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PINKNEY ROLLINS,
Editor and Proprietor.

Mineral and Agricultural Resources OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA,

BY

Richard Owen. M. D. LL. D., Professor of Natural Science Indiana State University.
Author of "KEY TO THE GEOLOGY OF THE GLOBE," and late STATE GEOLOGIST of Indiana.

Professor RICHARD OWEN writes as follows:

NEW HARMONY, Indiana, Sept. 1, 1871.

JUDGE H. H. GRESHAM,
LOUISVILLE, KY.

Dear Sir:—By your request I have written, and will send herewith a brief outline of some facts concerning Western North Carolina; being pressed for time and compelled to condense so much matter into so small a space, makes this article less intelligible than I would desire; but if it should have the influence to awaken an interest in the minds of the public in this country, or in Europe, in reference to that most delightful climate on this continent, I may if desired in future, (if my life be spared,) enlarge upon the brief outline of facts herein set forth.

I have no pecuniary interest in any manner whatever, in any lands or minerals in N. C., either as owner, or agent, in any manner; I here state facts with philanthropic feelings, wishing only to do good to those who would secure good homes at a small cost, in a climate as health giving and delightful as can be found on the face of the whole earth. Wishing you success, I am very respectfully and truly yours,

RICHARD OWEN.

Although the observations made (some 4 or 5 years ago) during a ride of near two months through several of the Western counties of North Carolina, enable me to speak from personal inspection, and my own knowledge chiefly of that region, still from information received through reliable and unquestionable sources, and from the reports of the N. C. State Geologist and his assistants, many of my personal observations would seem applicable also to other parts of the State not visited by me.

After residing fifteen years in Scotland, three years in Switzerland, and traveling in many parts of Europe, (including Greece and the Crimea,) as well as in Palestine, and Egypt; also about fifteen months in Mexico, six years in the State of Kentucky, three years in Tennessee; one summer at Lake Superior, I have traveled through most of the states of this union, have lived for many years at my present residence in Indiana, have spent some months in Mississippi, and Louisana, a summer in New Mexico, have traveled for months over the Rocky mountains, and perhaps have acquired sufficient means of comparison to enable me to present the advantages of each locality here named, with considerable accuracy, and with reference to the wants of immigrants. At all events I shall place such facts before them as can be readily verified, if the readers of this seek to inform themselves about the entire correctness of my statements: though in cases where a considerable body of persons wish to locate in a place unknown to them it is generally more satisfactory to them to send two or more of their number out to view the lands and prospects and report.

As to minerals there is probably no other State in this continent that can offer greater inducements in that line, a number of the mines have been profitably worked there, but the work of developing the great mineral wealth of that State we may safely consider as just begun, although we are told by Prof. W. C. Kerr, State Geologist in 1863, that the yield of gold had then been *more than ten millions of dollars*. When we take into consideration the gold, silver, copper, zinc, iron, corundum, coal, alum, copperas, mica, barytes, marl, tungsten, cromic iron, soapstone, millstone quarries, grindstone quarries, fire clay, porcelain clay, marble and limestone, we may safely say that many millions of capital might well and profitably be employed there in the proper development of those minerals. The lands rich with most kinds of minerals above named can now be purchased at from one dollar to twelve dollars per acre, (while some mineral lands where the mines have been opened would sell a great deal higher,) there is an abundance of room in that State for men of large capital and great enterprise. But the men most needed just now are thorough and Scientific farmers, fruit growers and stock raisers; there are millions of acres of splendid unbroken forests of large trees; walnut, poplar, hickory, maple, the fir tree and many other growths. Many straight and beautiful white oaks are four to five feet in diameter, and eighty feet or more to a limb. The soil (a large portion of it) is very rich, whether in the valleys, on the mountain sides, or mountain tops; grasses grow luxuriantly and tall nearly all over the Western part of the State. I often saw wild grasses as tall as an ordinary horse; I have never seen a better country for raising horned cattle, horses, sheep and hogs; they need but little feeding if left to run in the woods. In fact some farmers seldom or never feed their cattle at all, yet they keep fat all the year round. Sheep and goats, are said to do better without feeding than with it. I know of no better country for men competent at stock raising to amass large fortunes at that business, as stock can be raised at so small an expense. The stock are thrifty and grow large, and a market can be reached in any direction, East, West, North East, South or South West. As for the production of the soil, I need only to refer to the statistics of the Agricultural Department at Washington City. But that kind of historical evidence may not be convenient to the masses, therefore I must give some details.

