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RALEIGH SENTINEL—HESSHS. KINGSBURY AND SPELMAN.

We are pleased to learn that Messrs. Theodore B. Kingsbury and John Spelman have once more become members of the editorial staff of the Raleigh *Sentinel*. These gentlemen are too well known in North Carolina as efficient workers in the "Press Gang" for the public to need any assurance from us as to their character and qualifications. We cordially welcome both of our old friends back to editorial harness. Our only wonder is that two such good fellows could have kept out so long.

GENERAL CLINGMAN'S LETTER.

We call the attention of our readers to the very interesting letter of General Clingman to the editors of the Asheville *Expositor*, to be found on our second page this morning. The proof of the existence of a people in North Carolina superior to the Indian race in arts and intelligence, if not prior in point of time is indisputable. Who they were, where they came from, and how and when they disappeared, will doubtless ever be unsolved questions; but for all that, any thing relating to these ancient Carolinians as we may call them, for want of a better name, will be interesting.

NORTH CAROLINA RAILROAD—CHANGE OF GUAGE.

We learn by special telegram from Raleigh on yesterday, that His Honor, Judge Albertson, continued the injunction restraining the Richmond and Danville Railroad Company from changing the guage of the North Carolina road from Greensboro' to Charlotte. A bond of fifty thousand dollars was required from the State, it being the party in whose favor the injunction was issued. It seems that His Honor gave no opinion in reference to the validity of the lease, and none as to the right of the Company to make a change in the guage extending over the whole of the North Carolina Road. His opinion touches only the right of the Richmond and Danville Road to make the particular change proposed, to wit: To change the guage from Greensboro' to Charlotte to the wide guage, and to leave the guage from Greensboro' to Goldsboro' as it now is.

The plain effect of this change would be practically to make two roads of what has heretofore been one road, by compelling a break in bulk at Greensboro'. We are not advised what further proceedings will be had in the premises.

THE UNIVERSITY.

We publish in another column a letter from Judge James Grant, of Davenport, Iowa, to the Tarboro' *Enquirer*, in response to an article in that paper calling upon the Alumni of the University to do something in its behalf. Judge Grant is a native of North Carolina, and a graduate of the University, and though a resident of another State, still feels a great interest in the fortunes of his *Alma Mater*. We sincerely trust that some material aid to the University, as well as pleasure to the Alumni, may come about from their proposed meeting, in June next.

We do not know the precise plan by which it is proposed to bring about the restoration of the University, though Judge Grant's letter indicates a wish to see the control of the affairs transferred entirely to the Alumni. Under the Constitution of our State as it now stands this cannot be done, nor can it be done under the Constitution as it will stand if the proposed amendments shall be adopted in August next. If the amendments shall be ratified by the people, the University will be controlled by trustees to be elected from time to time by the Legislature. As the amendment in relation to the University received the assent of the Representatives of both parties in the Legislature, we presume there will be no objection made to it at the polls, and no difficulty, in effecting a reorganization upon a basis that will prove satisfactory to all right minded men, no matter to what party they may belong.

Vienna is building six new theatres, to amuse visitors to the exposition.

The first Protestant Easter service ever held on the shore of Cuba took place in the Episcopal Church at Havana recently.

The Spotswood Hotel lot and three adjoining lots, in Richmond, Virginia, have been sold at auction, for the aggregate amount of $38,794, to Colonel Carrington, the proprietor of the Exchange.

... since at this busy farming season ... the criminal docket is ... with the most ... and ... Still ... small, compared ... Terms in this County, ... most of the cases belong to the class of small, petty misdemeanors. Indeed, we are pleased to record the fact that the people of this County are a law-and-order-abiding people, and there is less violation now of the criminal law in the County than at any previous Term since the war, as careful and unprejudiced observers inform us.

Why is there such an unusual and extraordinary number of our fellow-citizens taken from their productive industries, at this season of planting, to wait upon the Court and Grand Jury for this week and perhaps much of the next? Is it necessary to subserve the real ends of law and justice? We think not.

We would be now, as in the past, the last to advocate violation of the criminal law with impunity. No one will go further than ourselves, to enforce obedience to law and to secure the punishment of criminals. But, in the name of justice, in behalf of the farming and other material interests of our down-trodden and impoverished people—now suffering unnumbered woes—we protest against dragging such unprecedented large numbers of our producers from their busy toils, especially at this season, to hang around our Court House, awaiting examination as witnesses by the Grand Jury upon petty cases instigated by malice or envy or revenge. It may subserve the interests of Solicitors, if they have a greater regard for their fees than they have for the good of the public, to permit this class of petty, trifling cases to be brought into Court, but it will be far from promoting the interest of the tax-payers. Nor will it tend to subserve the ends of public justice. Justice, is, administered, and Grand Juries are instituted, not for the benefit of the Solicitor so much as for the public good. Something, too, is due to the dignity of the Court.

