WESTERN CAROLINIAN.

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Office of the Western Carolinian,
Salisbury, June 10, 1823.

As the expenses of this establishment are beginning to bear rather an inverse ratio to the receipts, the Editor is compelled to adopt some plan that promises a better reward for his labors in future. The practice in this office, hitherto, has been too careless. Papers have been sent to a great many who are unknown to the Editor, either personally or by report, they pay $1 50 in advance; and it seems that is all many of them ever intend to pay, after receiving the paper one, two, and three years. In future, the terms of the Western Carolinian will be as follows:

Three dollars a year, payable yearly in advance. Every paper sent at a distance, will be discontinued after the time has expired for which it has been paid for, unless the subscriber is known to be good; in the latter case, the paper will be sent until paid for and ordered to be stopt.

Advertisements will be inserted at fifty cents per square for the first insertion, and twenty-five cents for each subsequent one. Advertisements from a distance must be paid for, or their payment assumed by a responsible person, before they can be published.

All letters addressed to the Editor, must be *post-paid*, or they will not be attended to.

PHILO WHITE.

NORTH CAROLINA

BURKE COUNTY

SUPERIOR Court of Law, March Term, 1823

Lovice Pennington vs. Ezekiel Pennington: Petition for divorce and Palimony. It appearing to the satisfaction of the Court, that the defendant in this case resides without the limits of this State, it is therefore ordered by the Court, that publication be made in the Star and Western Carolinian for three months, that the defendant appear at the next Superior Court of Law, to be held for the county of Burke, at the Court-House in Morganton, on the fourth Monday of September next, then and there to plead to said petition, otherwise the petition will be heard ex parte, and decreed accordingly.

Copy test, W. W. ERWIN, *C. B. S. C. L.*

Price adv. $4. 3mt69

NORTH CAROLINA.

DAVIDSON COUNTY

COURT of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, April Session, 1823. Nicholas Michael, vs. John P. Mataw: Original attachment levied on lands. It appearing to the satisfaction of the court, that the defendant is not an inhabitant of this State, it is therefore *ordered*, that publication be made for six weeks successively, in the Western Carolinian, printed in Salisbury, that the defendant appear at our next Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions to be held for the county of Davidson, at the Court-House in Lexington, on the 4th Monday in July next, then and there to replevy and plead, or judgment will be taken according to the plaintiff's demand.

Test, DAVID MOCK, *C. C. C.*

Price adv. $2. 6t62

From the Raleigh Register.

AGRICULTURE OF NORTH-CAROLINA.

LETTER II.

To Charles Fisher, Esq. Secretary of the Rowan Agricultural Society.

SIR: Having suggested some general principles, which I think ought to govern our efforts to improve the state of agriculture, I now proceed, as was proposed, more directly to the subject of your address. I am well satisfied that your proposition, "to have geological surveys of the state taken," embraces an object which has an important bearing on the interest of agriculture: still, I am not quite certain whether the plan you propose, is likely to be the best that could be devised, for carrying your views into execution. But proceeding on the ground, that a geological survey of the state is a most interesting and important object, we may leave the particular mode by which it is to be accomplished, to future discussion. My present object is, to offer my reasons for thinking so favorably of the scheme itself.

Though I have directed my reading of late towards the study of geology, on account of its supposed practical tendency, yet I do not profess to be master of the subject; and desiring to qualify myself better, both for forming an opinion respecting the object, to which you have invited the attention of our citizens, and for offering my reasons for that opinion when formed, I have obtained from a friend, who is familiar with this sciences, a detailed statement respecting the *object* of a geological survey, and the *advantages*, which may be expected to accrue from it to the public. I am at liberty, moreover, to make such use of this information as I please, and shall therefore avail myself of it, to a considerable extent, in the following observations; selecting such parts as I deem most important to my present purpose, and employing my correspondent's language or my own, as shall be most convenient.