Those who have ample means, and desire square miles of arable farm land in a rich level country, or on a vast prairie, may suit themselves better in Illinois, Iowa, Kansas or Nebraska, than in Western North Carolina. Our object is simply to state facts, and let the people make their own selections to suit them; we are not working with the special design to benefit any particular State or any individual. If the object of the emigrant be to secure a location in which good health, and longevity are remarkable, combined with good soil (high table land, some of it mountainous,) wonderful grazing facilities, immense water power, with a market already good, and the facilities for easy access to all parts of the country rapidly increasing by the construction of several lines of Railroads through the Western part of the State; then we would say, to those in search of such and similar advantages, in our candid opinion they can not do better than to pitch their tent in Western North Carolina.

OF THE CLIMATE.

It may be said on observing that North Carolina lies between the parallels of 34 degrees and 37 degrees North Latitude, it may be thought by inhabitants of Great Britain and others that the climate is too warm in summer for comfort, and such may be the case (for many persons) in the eastern part of the State on the low lands; but when we consider that in a large portion of the Western part of the State the lands rise to an altitude of several thousand feet above the ocean, and that in consequence of the great elevation, there is a freshness, coolness, and purity in the atmosphere not to be found in the low lands of same latitude; then our statements about the extreme health giving qualities of the climate in those high lands will not be deemed unreasonable. It may be proper to remark that although far remote from the ocean, the sea breezes are often carried by the winds nearly to the extreme Western part of the State.

In my travel through Haywood, Jackson, Macon and other western counties in Western North Carolina, it was in mid summer, and I found that others as well as myself always found it pleasant to have at least one and often two thick blankets, as a covering at night, and our sleep was most refreshing and invigorating. There are no minsquitoes there, and but few troublesome insects of any description. In daytime the pure, fresh breeze prevented at all times the sun's rays from having that oppressive power as felt in the low lands, even in places hundreds of miles further northward. Here the crops seldom, if ever, suffer much for want of rain, the mountains serve to arrest the moist air as it rises from the ocean and the rivers and condense it into clouds, and thus that country has plenty of rain when a hundred miles away the lands are parched with drought. Water is always abundant all over the high lands in that State. The high lands thus described may be said to embrace an area, which in extent would be nearly or quite equal to one hundred miles square; the higher the elevation the cooler the climate in summer. There is probably no location in the State more healthy than round about Asheville, Buncombe county; and it is just and proper to say that in Haywood, Jackson, and Macon counties, also in Madison and other counties in that vicinity, the climate is as health-giving as at Asheville; we mention Asheville because that has been the abode of wealth and refinement. It has been a favorite resort for persons of weak lungs and other diseases, and many scientific observations have been made there. In reference to climate and the mean temperature at Asheville, I am permitted to copy from a a reliable report by Doct. H. P. Gatchell now before me. He says "That the reader may be better able to judge of the merits of the climate of Asheville, N. C. and vicinity, I offer the following comparison between this section of country in North Carolina and that of Dijon (in the valley of the Rhone, in the eastern part of France, thought by many to be the best place for invalids on the whole earth) and celebrated for its choice burgundy wine. This report was made for the same year for both places, and has been made with great care and accuracy.

The average range of the thermometer was as follows:

In Asheville, Jan., 36,5; Feb., 38,7; March, 46,1; April, 54,5; May 62,3; June 69,7.

In Dijon, Jan., 33,6; Feb., 36,7, March, 48,2; April, 51,1; May, 60,6; June, 66,0.

In Asheville, July, 73,2; Aug., 70,9; Sept., 65,5; Oct., 54,4; Nov., 46,0; Dec., 36,3.

In Dijon, July, 70,2; Aug., 72,5; Sept., 62,4; Oct., 53,8; Nov., 45,7; Dec., 35,9.

Hills that are almost useless for other purposes may be made very valuable for wine making, and the hill sides of Western North Carolina may with proper culture yet rival those of the Cote d'Or in France."

The particular geological formations in Western N. C. (not necessary to fully explain here) causes the flow of such a very large abundance of springs, of the purest and most delicious soft water, which is indeed more healthy than pure limestone water.

An examination of the statistics of the United States will show that no other State in the Union has a more favorable record for longevity than N. C. But it will be remembered that my remarks are intended principally for the high lands in the western part of the State.

As far, therefore, as healthfulness is concerned (one of the first and most important considerations) I say most unhesitatingly and positively that I know of no region in any country that surpasses Western North Carolina. True, there are spots in Southwest Virginia, Northeast Georgia, Northwest South Carolina, East Tennessee, and probably in Southeast Kentucky, that are very similar to the country I am describing. Parts of the table lands in Mexico, Northern Texas, and New Mexico may be as good for health as Western North Carolina, except that in those far off countries the supply of good water is not near so abundant and easy of access, and in many places irrigation is indispensible to profitable agriculture. An account of that enterprising and prosperous colony at Greeley, in Colorado, will advise you of their many miles of canals for irrigatio. But I wish not to speak detrimental of any part of the country; to present facts for those who may wish to emigrate being my only aim.