Let the Grand Jury then, as doubtless they will, set the seal of their condemnation upon this unnecessary hardship inflicted upon our people, by dragging them from their homes at the busiest season of the year, to testify in cases beneath the dignity of the Court and of the Jury. We trust they will protest against this most grievous nuisance in such a manner as will ever prevent it from being used as a precedent hereafter.

It may suit the views of those who live from the Courts and the misfortunes of our people, to utter different sentiments, but as the friends of the people, as well as the friends of law and order, we are constrained to say that the act complained of is a grievance so burdensome in its operation, especially upon our farmers and laborers, that it is our duty to call public attention to it.

PHILADELPHIA—RADICALISM ILLUSTRATED.

The Philadelphia *Age* announces that Mr. Dana, of the New York *Sun*, has refused to deliver an address in Philadelphia in the interest of the Centennial Celebration, "on the ground of his peculiar experience in that city." The *Age* justifies this course on the part of Mr. Dana, and says:

While passing through it in the cars to Washington, he was waylaid and arrested on a charge of libel for a publication made in New York. Believing that he stood as much chance of fair play as a shipwrecked mariner in the Cannibal Islands, he forfeited the bail exacted of him—*the sum of five thousand dollars!* We blush to own it; but the proceedings in the Mara trial, and in the case of Mr. Taylor, of the *Press*, compel us to admit that in this our native city, whose honor we would glady defend, Mr. Dana could have had no chance for justice. For a friendless stranger to have attempted to unveil the secrets of the "Ring" in the Court of Quarter Sessions, would have been alike hopeless and foolhardy.

In that, its stronghold, "the Ring," like the Modocs in their "lava beds" successfully defy the indignation of all decent men. And though we expect to see them driven out by public opinion and the law, we confess that now they can plunder a solitary traveler with entire impunity. Mr. Dana paid them five thousand dollars tribute money for passing through their territory, and thus saved his scalp, and he wisely refrained from putting it again in peril by accepting the invitation of the ladies of the Centennial to address their meeting on Saturday. In Philadelphia, the "Ring" have now got the sword of the law in their clutch, and find it a handier weapon than the revolver and the black-jack which they used on John C. Nolen and Detective Brooks. This is the condition of our city, which no man who prizes its honor ought to deny or palliate; for it is the truth that can alone bring about that revolution which shall redeem Philadelphia from the rule of the foul crew who plunder alike our own people and "the stranger that is within our gates." "Ring" rule was overthrown in New York and it will yet meet the same fate in Philadelphia. We will yet smoke out our Modocs; but we cannot wonder that quiet people fear them, and that travelers shun the region they infest.

By their fruits shall ye know them. Tried by this test what is Radicalism? Let the Credit Mobilier frauds, the Indian massacres, the Modoc tragedy and the bloody conflict in Louisiana answer!

AFFAIRS IN LOUISIANA.

Mr. Edward Booth, who is also a Senator and an active supporter of the McEnery government, is a wholesale dealer, corner of Gravier and Magazine streets in New Orleans. An act of the Legislature of Louisiana forbids any one to carry on any trade or occupation without paying license tax. Mr. Booth refused to pay taxes to the Kellogg government, and suit was accordingly brought against him in the name of the State and an injunction was also issued restraining him from carrying on his business until the license tax was paid. The injunction was served on Mr. Booth in person, but he refused to obey and still carried on his business.

The Attorney-General, after the service of this injunction upon Mr. Booth, filed a rule for contempt, alleging that he had violated, and was still violating, said injunction by carrying on his business. Upon the presentation of this rule the Court ordered that defendant, Edward Booth, show cause on Friday, the 18th, why he should not be punished for a contempt by fine and imprisonment.

On the 18th, the cause having been heard, the motion to discharge the rule ... twenty ... be impris... four hours. Mr. ... accordingly imprisoned for twenty-four hours.

When the time for his liberation arrived he was greeted by an immense crowd of citizens, who conducted him to his home with every demonstration of respect and regard. The New Orleans *Picayune*, in commenting upon the case, says:

Our readers will perceive in the case of Mr. Booth what those in this city, who refuse to pay the license tax, may expect to be applied to them. A Kellogg judge orders him to close his place of business, and, if he does not obey, he is to be imprisoned and fined—and to be again imprisoned and fined indefinitely until he does obey.

Under old tyrannies, it was supposed enough if the tyrant himself oppressed his victim; but here is a system by which the victim is made the instrument of his own oppression. He is to be his own executioner. Even under Christophe, the tyrant only seized and appropriated the property of his victim.

But here the victim is ordered to carry out his own destruction by closing up himself his place of business, unless he will pay witness process of law such tribute money as the usurping despotism think proper to exact. And if he fails to pay or close up, then he is arrested and imprisoned for—contempt of court!