It appears that geology, in a scientific sense, is "the study of the earth;" embracing those inanimate substances which are naturally found on or below the surface: all those bodies indeed which appear upon the globe. In this view, a geological survey comprises a vast number of particulars, which, although they seem to interest men of science wonderfully, have very little to do with the promotion of your object and mine. A geological survey of the state in our sense of the word, has for its object, "to ascertain what *useful* minerals we have in this state, which either are or may be employed in agriculture, or any of the arts of life, or which may become sources of profit to the state as articles of commerce." We wish to know whether such quarries and mines as have been already discovered in the state, do not exist also in other places not yet noticed; whether there be not many other valuable substances of the same class, which have not been used at all, because they are not known; and whether we have not within our limits some articles for which we now send large sums of money abroad. When such substances of this kind are found, and are announced to the public, we wish to know of what use they are—what is the best means of bringing them into use—and how we may turn them to the best account. We desire, therefore, not only to have a geological survey made, but to have the result published in such a form, that it may be generally understood, and, so far as is expedient, reduced to practice. I therefore, sir, entirely approve of your suggestion respecting the expediency of having the result of such surveys, when made, laid before the board of agriculture, to be published, either wholly or in part, in their transactions.

Such, I believe, sir, are some of the objects which the Rowan Agricultural Society has in view, in desiring to institute geological surveys of the state: Such, I am confident, are the views which prevail here.

Thus much respecting the *object* of the proposed surveys. In the copious details which my friend has been so good as to furnish respecting *the advantages which will accrue to the public*, from such an undertaking, he has insisted that the respectability of the state will be much promoted by it, and that enough has been already discovered to induce competent judges to believe, that future researches in our geology will be richly rewarded. He has even hinted, that North-Carolina makes but a small figure in books of science, when she has a fair claim to appear conspicuous; that her mineralogy occupies so little space in works that treat of this science, that a foreigner would suppose she was in this respect the least gifted of any state in the Union; whereas, there is reason to believe, that all this seeming deficiency is owing to the fact, that her mineral treasures have hitherto been scarcely at all explored; but that, were they fully developed to the extent that from present appearance they are believed to exist, North-Carolina would not only be freed from any disgrace in the comparison of her mineralogy with that of her sister states, but would command an enviable distinction.

I confess, I feel not a little moved by considerations professedly touching the honor and respectability of our state; but then I reflect that these matters do not so much concern us at present, as those which are more immediately connected with our *pecuniary* interests. Motives like these seem more proper to be addressed to our legislature than to our agricultural societies:—*We* are not so much in pursuit of honor as profit. I have therefore thought best to pass over such considerations as the foregoing, and to enter immediately on the enquiry, WHAT SUBSTANCES DO AGRICULTURE AND THE MECHANIC ARTS DERIVE FROM THE MINERAL KINGDOM?

Among the most important of these, are the following:

1. Iron,
2. Gypsum,
3. Salt,
4. Limestone,
5. Coal,
6. Freestone, including marble,
7. Paints and dye-stuffs,
8. Slates,
8. Metallic ores.

Let us dwell a little on each of these substances, separately; enquiring, at the same time, how far the proposed surveys will contribute to promote the discovery of them, and to introduce them into such notice as may conduce to the public good.

Of the Iron Mines and Manufactures of North Carolina.

That iron constitutes the basis of all the arts; that the instruments by which all mechanical operations are carried on, are fabricated of this metal; that even the simplest of all arts, that of tilling the ground, calls for its aid either to fashion or constitute every one of its implements;—are points so universally known, that it is superfluous to dwell on the uses of iron, or to urge how much we are indebted to the mineral kingdom, for affording it to us in such exhaustless abundance. Every man in society will acknowledge, that iron is indispensable to his purposes, whatever may be his calling; and every farmer will grant, that he does and must employ great quantities of this article every year. It being admitted then that *we must have iron*, the question is, *shall we manufacture it for ourselves, or shall we import it from abroad?* The only plea that I can think of in favor of obtaining it from abroad, is, *that we can buy it cheaper than we can make it*: that is, we can do better by employing our labourers in agriculture, and exchanging our crops for iron, than we can do, by transferring them from this employment to the manufacturing of iron." In respect to the *transfer* implied, that probably would be unnecessary; for were a new field for enterprize laid open by the extensive manufacture of any of our native materials, and especially the one under consideration, a most important means would be introduced for arresting the tide of emigration, and a most inviting object would be presented to foreign miners and manufacturers to settle themselves here. These, by the way, would bring along with them a degree of skill exceedingly favorable to the improvement of our arts. A number of other reasons occur to me why it is better to manufacture this article if we can,—as much as is sufficient for ourselves at least,—than to depend on foreign supplies. I will beg leave to state these reasons in order.

