereas, the said Act provides for amending the Constitution of the State of North Carolina so as to confer on every qualified voter for the House of Commons the right to vote also for the Senate;

Now, therefore, to the end that it may be made known that if the aforesaid amendment to the Constitution shall be agreed to by two-thirds of the whole representation in each House of the next General Assembly, it will then be submitted to the people for ratification, I have issued this my Proclamation in conformity with the provisions of the before recited Act.

In testimony whereof, David S. Reid, Governor of the State of North Carolina, hath hereunto set his hand and caused the Great Seal of said State to be affixed.

Done at the city of Raleigh, on the thirty-first day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-one, and in the 76th year of our Independence.

DAVID S. REID.

By the Governor, THOMAS SETTLE, Jr., Private Sec'y.