No one can mistake now the expedient for collecting the Kellogg taxes. Refusal to pay, will be followed by an order of court to arrest his avocation in life; and unless he submits without question of law, arbitrary imprisonment is the offered destiny. We presume some similar tyrannical proceeding, if this scheme for collecting the taxes or license is permitted to prevail, will be applied to all other taxes.

What course shall the people of this city and of Louisiana pursue? Under the foulest of all despotisms, and the most arbitrary of all tyrannies that a free people were ever called upon to submit to, it appears to us that the matter has passed beyond the counsels of the press. It is for the people to determine—and they alone—how to protect their property and vindicate their liberties. We never doubted but that, in some shape or other, the despotism that has usurped authority over us would attempt to enforce submission by force. It is for the people to answer it.

EDWARD CANTWELL, Esq. IS HE A POET?

This being Term time of New Hanover Court and the Grand Jury being in session, it might be imprudent to charge a gentleman with so grave an offence as that of being a poet without giving the reasons for our belief. We propose, therefore, this morning, to glance briefly at the salient points in the life of the gentleman whose name heads this article. Our argument will be somewhat similar to that by which the old negro satisfied himself that his dog was a good 'possum dog. Said he: "Old Massa made every ting for some good, I hab tried dat dorg for every ting in the world 'cept 'possums, and he aint wut a cent, you know den, boss, he's bound to be good for 'possums." Let us see whether a like process of exclusion will show that Mr. Cantwell has or has not a genius for poesy.

Mr. Cantwell went to Mexico and fought the Greasers but, according to the latest dispatches, the Greasers have continued to indulge in their favorite recreation of robbing and murder, apparently in blissful ignorance of his existence. Failure No. 1. He became a lawyer. Failure No. 2.

He became an author, having written a book called "Cantwell's Justice," that had the honor, for a time, to supply the place of one written by the distinguished "Judge" Olds, the distinguished son-in-law of the distinguished Holden. Everybody, doubtless, has a pretty clear idea of what sort of a thing Cantwell's Justice must have been. Failure No. 3.

He edited a newspaper, but the concern got top heavy and became failure No. 4, probably because of the shortness of the subscription list and the length of the editorials.

The great war of Secession approached, and Mr. Cantwell, snuffing the battle from afar, before even a breath of the first gale that brought to our ears the clash of resounding arms, mounted a red cockade; a glorious, luscious, refulgent, blood-red cockade. How well we remember the solemn awe with which we beheld the magnificence of that resplendent red cockade. Alas! Alas! He wears it no longer. We presume that even he will not deny that his cockade episode was failure No. 5.

But Mr. Cantwell was not a man to keep out of the fray. He went into the army, and in due time was put in command of the Provost Guard, or in some other position that gave him some charge of the city of Norfolk, the exact nature of which we cannot state with certainty. If we mistake not, however, he was wont, in those halcyon days of war, to describe himself as the "Military Governor of Norfolk"—the only instance, so far as we know, in which a Confederate officer was ever designated as a "Military Governor" on Confederate soil. Alas! Alas! for the dreams of ambition and the hopes of glory. Our friends, the enemy, concluded they needed Norfolk for their own use, and one fine day took possession of it; not, however, until the Military Governor had "vamosed the ranche." Failure No. 6.

He next joined a "creetur company" regiment, and became a Lieutenant-Colonel of cavalry, one of your gay and dashing fellows—one of your festive youths—a perfect centaur. Alas! Alas! The paths of glory lead generally to jail or the grave, or some other "demnition disagreeable" place, and ere long our hero found himself in prison at Johnson's Island, where he remained more than a twelve month, we think, on exceedingly short commons and in close quarters. We presume the cavalry episode may safely be set down as failure No. 7.

After his return from prison our hero no longer shot Yankees at the front, but having been assigned to duty on a Military Court, shot an occasional Confederate, in the rear. While thus engaged, the spirit moved him one bright Sabbath day in April to leave fair Petersburg's bustling streets and seek a rural retreat. On that eventful occasion several "solitary horsemen might have been seen slowly wending their way" toward the lovely hills of Appomattox. Alas! Alas! Our unfortunate hero, who was one of this numerous band of solitary horsemen, never reached his destination, but was taken in out of the wet once more by these same persistent Yankees, and once more, we believe, carried to prison. It may seem strange that, having once had him, they should take him again. Yet so it was. Possibly they did not recognise him.

Finally, however, our hero returned home and delivered a lecture upon the life of one Ben Franklin, in which he made a brilliant dash in the old centaur style upon the "solid men of Boston." No money in that. Failure No. 8.