Of the agricultural resources of Western North Carolina, I would say that although much of the table lands lying two to three thousand feet or more above the ocean, spread out in areas of very considerable extent, and the surface as level as need be desired for farming, yet there are mountains rising high above those table lands, some of them rising to over six thousand feet above the ocean, the soil rich all the way up and on the top of the mountains, there are some steep precipices and rocky cliffs. I remember to have seen in several places where the ascent to the tops of the mountains seemed to be very easy of access on all sides but one, and a steep precipice on that side. Those steep mountain sides are very excellent for sheep and goats, and much of it good for the culture of grapes.

There is much uncultivated land in that country, and the hill side, as well as the valleys, when not cultivated, and not too thickly covered with timber, are thickly covered with excellent tall grasses along the hill sides and to the very tops, where many thousands of cattle, sheep, goats of horses may graze and keep fat nearly all the year round without any care or attention over them except to call them up occasionally and give them salt, many of the hill sides and hill tops are covered with perpetual verdure. Cattle, sheep, and hogs can at all seasons and times get plenty to eat on the hills or in the valleys except occasionally when the ground is covered with snow in mid winter for a day or two at a time. The winters come on gradual, and are very short; even when the ground is covered with snow, the cattle do well eating branches of the low trees. A species of winter forne is very abundant there; and when necessary the wild grasses (two tons or more to the acre) can be cut and cured for winter use. It may be admissible that I here insert a brief outline of the published statistics of one of the western counties for the year 1860, as I have not seen any published statistics of a later date, but hope to see it shortly for 1870. It is a fact worthy of note that there were never a great many slaves in Western N. C., and there are but few persons of color there now, not near so many as before the war, and therefore laborers are greatly needed to till the soil.

JACKSON COUNTY, N. C., in 1860.—This county was organized out of Haywood and Macon counties in 1830, and lies in the Western part of the State. It was formerly inhabited and owned by the Cherokee Indians, a friendly, peaceable tribe, quiet and well behaved, of whom a few hundred still remain there.

AREA OF LAND 1,308 SQUARE MILES.

Farms, 500; 46,772 acres improved; 775,000 acres unimproved. Much of this land not enlisted, and (in 1860) is the property of the State.

Of the small portion cultivated, the annual product was in 1860: Wheat, 18,000 bushels; Indian corn, 237,997 bushels; oats, 11,000 bushels; beans and peas, 5,000 bushels; Irish potatoes, 16,000 bushels; sweet potatoes, 15,500 bushels; tobacco, 7,000 pounds; wool, 9,000; butter, 42,000; honey, 16,000 pounds; molasses, 10,000 gallons; hay, 1,500 tons; orchard product valued at 15,00 dollars.

Stock: Horses 1,660; Mules 204; Cows 1,916; other cattle 4,223; hogs 16,168, sheep 5,336.

Original growth of timber is Black and White Walnut Locust, Hickory, Poplar, Sugartree, White, and Black Oak, Chestnut, Balsam Fir, Cedar, Ash, Pine &c., the timber is immense. Soil moderate to *very rich*, the valleys, the table lands, and many of the mountain sides and mountain tops are exceedingly fertile and productive. This is a splendid range for cattle grazing. The uncultivated lands one to five dollars per acre. Mines of Gold, Coper, Iron &c., abundant, Limestone all over this region, and good marble in considerable quantities.

Churches 10; Lawyers 2; Doctors 4; Grist Mills 6, Post Offices 8. Webster is the County Seat."

There are many other Western counties in the State that present a much better showing in some respect than this. I have mentioned Jackson county because I think it as healthy as any other county, the Western Rail Road will soon pass through it, the lands in that and in Macon county are rich and very desirable for Colonies and the location is very fine for Agriculture, for Stock raising, and for fruit growing and grapes, the timber is large, elegant and very abundant and may be made very valuable, and withal the prospect seems good *for immense wealth in minerals*. Most of that land owned by the State in Jackson county in 1860, has I think been bought up, but it can still be had *very cheap*. It is by no means improbable that in five years from now the prices may range in that county and in the two adjoining from three to five times, as high as at this time, therefore to the poor men who want cheap homes I would suggest that they go there and examine as early as convenient, and then purchase if they like. This county is splendid for Rye and for nearly all kinds of vegetables, though those articles are not enumerated in the statistics of Jackson county just quoted, neither does the yeild of Hay seem to be large in the statistics. The fact is that the farmers have so little need to feed cattle that they have given very little attention to hay making. I will here make a few quotations from the statistics of other counties, Viz: In Buncombe county Oats and Rye 150,000 bushels, Butter 125,000 pounds, Wool 150,000 pounds, Ginseng $18,000 worth.