1. *The manufacture of iron is, in its own nature, an excellent employment.* Unlike most other processes of the arts, it is perhaps as friendly to the health and morals as agriculture. In these respects it forms a happy contrast to those manufacturing employments, which debilitate the frame, debase the mind, pollute the morals, and essentially impair the national strength. No employment probably tends more than this, to create enterprising and industrious habits; and it is proverbial for its peculiar power to nerve the arm, and invigorate the breast of man.

2. In a pecuniary point of view, *it is subject to less risk* than almost any other employment that can be named. It is too closely allied with the indispensable operations of society, ever to be subject to the ordinary fluctuations of trade. Iron is too intimately connected with the supply of all our wants, and inconveniences ever to go out of use, or indeed to have its use in any considerable degree suspended. A change of times may induce us to do without a thousand *luxuries* in which we were accustomed to indulge.—Hence the manufactures of such articles as are grafted, not so much on the wants as on the pride of man, are subject to the most sudden reverses. But such an article as iron, which must be had at all times, and under every emergency, is never in danger of falling suddenly into disuse, and ruining the manufacturer. In places where not enough of this article is made to supply home consumption, as is the case among ourselves, the safety of this kind of business is extremely obvious. Peace demands more than we can make, war cuts off all foreign supplies, and enhances the price of what is made at home. No man therefore, can possibly be in safer business with prudent management than the manufacture of iron. Fact also warrants the foregoing assertions; for good management and persevering industry do, I think, sir, usually secure to those engaged in this business a handsome profit, and not unfrequently conduct them to the highest opulence. I have, in more than one instance, known an individual, who has by this means made himself very wealthy from small beginnings, and that too under disadvantages with respect to ore and a market, which would not be experienced in this state. Indeed those of our citizens who have engaged in this business are witnesses and proofs of the foregoing positions; many of them have made handsome estates, others have turned a smaller capital to good account: and if any have failed entirely, their want of success is believed to have been, in most cases, if not in all, attributed to causes which were independent of the business under consideration. But if these establishments are profitable now, they might undoubtedly be rendered far more so, as I hope to show by and by, were they conducted with the requisite skill and economy.

2. In addition to those arguments in favor of the manufacture of iron, which arise from the nature of the business itself, considered as an enterprize both eligible and safe,—in addition to these, I say, *North Carolina has inducements to turn her attention to this subject which are peculiar to herself.* To these I invite very particular attention.

In the first place, North Carolina is most abundantly furnished with *iron ores*. So plenteously has this most useful of all the metallic ores been bestowed on our state, that not less than 30 distinct beds of it have already been opened in the counties of Burke and Surry alone; and scarcely a single ridge of all that tract of country which lies between twenty and thirty miles east of the Blue Ridge is destitute of indications, that a similar treasure lies concealed below. The county of Lincoln, in particular, has already disclosed innumerable depositories of iron. Indeed there is scarcely a county among the hilly and mountainous districts of North Carolina, where a bed of iron ore has not either actually been discovered, or where sufficient indications of it have not been noticed, to justify a reasonable hope of finding beds of it. In many parts of the low country also, is found a species of iron ore, which, though inferior to that of the upper country, is nevertheless much the same kind as that which most of the British iron is made, and it might perhaps be wrought to advantage.

In the second place, *the ore which is thus profusely stored beneath our soil, is generally of the best quality.* With the exception of the lower country, just mentioned, it consists mostly of the kind denominated by mineralogists, Magnetic Oxide, containing from 75 to 80 per cent. of metallic iron; and the less abundant varieties, [namely the Speculator Ore, Red Oxide, and Micaceous Oxide,] are all rich ores, yielding more than 60 per cent. of the metal. The exhaustless abundance, therefore, of the magnetic ore of the west; its excellent quality, being similar to the best Swedish ore; the never-failing supply of charcoal which the forests can afford with little or no expense but that of burning; the enterprising character, and industrious habits of the people:—these, among many other advantages, designate the manufacture of iron as peculiarly adapted to that section of our state, and point out this article as entitled, above all the other gifts of nature, to be considered as constituting the inherent riches of our western counties.