Our hero then turned his attention from the "solid men of Boston," to the colored men of North Carolina, and was nominated for Solicitor in the Raleigh District. But time was short and the story goes that Hawk Rogers, a distinguished character who carried the droppings of conversations overheard at hotels and street corners to Governor Holden, secreted some tickets and thereby caused his defeat. He then came to Wilmington and took a rider seat in his saddle upon the back of his colored brother. But his course here is so well known to our readers that it is useless to refer to it in detail.

After this brief glance into the history of our hero, we appeal to an indulgent public, or if need be to an impartial Grand Jury, to say whether admitting the validity of the argument "by exclusion," we are not justified in thinking that our ex-Chief Judicial, &c., has missed his true vocation, and that some day, long after Cantwell's Justice and Cantwell's Libels shall have been forgotten, "Cantwell's Canticles" will be household words in every colored man's cabin in the land

LONG LIVE POET CANTWELL!

From the Enquirer.

The University of North Carolina.

Messrs. Editors:—Your editorial of 22d March has been sent to me.

The survivors of the graduating class of June 1831, composed of fourteen persons, had a meeting at Memphis on the 5th of March, after a separation of over forty years; five of the nine, known survivors, were present. Mr. James M. Williamson, who proposed the meeting, conceived the laudable idea of reviving the University. His plan was not matured, but is to be discussed and agreed upon at another meeting of the class at my house in Davenport, Iowa, on the 10th of June next. To this meeting I invite all the Alumni of Chapel Hill. The project of revival is entirely Mr. Williamson's, and, if successful, the credit shall be his.

His opinion is that the Legislature of North Carolina should entrust the government of the University, the appointment of its professors, and financial affairs to the whole body of the Alumni as trustees, and that they should educate their sons there. The subject of endowment by its members was discussed but nothing more. My own opinion, probably originating in the practical plans of my adopted State, is that the Legislature should make an annual appropriation for the support of the College, until endowment by the State or the Alumni shall dispense with its necessity. One thing I do know, that if the buildings now at Chapel Hill were in my State, numerous as our schools and Colleges are, they would not be without occupants many months.

There is not a religious denomination in Iowa that, with such opportunities, as are now going to decay at Chapel Hill, would not have a first class institution of learning under full headway in twelve months.

We, who are voluntary exiles, claim no right to censure for the past or dictate for the future. We have grateful memories for the past of North Carolina and good will and hope for the future.

The quiet which now reigns at Chapel Hill is the dark shadow of death.

Your ob't serv't,
JAMES GRANT,
Davenport, Iowa.

The Liberty of the Press.

The notorious Cantwell, the Solicitor of the fourth Judicial District of the State, by persistent efforts in the various counties of his district, finally got a grand jury in Duplin, to find a true bill of indictment against the editors of the Wilmington JOURNAL, for alleged libel upon Judge Bond. He was moved to do this, evidently, by personal spite and malice, as the JOURNAL had for some time, been engaged in blowing up Cantwell's true character: his incapacity, ignorance and abuse of office.

The JOURNAL, in criticising the course of Judge Bond, performed but a duty, inseparable from true journalism—a fearless attack upon malfeasance and corruption in public offices, no matter the result.

We learn that our esteemed countryman and distinguished lawyer, Edward Conigland, Esq., has volunteered to defend the editors of the JOURNAL in this prosecution, which partakes so strongly of a persecution.—*Enfield Times.*

The Law of Libel.

In our last issue we took occasion to speak of an indictment for libel found against the editors of the Wilmington JOURNAL in Bladen county Superior Court. Though a Grand Jury may have found it to be a "true bill," we feel confident that when the matter is brought to trial our cotemporary will be triumphantly vindicated and sustained. The high and noble mission of the public press is to mould and lead public opinion, as well as to convey instruction and general intelligence. It is called the bulwark of our liberties, and, unless this is a meaningless title, the legitimate newspapers should have the fullest protection of our organic, statutory and common law, just as it is bound to secure the love and respect of the people who are enlightened by it.

The press strengthens the arm of the law, and cares only for the common weal, and so every protection should be afforded, and no attempt to belittle its influence should be tolerated. Our present libel law is not comprehensive enough by any means, and we think it ought to be modified and materially amplified. It should be general in its provisions and bearing and ought to be the very soul of every itself. It should be a good defense in libel suits to show the non existence of malice, absence of mercenary motives, and the truth of the statement published. Nor should decent criticism of public men and measures be deemed libelous. The press should never be muzzled in that way, and it is the duty of every honest and law-abiding citizen to sustain every legitimate newspaper in its acts of exposing to the public gaze the corruption of persons in official station. The people can easily discern the honest editors who are working on the side of truth, justice and wisdom.—*Goldsboro Messenger.*

An Iowa minister, convicted of stealing Bibles, amuses himself in jail by butting his head against the wall and beating himself with a club.

The decision of the United States Supreme Court has revealed the fact, that except the Chief Justice, no member of that bench is inclined to favor the woman's right movement.