In Cleveland county Wool 200,000 pounds. In Craven county *turpentine* 150,000 Barrels. In Duplin county Cotton 8,000,000 pounds. In Hyde county Wool 150,000 pounds. I might make many more quotations that would be extremely interesting to the public, but this article will become more voluminous than I had intended if I am not careful. If I am correctly informed North Carolina is the only State in the Union with a climate so varied in the different portions of the State that within the limits of that State every kind of grain, vegetable, shrub and fruit will thrive and do well that can be produced to perfection in any part of the United States, and this I think is not true of any other one State.

As I must of necessarily condense so much into a small space in this article there may be some facts omitted of greater importance than some items which I have mentioned. The Western part of this State is well adapted to the growth of tobacco, flax and hemp. I have never seen a better country for raising fowls of nearly all kinds. The chickens I saw were exceedingly healthy; and wild birds are seen there in extraordinary abundance. Deer and other wild game are plenty. There are some wild beasts there, but they will soon disappear as the country becomes more thickly settled. I have never known any other locality so prolific in Bees and Honey, as the wild flowers of many beautiful and pleasant scented varieties are in the greatest abundance. As cows can be so easily raised there, immense quantities of them with so little trouble, and as honey is so exceedingly plentiful there, *it may emphatically be said to be a land flowing with milk and honey*. The corn also grows large and plentiful, one hundred to one hundred and fifty bushels per acre is reported in the statistics in some localities, also 600 bushels of Irish potatatoes to the acre. *Wine and Oil* can also be made there in great abundance. The Catawba Grape was originally found growing wild near to Asheville.

It is a fact worthy of note that Western N. C. is in Latitude very nearly on a paralelel with Palestine, and in several respects bears a strong resemblance to that country as it was two thousand years ago.

The soil in Western N. C. is the result of the disintegration of a variety of rocks, especially of the felspathic granites and of sundry metamorphic schists, including calcareous rocks (Sir Charles Lyells Hypogene Limestone often running into beautiful marble), and occasionally Sandstone. This soil is in general a rich sandy loam with good sub-soil, and has not so much of the deep rich alluvium as some of our Western prairie lands, although by no means deficient in humas from decay of vegetable matter; it is chiefly rich in mineral ingredients so essential for plant food. The natural grasses of excellent quality for cattle, horses &c., as before stated are luxuriant and very abundant, never parching up in summer as is the case in many regions of country. The cattle there are exceedingly healthy and prolific, very large herds of cattle, sheep, goats and hogs could be raised here at every small expense.

In many parts of this country fruits may be counted as always certain, *never fails*. The Apricots, Nectrines and Peach often bloom about the first of March, and Apples a few days latter; nearly all kinds of fruits grow in great profusion with but little care. There are few bugs (if any) to injure the trees or the fruits, which are generally very sound and of excellent flavor; many kinds of fruits including a vast variety of excellent grapes are found growing wild in the woods. Berries of nearly all kinds in great abundance are found growing spontaneously on the mountain sides. I know of no better country in Europe or America for growing grapes and making good wines. I have already spoken of the timber, but will add that I know of only a few other places on the globe where the timber grows usually so large, so thrifty and so perfectly straight grained. I saw many trees there over eight feet in diameter, and was told of some over fourteen in diameter. The black Walnut and many other growths grow to an immense size; several species of Magnolia are found there; but there is no need that I dwell more upon the timber.

Of the mineral wealth, I would further say that I found no Coal in the Western part, though there is plenty of it further Eastward in the State; there is also plenty of coal in Tennessee, not very far distant, which will soon be convenient by Rail Roads. In the Eastern part of N. C., coal is so abundant and easy of access, that it can be delivered at tide water at one dollar per ton, and when the R. R. lines now in course of construction in the Western part of the State are completed, coal can be carried there at a small expense.

The marble quarries in several of the Western counties will be immensely valuable so soon as those much needed Railroads are are completed. Much copper, silver, gold, iron and other metals are found in Macon and other counties along, and near the Blue Ridge mountains, extending nearly parallel to that part of the Appalachians, here termed Iron or Smoky mountain. From Whitesides mountain in Macon county, the gold bearing region extends S. S. W. into South Carolina and Georgia; N. N. E. to the Va. line, and probably into Va. Copper has been mined successfully on a prolongation of the Ducktown copper mine strike, chiefly at Cullowhee and Wayehutta mines in Macon county, as well as in the same direction further N. E., especially near Greensboro.