I have hitherto contemplated the manufacture of iron merely as affording to individuals an inviting field for enterprise, and as a means of retaining within the state the money which is expended for this article abroad. But I see no reason why we may not anticipate, that it will one day become a very considerable article of export. Were the Yadkin and the Dan rivers rendered navigable, the eye might speedily enjoy the delightful spectacle of boats without number flowing from their tributaries, laden with these native riches, and destined for foreign markets. Although the art of manufacturing this article is, without doubt, much less perfectly understood than it might be, yet, so excellent is our ore, that our bar iron is allowed, even now, to vie in quality with the best in the market; and with the innumerable advantages which a free navigation would afford, the state of North Carolina might contend in the sale of her iron with Sweden and Russia. In the bleakest and most sterile districts of the northern countries of Europe, more than one instance is recorded of opulent and crowded cities having arisen, in consequence of those spots being endowed by nature with a rich deposit of iron ore; and could we dispel the delusion which limits our views of what our own great interests demand; could we ever soar beyond the little horizon of our own existence, and think and feel for our children and our children's children,—it would then be no sport of fancy to see, in the visions of futurity, bright villages and thronged cities rising on the remotest tributaries of our western waters. But with our present impediments to transportation, and the want of skill and economy in our mode of manufacturing iron, even England supplies no small part of what North-Carolina herself consumes, although the ores from which it is manufactured are chiefly of the poorest sort, yielding only 30 per cent. of iron. For fuel also the English are obliged to make use of *coke*, prepared from pit coal, as charcoal is from wood,—a kind of fuel which is both more expensive than our charcoal, and greatly inferior to that in respect to the quality of the iron made with it. Yet, under all these natural disadvantages, such is the advanced state of the mechanic arts among the English, that they triumph over the superiority which nature herself has bestowed upon us, by selling their iron at so low a price, as to tempt us to use it in the very confines of our mines and manufactures.

There are so many advantages which result from multiplying iron works, that I could wish to see more than one establishment of the kind in every county in the state where the ore can be obtained. Nor should I apprehend that such an increase of numbers, would do any injury to the present proprietors of such works, since a greater degree of competition would introduce into the business a higher degree of skill; foreign workmen, when such a demand was opened for their labour, would resort hither, and bring along with them the improvements of their respective countries; and the reduced price and an improved quality would conspire to promote the sale of the article at home, and shortly turn it into an article of export. These circumstances, I think, would amply compensate the manufacturers of iron for the reduction of price which the article might sustain by being thrown into the market in increased abundance. Moreover, a reduction in the price of so indispensable an article as iron, so far as is compatible with a fair profit to the manufacturer, is a public benefit. Could such improvements be introduced that it could be afforded at one cent less in a pound than it is sold at present, many thousand dollars would be saved to the state every year, for expenses that arise from a deficiency of skill or bad economy, or a total loss, and do no body any good. One obvious advantage also accruing from a reduction in the price of iron, that the community may *use it more freely*, and thus increase the stability and excellence of all their mechanical structures, as building bridges, &c. and improve the quality and durability of the various instruments of art, and utensils of husbandry. Expenses, moreover, incurred by distance from market, are a dead loss. By this means the articles we buy cost us more, and those we exchange for them bring us in less.

One of the great advantages I have ever contemplated from the opening of our rivers, is the opportunity they will afford us for sending to market such articles as the one under consideration, and this especially. In such an event, I should be sanguine in believing that iron would be one of the staple commodities of North Carolina.

By the foregoing considerations, I think it is rendered evident that it is the interest of North Carolina to turn her attention, in no ordinary degree, towards her mines of iron ore; that she has peculiar inducements to do so from the abundance and excellence of the ore itself; that it is important to make the most of those beds of it which have been already discovered, and to bring to light such as may yet be concealed in different parts of the state; and, that greater skill and economy ought, so far as is practicable, to be introduced into the manufacture of this article.

It remains now, sir, to inquire whether the "geological surveys" which you have proposed, will contribute to the promotion of the foregoing objects. That it will do this in a very high degree, will, I think, be apparent from the following statements.

It would be the object of such an undertaking, to ascertain the extent and direction of those beds of iron ore which have already been opened; and hence to