The New York *Sun* says that the famous Watkins Glen, near the head of Lake Seneca, New York, which less than three years ago was purchased for $25,000, has just been sold to a Philadelphia firm for $100,000. Ten years ago the property could have been purchased for $5,000.

From the Magnolia Advertiser.

LIBEL.

The persistent efforts of Solicitor Cantwell have at length been successful in getting an indictment through against the editors of the Wilmington JOURNAL. It is not given as a matter of news but for the purpose of making a few comments on.

The law of libel has been very materially changed within the last century. Formerly the doctrine obtained that defendant could not offer proof as to the truth of any libelous or slanderous statement; rather the law was that the greater the truth the greater the libel.

This rule was drawn from England where it to-day remains unshaken, and here the evidence of the truth of any libelous speech or publication is inadmissible.

But in this country of free press and free institutions, after exhaustive and laborious discussion, it seems to be definitely settled that the jury has a right to determine the fact as to the words charged as libelous. The Constitutions of several States make special provisions in favor of giving the truth in evidence in public prosecutions for libel; and where this is not the case, the tide of public opinion is strong not only in favor of breaking down all previous opposition against publications, but also for removing all impediments to a free discussion of the truth. The Legislature of Pennsylvania enacted that no person should be indicted for a publication on the official conduct of men in public trust. It is certainly a prerogative of the press to discuss and freely criticise the conduct of men in official station, and where their conduct both public and private is flagitious, it is its duty to hold them up to reprobation. All that is necessary for the editors of the JOURNAL to do in this extraordinary case, is to place some of the good citizens of Baltimore on the witness stand, and the Solicitor will not handle the fee usual on conviction.

From the Raleigh News.

Freedom of the Press.

When several ineffectual efforts were made by Solicitor Cantwell last Fall, to indict the JOURNAL for libel, at New Hanover Superior Court, the Raleigh News sounded the tocsin of alarm, and denounced the effort to cripple and muzzle the influence of the press in strong, unmeasured terms.

Not because the editors of the Wilmington JOURNAL are personal friends—not because the JOURNAL itself is a Conservative newspaper—not because Cantwell is a Radical Solicitor, nor because Russell is a Radical Judge, but with a sincere purpose to vindicate the freedom of press, to uphold one of the chief palladiums of Republican liberty, to preserve and protect the rights, privileges and immunities of the Fourth Estate from the sacreligious hands that would strike down its power, its usefulness and its independence, we have protested from the first against this persecution—conceived, as we believe it to be, in the bitterness of party spirit, and carried on with the malignancy and unscrupulousness of political hatred and venom.

The editors of the Wilmington JOURNAL are gentlemen of character and of the highest respectability. They are known throughout the State as men of high honor and integrity. We do not believe this prosecution will detract one iota from their well-earned reputations. But it is not in the light of any injury that may result to them personally and pecuniarily from the issue of this trial for libel, that should so much influence the press of North Carolina to denounce this outrage on the freedom of the press which has been perpetrated by a Radical Solicitor, aided and abetted by the official power and personal influence of a Radical Judge.

If it be the purpose of these two partisan officials to cripple or impair the influence of the JOURNAL, or to damage it in its business, they will fail most signally. The very means by which they would injure it will tend to build it up—to advance its prosperity, by adding to its subscription lists and enlisting the sympathy and efforts of its friends in its behalf.

If it be the purpose of these two partisan officials to break down the JOURNAL because it is a Conservative newspaper, and because it has the boldness and independence to speak out plainly and fearlessly, and to give forth no uncertain sound in criticising the conduct of corrupt and unworthy officials, then the effort will be equally futile and abortive.

If it be the purpose of these two partisan officials to crush the spirit of a free press, the effort will prove a silly and unprofitable undertaking, and will recoil upon the heads of the weak and short-sighted individuals who have the vanity to imagine their puny arms can strike down one of the strongest bulwarks of civil liberty—one of the proudest monuments of true Republican Government.

The voice of a free press cannot be drowned by judicial tyranny or intimidation.

The spirit of party hate, malice and vindictiveness cannot extinguish it.—Neither political fury and madness, nor personal vengeance and spite, nor the mailed hand of military power, can destroy its influence or trample down its spirit.

Assaulted—it will return to plague its assailants. Crushed—it will rise again. Silenced for a brief period—it will, in the end, reassert its power and majesty. It will spring forth into life again, with new vigor and courage—unawed by threats—unintimidated by violence—unharmed by abuse—unhurt by malice.

So long as we have freedom of thought and of speech, we feel there is some hope for the preservation of the people's liberties. But without a pure, fearless, incorruptible, unpurchasable public press, Republican Governments cannot long flourish or exist. They will become a prey to corrupt rulers and tyrants—and will perish miserably at the hands of their own citizens.