Much of the iron ores are of the bisulphuret, with green and blue carbonate, (good iron ore,) some of it magnetic and yielding over 60 per cent of pure iron. It is found plenty in Buncombe, Haywood, Jackson and Macon counties, by my own observation; and in many other counties abundantly, as I am informed by reliable, scientific gentlemen. I also found Silver, Manganese, Woifrow, and Tungstate of Iron in considerable quantities, in Macon and Buncombe counties. I obtained Kaolin (good porcelain clay,) from decomposing felspathic rocks, affording on analysis almost the same ingredients and proportion contained in the best porcelain clay of Cornwall, England.

I collected in the four counties last mentioned many kinds of minerals interesting to men of science as cabinet specimens, Asbestos (here called cotton rock) Kyanite, Garnet, &c., &c., some of which are valuable. Good quarries of millstone and grindstone, also of scythe and wheat stones are abundant,

The fish, in the rivers and smaller streams, very abundant, easy caught, and of good flavor, plenty of mountain Trout there.

OF THE POPULATION AND THE ROADS

I may say that the inhabitants throughout those high lands where I traveled, appeared to me very remarkable for their probity and genial hospitality, with a strong vein of the older countries (the countries from which they or their forefathers had emigranted,) and a reverence for sacred things pervading their daily character. I was never treated anywhere, among strangers, with more cordial hospitality, although my visit there was shortly after the close of our late war, and it was well known that I had been an officer in the Federal Army. No well behaved person need fear any trouble there on account of his political sentiments.

The country is, as yet, but thinly settled, and consequently school houses and church edifices, are not so convenient as many desire, but those wants will be gradually supplied as the country becomes more densely populated and facilities for general travel becomes more convenient. There are some good Turnpike roads through that country, and the common dirt roads were generally in much better condition than I expected to find them. I have already mentioned the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroads (sometimes called the Western Railroad,) Commencing at Mooretead City on the sea coast and continuing Westward through Raleigh and Westward through Buncombe, Haywood, Jackson, Macon and Cherokee countries, and thence to the Mississippi river, which line will surely be completed before a great while. This Western Railroad will pass near to much of the lands that I traveled over and will give an outlet to many important commercial points E., N. E., S. E., West and S. W. Another continous Railroad line, called the South Carolina Railroad, commences at Charleston, S. C., runs northwardly to Columbia, S. C., thence branching off, one branch now completed to Walhallah, (within 40 miles or less of Macon county, N. C.) and will be extended on through Macon county, to Knoxville, Tenn., and northward from Knoxville to intercept with the Lebanon branch of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad. The other branch from Columbia is now completed to Greenville (or beyond,) and will be continued via Asheville, Buncombe county, N. C.; cross through the route from Knoxville to Norfolk at Morristown, Tenn., and intercept the through routes from Louisville and from Cincinnati to Norfolk at or near to Cumberland Gap. When those Railroad lines are completed the inhabitants of that most delightful country (Western N. C.) can have convenient Railroad, exit to all parts of the country, then will be the plentiful and abundant harvest for those pioneers who buy now while the lands are cheap. In the mean time while those Railroad lines are being extended, all who settle there and are industrious may do well; they may be too far from Railroads when they first go there to take their green fruits and some other articles by wagons to the Railroad station, but it will take time for the fruit trees to grow, and before they can plant orchards and get fruit therefrom, they will hear the steam horse coming past them; and beside that if they had the orchards now in full bearing they can dry the fruit, and then it will bear conveyance by wagons, and beside they can drive their cattle, sheep, hogs and horses to market; the dried fruit, honey, beeswax, ginseng, wheat, furs of animals, cheese, hops, and many other articles will bear carriage by wagons a long distance.

I will suggest that in my opinion it will be more pleasant to immigrants if twenty or or more families (all well acquainted with each other) will join in a colony, with or without co-operation (that is to have anything common stock) just as they prefer, but let them buy their lands in one body (each as much as he chooses and can pay for), and have a settlement of their own. Timber is plenty and log houses are easily constructed, yet it may be convenient for some who can, to bring tents with them, so that they may have shelter at once. But all who emigrate there need not go at once into the woods and make a clearing for themselves, as there are many improved farms for sale which can be bought at exceedingly low prices. There are some persons who before the war owned slaves, never learned to do any kind of work themselves, now that their slaves are gone they can not (or think they can not) work, and their farms can be bought very low. Then again there are numerous pleasant towns and villages, Asheville, Waynesville, Webster, Franklin and other towns where mechanics and manufacturers will be greeted with a hearty welcome. The people in those towns are exceedingly affable and accomodating and many of them very intelligent and refined. Many emigrants may prefer to stop first a few weeks or months in the towns and take their leisure to select land for a farm and make all necessary arrangements; good boarding can be had in the towns at from $15 to $25 per month, and among the farmers at from $8 to $14 per month; there are stage routes through the country, and horses for riding can be hired cheap.

