Extract from Prof. Emmons's last

GEOLOGICAL REPORT.

ECONOMICAL PRODUCTS OF THE COAL FIELDS, AND OF THE RED SANDSTONES.

Industry never lacks materials upon which to expend its energy. It is not cupidity which always seeks the useful, in the rough quarries of nature. The occurrence of one valuable product is but a step towards the discovery of another; and we are frequently surprised at the numerous wants which are supplied in a single series of sediments. In addition to the coal, which is the first object of pursuit, and the discovery of which has opened the way for others, and which probably would be useless, were there no coal; iron ore, free stones, grindstone grits, and fire-clays, may be enumerated.

The iron ores belong to two or three distinct kinds:

1. The ordinary hydrous peroxides, with argillaceous matter, which are undoubtedly the altered products derived from the argillaceous carbonate.

2. The same kind in appearance, but which is magnetic.

3. The black band of the Scotch miners, and which is regarded by a gentleman well acquainted with this ore, as the *Blackbest* of the Scottish miners.

All these kinds appear to be abundant, or to be coextensive with the coal slates. I am not able to speak of the extent of the brown magnetic ore which occurs upon the plantation of Mr. Tyson. It is an interesting anomaly in the way of iron ores, to find the brown ores, with their ordinary aspect, strongly magnetic. I suspect this kind may be confined to the surface, inasmuch, as under the action of light, and perhaps certain atmosphere influences, the black ores of the older rocks become very strong magnets.

The argillaceous carbonate, when exposed to meteoric influence, the hydrous peroxide, with argillaceous matter, occurs at the depth of about two hundred and thirty feet in the shaft at Egypt. It is frequently found outeropping above the coal seams, in nodular masses of different forms and sizes, and may be employed as a clue to the position of the coal seams; inasmuch, as there are no known bituminous seams above the iron ore beds. The principal seams are below; but inasmuch as there is another outcropping of iron below the seams, about thirty-four yards distant, it is necessary to be on guard, so as not to be led astray by the inferior beds of iron. These outcropping beds of iron ore at the Gulf, are undoubtedly the seams of black band, belonging to the next seam of coal below the main seam, which at Egypt is thirty feet below in the shaft. But this ore, though traces of its outcropping may be seen at several places, is not always to be found upon the surface. It is rarely as strong at any place, as at the Gulf.

The argillaceous carbonate occurs in balls, and in continuous beds. They are adjacent to each other. The color of the ore is gray or drab; it effervesces with acids, and is somewhat silicious; and certain parts of the seams of ore are tough. It differs in no respect from the argillaceous carbonate of the carboniferous series. It contains about thirty-three per cent. of metallic iron. The surface ores being altered, the carbonates contain fifty per cent. of metallic iron. This is not too large a per centage to be estimated for the magnetic ores of the Tyson plantation. Of the quantity of these carbonates there can be no doubt; since they occur along the entire outcrop of the slates of the coal series. A very beautiful and rich kind is found at Benjamin Wicker's beyond the known limits of the coal seam; so, at the other extreme, at Murchison's, it is still in place, and holding the same relations as at the Gulf, at Egypt, or McIver's.

I am unable to distinguish the black band from the argillaceous carbonate, where it has been subjected to meteoric influences. I have, heretofore, maintained and expressed the opinion, that there were two bands of the ore under consideration; one above, and the other below, the main coal seam; but the shaft at Egypt proves the existence of the black band accompanying the little coal seam; and hence, it is probable that what appears to be argillaceous carbonate, is the black band, changed by exposure to the air. There is, probably, only two bands of the argillaceous carbonate—the continuous band or seam, and the band of iron balls in proximity with each other.

This is mined with great ease and facility. Although hard and difficult to penetrate with the auger, yet, when the slate beneath the band is taken out, tons of it fall into the pit at once. The expense therefore of mining, is trifling under the circumstances; and hence, there is no reason for doubting the feasibility of making iron from it at a profit.

The black band invariably accompanies the coal seams. There are now known three seams of it; one between the main coal seams, another immediately below, and a third, equally important, accompanying the little coal seam thirty feet below the former, and from which it is separated by slates and gritty fire-clay, fifteen feet thick.

The black band owes its high value as an ore, to the facility with which it is converted into pig, and the quality of the pig produced from it. The ore itself is black and somewhat massive, as a slate; fracture compact and even, or only slightly conchoidal. It would be mistaken for a heavy massive slate.

This ore was first discovered at Farmersville; but it was not suspected to be the *Scotch black band;* but that it would prove available ore there could be no doubt. Mr. Paton, a gentleman of great experience in iron making, first suggested to Mr. McClane the character of the ore. Examination proved the correctness of the gentleman's opinion already referred to. When roasted it is strongly magnetic, and probably the brown magnetic ore of Tyson's, is only an altered black band, as it occurs also in layers, or in the form of a fissile ferruginous slate.