Special to the Richmond Enquirer.

LONGSTREET AT GETTYSBURG.

How he Lost the Battle---What General Pendleton Said at Mobile.

MOBILE, ALA., April 22.—In his lecture delivered in this city for the Lee Memorial Fund, General Pendleton solemnly arraigned General James Longstreet, that tireless fighter and proven hard-hitter, and to his delay he attributed the lost opportunity at Gettysburg.

The lecturer said that, to his personal knowledge, derived from General Lee's own lips, Longstreet had, the night before the battle, received from General Lee in person, orders to advance at the dawn of the next morning. That he (General Pendleton,) had made a reconnoissance in person, and declared to General Lee the perfect practicability of immediate assault upon the then unprepared enemy. How he had waited impatiently until twelve o'clock. How Longstreet at that hour rode up to his side, and sat upon his horse useless and inactive until four o'clock p. m. Then when the head of his column did go in, the prodigies of valor his men performed were futile against the now massed and concentrated enemy, and still Robert E. Lee (General Pendleton said) refused to lay the blame upon the shoulders of the man who had fought so often and so well for him.

The polonaises will remain in favor as an article of feminine wear during the spring.

A city editor of a journal offered to send his girl the paper regularly, but she replied in sweet innocence, that her "ma did'nt allow her to wear 'em. The poor girl only knew one use for a paper.

From the Asheville Expositor.

GEN. CLINGMAN'S LETTER.

ASHEVILLE, April 21, 1873.

MESSRS. CARTER & ... :

GENTLEMEN:—In reply to your inquiries with reference to the mica deposits in this section of the State, and the appearance of early operations for the same, I can now, before leaving town, only present you a brief statement.

The old Cherokee Indians, living in some of the western counties, used to speak of a tradition coming down in their tribe, that long ago companies of white men came on mules from the south, worked during the summer, and carried off a white metal with them. The remains of some old works in Cherokee county seem to give countenance to this report, and, at one place at least, presents the appearance of having been excavated by persons skilled in mining. The fact that they were abandoned before much work was done would rather imply that they were mere tests, which had proved unsuccessful.

There are, however, in other localities, numerous remains of old excavations, some of which are much more extensive, and which were done in a different formation. In the year 1867, and in the early part of 1868, I examined several of these localities in the counties of Cleaveland and Rutherford and Burke, on the east side of the Blue Ridge, and in Mitchell, Yancey and Buncombe. In most instances the work had been slight, showing that it had been done as a mere experiment, which had not proven satisfactory. In several localities, however, it was very manifest that the operators had met with such success as to cause them to extend their working greatly. In every case I examined, the outcrop of the veins was so similar as to leave no doubt but that the parties had found at certain localities some mineral of value to them, and that wherever they observed like indications they had made tests.—Again, from the fact that they never worked in hard ground—that is, where the work required blasting—it was evident that they were not provided with the means of blasting.

At every one of the places I examined mica was abundant in veins composed chiefly of felspar and quartz, the former generally predominating.—The mica left among the debris was generally in small flakes, except at Mr. Garrett Ray's, on the waters of Bolin's Creek, where a number of large sheets had been left. This last mentioned fact seemed to indicate that the mica itself had not been the object of the exploration.

The most extensive of all the excavations was that on the land of Mr. Wm. Silvers, in Mitchell county, near the road from Burnsville to Bakersville. From the appearances there it would seem that a large number of miners had been at work for years at that place. In the excavations, extending for about 400 yards, they had at intervals left bars across as if to prevent the earth at the sides from falling in—making thus a succession of openings fifty or sixty feet in extent, separated by narrow ridges of earth. Timber which I examined, that had grown on the earth thrown out, had been growing as long as three hundred years. Near one of the workings, not far from this place, I also saw a slab of stone that had evidently been marked by blows of a metallic tool, and which had, from the appearances about it, been most probably intended to mark the locality.

As the manner in which the work had been done at Mr. Silvers' resembled that sometimes practiced by the Mexicans, it seemed possible that a party of Spaniards—about the time when Cortes was in Mexico, and De Soto was in Florida—might have rambled up into this region and, by employing the Indians as laborers, in the course of a few years have caused such explorations to be made. On examining the material about the place, I found fragments that had been thrown out very like in their appearance some of the best Mexican silver ores. Several Western miners, to whom the specimens were shown in New York, prior to any assay, expressed great confidence that they would go to two or three hundred dollars in silver per ton. An assay, however, seemed to show only three dollars per ton. I caused it to be repeated, and had the same reply. This would seem to indicate that these were bits discarded because too poor, but that the work had perhaps been prosecuted for silver. I caused therefore a shaft to be sunk, and two tunnels to be carried entirely below the old excavations, and become satisfied that there was no workable silver ore to be found there. Large mica of good quality was abundant. It seemed certain that this work had all been done for mica. But the question more difficult to answer presented itself, by whom could this work have been executed? The Norsemen were on our coast as far back as six or seven centuries ago; they might have penetrated into the interior, and by employing the natives have caused these works to be executed, and carried the mica away to be used as window-lights for their huts, as the inhabitants of the Arctic regions are said sometimes to do. But on the other hand I have been informed that mica has been found with other old Indian ornaments and implements in certain caves in Tennessee, and perhaps elsewhere. It does not therefore seem improbable that a former race of Indians—possibly the "Moundbuilders," who used copper tools—made these excavations for the purpose of procuring the mica.