Those who emigrate to that country to clear away the timber and make good farms, and put them in good condition may expect a great deal of very hard labor; but then in that bracing and ever healthful climate labor is not irksome as in a climate which produces lassitude, fevers and many diseases, which are unknown in those delightful highlands in the country I am trying briefly to describe.

If a large party of Excursionists or Emigrants go into the sparsely settled districts in that country, it may be well that they carry with them some provisions, and arrangement for covering at night, as many of the farm houses in that portion of the country are small, and some of them may be ill prepared to give food to a very large party of persons.

Of the immense water power in that country I may remark, that the numerous falls and rapids on various Creeks and Rivers, especially in the mountain regions, render the country not only very picturesque, but most admirably adapted for water power on the cheapest plans, and applicable to a large variety of purposes, Saw and Grist mills, Woolen and Cotton Factories, Foundries, &c, &c.

SUMMARY.

It must thus be obvious that Western North Carolina offers very many attractions to those, who are accustomed to a temperate climate, equivalent in Europe to a somewhat Northern Latitude, and value good health and longevity of life, with fertile soil, plenty of most delicious spring water, a superabundance of water power, an immense quantity of very fine and large timber, unending, pasture in summer and winter for cattle, an abundance of Iron and other ores, and the probability of immense Mineral wealth by the purchase of a few acres of land; to those, and for those who admire those things more than merely richness of arable bottom lands in which febrile diseases may be expected I have written this letter. I am aware that some persons *are averse to a mountain country*, however fertile and otherwise desirable it may be; such persons will probably not wish to locate among these high lands.

The comparative cheapness of these lands in N. C., is a great inducement to many. When we consider the proximity to market in nearly all directions, and the great natural advantages there, it is strange that the lands can be bought so cheap. I account for the present low price of lands there for the following reasons, 1st the lands there have been held until lately by the Indians, 2nd it is a mountain country and not so easy of access as the low lands; and 3rd the Railroads are not yet completed through that country, and in consequence of the sparseness of white settlements, there are not a sufficiency of good Turnpike roads. *The altitude* which makes it health inspiring and the destroyer of lassitude, which makes it a fine grazing country and gives a superabundance of water power, has thus far prevented large emigration. Now to that class of Emigrants who like hills and high table lands, and who value these five requisites, *a climate unquestionably healty, cheapness of land, and fruit growing country, water and water power abundant, and probable great mineral wealth*, I can unhesitatingly recommend Western N. C. as combining all most fully. For pleasure, convenience and profit I may again suggest and impress it on the minds of Emigrants, that it may be well for them to go there in Colonies sufficient in numbers to justify the erection of school houses and church edifices, to support several indispensable mechanics, and at least one competent school teacher in order to make the settlement, if properly managed by honest and enterprising men, all that judicious and far seeing men could reasonably hope to combine in any one locality. I am satisfied that somewhere within the four counties (Buncombe, Haywood, Jackson or Macon) if the proper men engage in the enterprise, that a large and prosperous manufacturing City may be made to spring up almost as by magic, that will astonish the world; you will need men of great caution and foresight, as well as men of large capital and great enterprise. Let men of science investigate that part of the country, and I am satisfied that every assertion in this hastily written article will be fully verified. This article has been written for the masses, especially those who want cheap homes in such a country as I have described; and to those who seek profitable investment in lands, or wish to engage largely in mining or extensive and profitable manufactories, I would say go and see.

Wm. M. Evarts and Benjamin R. Curtis have been appointed counsel for the United States before the tribunal on the Alabama question, which is to meet at Geneva. Mr. Evarts has accepted his appointment. Judge Curtis, now on the way home from Europe, is expected to accept, in which case Messrs Cushing, Evarts and Curtis will be the counsel. Mr. Meredith declines because of inability to make the sea voyage at an inclement season.

[From the Memphis (Tenn.) Avalanche, Oct. 19.]

Death of a Notorious Desperado.

Reliable information was received yesterday of the death of Clarence Collier, the noted Arkansas desperado. It will be remembered that his father, Captain Tom Collier, was killed by Dr. Boatman, of Hopefield, opposite this city, last month.

For a long time Clarence Collier had been a refugee from Arkansas, whose authorities were after him for killing Haynes, in the town of Marion, in 1869. After living in the swamps of Arkansas until tired of the monotonous life he was compelled to lead, young Collier crossed to the Tennessee side. He remained concealed in Memphis some time, venturing forth occasionally, but molesting no one. His haunts were known to a few, but nobody was anxious to risk an encounter with a man who could not be surprised, and with whom a struggle meant death to at least one of the parties.