These veins are found with the gneiss and mica slate strata, which constitute the greater portion of the rocks of this region. The elements of their composition are identical with those of these strata, and even of clay slate. The difference is wholly in the structure of the veins, and not in their elements. In the veins the felspar, which usually predominates, exists tolerably pure, the quartz in lumps or large masses, and the mica in chrystals of various sizes, sometimes weighing several hundred pounds. Near the surface the felspar, converted by atmospheric action into kaolin, presents chalky looking belts, with quartz lying in lumps of different sizes, and more or less mica scattered around.

As almost all the rocky strata of this and the adjoining counties consist in part of mica, persons must expect to find it everywhere. For commercial purposes, it is to be sought therefore where it exists in plates of some size, is sufficiently transparent, and is free from such contortions and flaws as prevent its being split into thin sheets. Though the sizes of the chrystals will vary in different part of the vein, they are likely to be large at the surface as deeper down. That found at the surface, however, is usually injured by exposure to weather, which in time decomposes it, and is also disfigured by the clay carried into its seams. Unless within a few feet of the surface some mica of fair size is found, there would not seem to be encouragement to expend much labor in explorations.

Besides the valuable mines now being operated on in the counties of Michell and Yancey, I have seen from two localities in the southern part of this county (Buncombe) mica of fine size and good quality. Such is also found in the counties of Haywood, Jackson and Macon to the west, and as far east as Lincoln and Catawba. There seems to be no doubt but there is a tract of country of more than one hundred and fifty miles in extent capable of producing good mica, in quantities sufficient to supply a very large demand. Should that demand continue, these mines might be worked profitably to the depth of a thousand feet or more, and for centuries to come.

No other mineral of much commercial value has yet been found in the mica veins, but it is to be hoped that at some point or other the beryls found may occur in the form of emeralds. I have seen one or two transparent white beryls, and several small aquamarines, some of which I had cut. This last mineral, though used as a gem, is in fact worth little more than the cost of cutting it. As however the emerald owes its fine green color to the presence of less than one per cent. of the oxyd of chromium, and as chrome ore is widely dispersed throughout this section, we may hope that at some point emeralds may be found. I need scarcely remind you, that the emerald ranks next in value to the ruby and the diamond.

Very respectfully, yours, &c.,
T. L. CLINGMAN.

From the Southern Cultivator.

SHEEP RAISING.

Hints for Beginners.

A correspondent, writing from Spring Hill, in Tennessee, says:

My experience in sheep-husbandry is recent, extending only over five or six years. The suggestions I propose to offer, therefore, are intended chiefly for beginners.

WHAT BREED TO SELECT.

The intelligent farmer will comprehend that this depends upon locality, soil, &c., quite as much as the question whether to plant cotton, wheat or potatoes. The three classes of sheep are acknowledged by all fair-minded breeders to have three distinctive excellences and defects—a failure to consider which may entail much loss at the outset. It may be well to recapitulate some of these:

1. The Merinos are small, hardy, active sheep, yielding good weights of fine wool, and thriving better in large flocks than the English breeds. They are not so prolific as the latter and are apt to be careless mothers. They arrive slowly at maturity, but make good mutton when grown.

2. The South-down is below either the Cotswold or Merino, in weight of wool. As a mutton sheep, he is unequalled as is much more hardy than the Cotswold and more prolific than the Merino. Flock of several hundred do well together. They mature early and the lambs are much sought after by butchers.

3. The Cotswold may be taken as the representative of the Long Wool type—the Leicester being nearly, or quite, identical—the Lincolns as yet little known. They are large, quiet sheep with heavy fleeces of long, loose wool, which do not protect the body from rain and cold quite so well as the shorter and closer fleeces of the two preceding breeds. In this latitude, they seem only moderately prolific and the lambs are rather tender. From their size, they require rich pastures. The same cause, however, makes them excel the other breeds in yield per head.

If the beginner is on a Railroad or within reach of a city, he will find early lambs very profitable. Otherwise, he will turn his attention chiefly to wool.

In either case, it would be injudicious to buy a pure-blood flock to begin with. Let him select good, large native Ewes, well covered with wool. Above all, they must be *young*. An old sheep is dear at any price. Then for every forty Ewes, let him buy a thorough-bred ram of the breed he prefers. If he gets several, it is better they should be of at least two different strains of blood, so as to cross each with the other's progeny.

In buying rams, do not take inferior animals because they are to be crossed with scrubs—and *never* use a grade ram or a cross-bred one. A grade ram may be very handsome, but his lambs are as likely to breed back to the native as to the thorough bred type. In using a cross-bred ram, you sacrifice that "prepotency" of blood which enables the thorough-bred to stamp almost all its characteristics on the first cross from a Mongrel.

In buying rams, choose yearlings or two-year olds. Ram lambs should not be used for breeding. There is but one safe mode of buying—namely, apply to a reliable breeder, tell him what you want and leave the selection to him. Not all noted breeders are reliable, by-the-bye. As for "ram-peddlers" avoid them and their "thorough-bred" sheep.

Begin with a small flock, well selected, and take good care of them. Fifty choice native Ewes well fed, will give more wool and raise lambs of more value, than double the number of average animals badly cared for.

Valuable Fertilizer.

In the second books of Kings, 6th chapter and 25th verse, is a remarkable record:

"And there was a great famine in Samaria, and behold they beseiged it until an ass' head was sold for fourscore pieces of silver, and the fourth part of a cab of doves' dung for five pieces of silver."

It has been a question what peculiar properties that last mentioned material possessed to have been so highly prized at that remote period in history.

Through the extended valley of the Nile, as far as the first cataract are an immense number of rough, shabby towers, principally made of mud and dura stalks around the villages. They are usually of two stories, the upper one being wholly of earthen pots, piled one above another, horizontally, with their open end turned outward. In the interstices sticks project and the rude structure is a collossal dove-cote, the sticks being resting places for the birds. Thousands of birds are thus housed—not for their flesh, feathers or eggs, but exclusively for their droppings. Frequent scraping of the pots furnishes the best quality, and under the roosts the next best. Fellah women are the principal managers. The manure is gathered in small bags and carried to the river, where there is always a ready market with passing boatmen. So precious is it as a manure, a very little being sufficient, no one could think of raising rich, luscious melons if it could not be had. In all the essential properties of a powerful fertilizer, it rivals Peruvian guano. That is why it is so much sought. A thousand years before the Christian era its reputation all over the land of Canaan was quite as high as in Egypt. There is much ammonia in it, perhaps the effect of climate in those hot regions. Seeds fed with doves' dung and water, there germinate, bud and blossom almost like the rod of Aaron. Probably, therefore, in the dreadful sufferings for food in the siege, the reason why a quart of this manure brought five pieces of silver ($1 32) was because with it vegetables could be quickly grown to meet the urgent demands of a starving multitude.

Promising coal discoveries have been made in Iron county, Utah.

A single saw-mill at Muskegon, Michigan, cut 21,124,959 feet of lumber last season.

A school boy being asked by his teacher how he should flog him, replied, "if you please, sir, I should like to have it upon the Italian system of penmanship, the heavy strokes upward, and the down ones light."

An Indiana lawyer lately defended a man for keeping his saloon open after 10 o'clock at night. He made the plea that it was 10 o'clock until it was 11, and won his case.

The latest fashionable kink is popcorn parties. It is claimed that they not only keep young men from another kind of corned parties, but are very suggestive of a question they ought to pop.

A clergyman of Worcester, Mass., recently had an old coffin, which had evidently done service underground, and a shroud left in front of his residence, accompanied by a note recognizing his labors in behalf of temperance in terms of doubtful compliments. Massachusetts always was a notorious State for Ku-Klux operations.

STATE NEWS.

The Goldsboro' Messenger talks about snow last Friday night.

The Humphrey House, in Goldsboro', was opened last Saturday.

James McCosh, D. D., LL. D., President of Princeton College, is in Raleigh.

Mr. Edwin Fuller's new novel will soon be out. It is now in the publisher's hands.

The Baptist Sabbath School of Raleigh will pic-nic it at Haywood, Chatham county, on May Day.

It is now authoritatively stated that W. D. Haywood, Esq., will be an independent candidate for Mayor of Raleigh.

Henry J. Taintor, Private Secretary of Gov. Jewell, of Connecticut, has been appointed Commissioner of Deeds for this State, resident at Hartford.

Hon. Thomas S. Ashe, member of Congress from the Sixth District, has given his cadetship in the West Point Military Academy to William R. Hill, son of Gen. D. H. Hill, of Charlotte.

Dr. H. J. Menninger, late Secretary of State, has entered the drug business and is located on the corner of Thirty-Sixth street and Fifth Avenue, New York City.

From the 1st of September, '72, to the 1st of March, '73, there were 11,935 bales of cotton shipped South from Charlotte over the C. C. & A. R. R. The shipment over the N. C. R. R. for the