Finally he struck off into the interior, and made Bolivar, where he had relatives, a sort of headquarters. He pursued no useful avocation. His time was chiefly spent in drinking and displaying, to maintain his character of bully and desperado, a pair of navy sixes, which he kept at all times buckled about his waist. His presence was tolerated because no one cared to provoke him, and his relatives hoped to keep him quiet.

When the elder Collier returned to Memphis a few hours before crossing over to Hopefield to meet his death at Dr. Boatman's hands, he was returning from an exile forced by killing a negro in the latter place last spring. He had a few days before left Clarence on the railway train on the Nashville and Northern Railroad near Waverly, Tennessee. A brakesman and Captain Collier quarreled, the latter being intoxicated. Clarence, who was also on the train, espoused his father's quarrel, drew a knife and plunged it into the railroadman's body. His next step was to escape, and hastily bidding his father good-bye, and appointing a future place of rendezvous, he jumped from the platform of the car, alighted in safety, and was in another moment lost in the woods.

He wondered about several hours, and finally entered the little town of Waverly, in Humphreys county. Once there he sought the house of an acquaintance of years before. Clarence was unaware of the fact, but this man was the Sheriff of the county. To him he related the particulars of the affray on the railway train, as well as of his bloody exploits in Arkansas, confessing that he was a fugitive from justice, and asking assistance in eluding the officers of the law of Humphreys county, who would soon be added to the others who had been so long hunting him down.

The Sheriff promised the desired aid, proffered him a horse, and a few moments afterward wrested a "navy six" from the young man's belt, accompanying the action with: "You're my prisoner!"

Collier was surprised, but said nothing. He was biding his time. But the Sheriff knew something of this man, and calling up two negroes ordered them to search the prisoner, saying:

"Perhaps he has another pistol."

"Yes, I have, damn you," replied Collier, jumping back, and drawing a companion to the weapon already mentioned. He cocked it and fired, but the wary official had "knocked down" the weapon whose bullet burried itself in the desperado's knee. He was borne to the jail; physicians were summoned; amputation became necessary; and from its effects he died a few days ago, after his relatives had arranged for bail, in the hope, doubtless, that he would leave the country, never to return.

Thus perished, at the age of twenty-three, one of the most noted desperadoes of the Southwest. He murdered young Bethell, of this city, in Arkansas in 1868. He had killed a negro some time before; the year following he shot ond killed Captain Haynes, as the latter sat on his horse at Marion. Many stories of his bloody affrays are afloat throughout Western Arkansas. He was fond of talking of them when in drink, but had often complained of the life he led: not for conscience sake, but because the officers of the law gave him no peace. They were constantly hunting him, and he dared hardly sleep for fear of capture.

Hanging of Two Desperadoes.

The San Francisco *Bulletin* publishes the following account of the lynching of two of the escaped Nevada convicts:

The men, Morton and Black, were taken to a house on the road to Carson. A scaffold was raised at the west end of the house, one end of a long beam resting on the top of the chimney, while the other was supported by three pieces of scantling resting on the ground. A couple of ropes were passed over the beam, a wagon driven under, and two nooses lowered. Morton heard the preparations going on, and said to his partner in crime: "Black, are you ready to die?" The answer was: "No; this is not the crowd to hang us." "Yes it is," said Morton, "don't you hear them building the scaffold?" Morton was asked if he wouldn't stand nearer the fire, when he replied: "It isn't worth while warming now." He also said to Roberts, meaning himself and Black, "We are to swing, and I mean to have you hung with us if I can; I want company."

Black was first carried out and lifted into the wagon; he had to be raised to his feet, but stood the rest of the time without being supported. Morton walked out; on turning the corner of the house he calmly surveyed the arrangements, paying close attention to the cross-beam and ropes. He needed but little help to get into the wagon, and immediately commenced to place the noose over his head, saying to the person who stood by him: "Take my coat collar from under the rope." He then requested his hands to be made more fast, as he might catch the rope above his head.

Black spoke but once, asking for water, when Morton inquired, "What do you want with water now?" They were then asked if they had anything to say: Morton, answering "No." They were asked if they wished talk with a minister, or have prayer offered, to which Morton replied that he had told the minister what he had to say the day before. He said it wasn't well for a man to be taken off without some religious ceremony, and if the minister would consent, he would like to have prayer offered. A minister took him by the hand, a few words were spoken, and Morton, who was facing the crowd, said, "I am prepared to meet my God," but immediately added, "I do not know that there is any God." He shook hands with a man standing on the wagon.

Black was shaken hands with them, but said nothing. A short prayer was offered, only broken once or twice by sighs from Black, and as the word "Amen" was pronounced the wagon moved away. Black, being a large, heavy man, died without a struggle. Morton was a small, very small man, and, as if wishing to avoid suffering, sprung high as the support moved from under him, and he died without the movement of a muscle after his weight rested upon the rope.

The Weekly Pioneer.

THURSDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 9, 1871.

GENERAL NEWS.

On the morning of the 1st, Eugene Taylor was murdered in a house of ill-repute in Patterson, N. J., by John Canty, who escaped. Taylor has a wife and two children in New Brunswick.

Henry Hosper, formerly Mayor of Polla, Iowa, and now manager of the Sioux City Colony, has sued the editor of the Sioux City Herald, claiming $25,000 damages. The Herald accused Hosper of adultery and theft.

In New York on the 1st inst., a motion for the discharge of Jordan, the Cuban General, was made before Judge Benedict, on the ground that he has been indicted over a year without trial. The argument will be heard this week.

Some American young lady is threatened with social distiction. Lord Walter Campbell, the young Scotch grandee in New York, is to marry the daughter of an up-town hotel owner. She will be a delighted sister to the proud daughter of England's Queen.

Rowland Wyes, who fatally injured his wife in a drunken row at Sing Sing on Saturday night by knocking her down, jumping upon her and breaking her back, and then throwing her over a fence, has been committed to White Plains on the charge of murder. The womon died on Monday morning.

A despatch dated the 1st inst., from New York, says: Gustave Knester, of Yonkers, was found on the Hudson river road this morning with a pistol-shot wound in his breast. He is said to have been wounded and robbed by highwaymen. He was brought to this city and received attendance and was sent to Bellevue Hospital.

On Thursday night, two weeks ago, a man in Pittsburg committed suicide by shooting himself with a pistol while in his bed. During the night his bed-fellow went to bed without discovering that the other occupant of the couch was a corpse, and was terribly shocked next morning to find that he had slept all night with a man whose head had nearly been blown off with a pistol.

In Little Rock, Ark., on the 1st, inst., some movers, en route from Georgia to Texas, were passing through here, accompenied by negroes raised with the family, and following them from choice. About two hundred negroes surrounded the wagons and took the negroes by force and against their protest. Great indignation exists among the whites.

A dispath from Lockport, N. Y., on the 1st, says: The trial of Erastus F. Pierce, charged with the murder of William Bullock, of Lockport, last March, was concluded in this city last evening, and resulted in finding a verdict of "Not Guilty," which was announced amidst scenes of popular approval difficult to describe. The cause of the homicide was the seduction of Pierce's sisters by Bullock.

The Steamer Flansteed, which arrived in New York on the 1st, brings dates from Rio Janeiro to October 8th. The decree of emancipation, which passed the Brazillian Parliament on the 27th of September, declares free all the slaves held by the Government, numbering 1,700, establises an emancipation fund and makes various other provisions for the benefit of existing slaves. The declaration of the vote was received by the crowded Senate with great applause, and rose leaves were showered from the galleries upon the Senators.

In New York on the 81st ult., James Fisk, Jr., was formally arrested last evening on the suit of Josephine Mansfield, on a civil action to recover fifty thousand dollars of Mrs. Mansfield's which Fisk used but failed to account for. He gave bail in thirty-five thousand dollars. A letter from Mrs. Mansfield to Fisk upbraids him for perfidy to her, and says it is a shame to compel her, who grew up with him from nothing to the now great Erie Impressario, to vindicate herself in court. She refers to his scheme repeated to her four years ago, of stealing the Erie books, of staying with him in Jersey City, and how, when he was buying the New York Legislature, he said it would result in either a Fisk palace in New York or a stone palace at Sing Sing, and requested her if it was the latter, to take a cottage outside the prison. She is willing to have affairs arbitrated by Wm. M. Evarts, but says if his power over the courts is still supreme, and Tammany still able to protect him, the reward may still be his.

A dispatch from New York city on the 27th ultimo, says: Tweed was served with an order of arrest early this afternoon, by Sheriff Brennan. Tweed stated that he was anxious to go before Court. After a lengthy consultation between himself and counsel, he was admitted to bail in the amount of two million dollars, furnished by Jay Gould, Terrence Farley, Hugh Hastings, Bernard Kelley and B. O. Fairchild. Another suit was commenced in the Supreme Court against Tweed, by Corporation counsel Ogerman in behalf of the Supervisors, charging him with corrupt conspiracy to defraud the county by fraudulent charges for work and materials. The case will be tried in this county.