The composition of the black band was determined for me by my friend Dr. Jackson. It is composed of,

Carbon,	31.30
Peroxide of iron,	47.50
Silex,	9.00
Bitumen and water,	8.81
Sulphur,	3.39
	100.00

* * * * * *

This ore becomes important, in consequence of the facility of its conversion into pig. I am not able to say whether the 89 hundredths per cent. of sulphur in the roasted ore is sufficient to exert much influence in the furnace product; probably not. In the progress of mining, the black band is so closely connected with the coal, that it will necessarily be raised; and hence, a valuable ore will be obtained at the surface, with only a trifling additional cost, over that which attends the mining and raising of the coal only.

From the occurrence of this ore, the mineral resources or the wealth of the coalfield is very much increased. We may, therefore, congratulate the friends of the Deep river improvement, and those of the mining interest of the country, on this accession of valuable products; which must secure for this region important establishments for the manufacture of iron.

In connexion with the subject of iron ores, I may very properly introduce those which are denominated materials for construction, such as free stones and fire-clays. The red and purple sandstones abound, in the lower red sandstone, with beds suitable for building stone. The color of these beds, whatever it may be, is lively and inviting. Indeed, no difference can be discovered between those of Deep river and those of the Hudson river, or the Connecticut river sandstone.

[Professor Emmons remarks that these quarries of stone will become very valuable if the improvements of that region are made as contemplated, though now valueless, where people are constantly tempted to change place and emigrate.]

The *fire-clays*, though they are not found beneath every coal seam, still are common in connexion with the coal, and between the main and little seams. It is well known that they are important for fire-brick and other kindred purposes, where a refractory article is required. * * These singular beds are regarded as the soil upon which the coal-producing plants grew. Whether this view be true or not, the fact is well accounted for by this theory. * * *

Millstones.—Beneath the red sandstone, the conglomerate is so perfectly consolidated that it forms a valuable millstone. This is made up almost entirely of compacted quartz pebbles, which are so firmly imbedded that their fracture is often directly across the axis of the pebble, where it would be expected to break out. These pebbles are derived from the quartz veins of the Taconic system, and hence, consist of milky quartz.

The beds vary in thickness from six inches to eighteen, or even two feet.

The stone is adapted to the grinding of Indian corn. They are said to be better corustones than the French Burrhstone; for grinding wheat, the latter have been always preferred, as they are far less liable to heat the flour. Several quarries are opened in Moore county, and from them the country is principally supplied. The conglomerate at or near the base of the upper sandstone is less consolidated, and is not so well adapted to the formation of millstones. The thickness of the beds is from forty to sixty feet; but it is a mass which thins out, and hence its thickness at several points is extremely variable. The lower sandstone, with its conglomerates, is better developed in the south-west part of Moore county than elsewhere. We find, even at the Gulf, the conglomerate ceases to be an important stratum.

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Grindstone Grits.—In the midst of the gray stone beds, more particularly those which occupy a place between the two red sandstones, I have frequently observed valuable grits, which are suitable both for coarse and fine grindstones. Grindstones have, however, been frequently made from the reddish bed as well as the drab and gray grits. These stones have been made to supply the wants of the citizens in a neighborhood far removed from the means of transporting heavy materials.

Bituminous Slate.—The slates of the coal series, especially where they are very near the coal seams, are highly bituminous. They are known to contain 28.6 per cent. of volatile matter, and 19.55 per cent. of fixed carbon. Slates are employed for illumination in Europe, when they are near a large population. It would seem, therefore, that the slates of Deep river may, under favorable circumstances, be employed for this purpose. It is evident that they cannot be transported far for any purpose. They ignite readily in the fire and in a candle, blaze and burn with a good flame, emitting a white light. The question may be entertained, whether it is not possible to obtain the bitumen or volatile matter in a portable state. The importance of light and fuel certainly warrant trials for this purpose. Even the slate far removed from the coal seams is combustible, and highly so. It is doubtful whether such a mass of bituminous slates exists even in the carboniferous series. It is impossible to estimate the amount of combustible matter locked up in them, and which it is possible may be turned to some account.

The Horse-Shoe Nail.—A farmer once went to market, and meeting with good luck, he sold all his corn and lined his purse with silver and gold. Then he thought it time to return, in order to reach home before nightfall; so he packed his money-bags upon his horse's back, and set out on his journey. At noon he stopped in a village to rest; and when he was starting again, the ostler, as he led out the horse, said, "Please you, sir, the left shoe behind has lost a nail." "Let it go," answered the farmer;" "the shoe will hold fast enough for the twenty miles that I have still to travel. I'm in haste." So saying, he journeyed on.

In the afternoon, the farmer stopped again to bait his horse; and as he was sitting in the inn, the stable-boy came and said, 'Sir, your horse has lost a nail in his left shoe behind; shall I take him to the smithy?" "Let him alone," answered the farmer; "I've only six miles further to go; and the horse will travel well enough that distance. I've no time to lose."

Away rode the farmer; but he had not gone far before the horse began to limp; it had not limped far, ere it began to stumble; and it had not stumbled long, before it fell down and broke a leg. Then the farmer was obliged to leave the horse lying in the road, to unstrap his bags, throw them over his shoulder, and make his way home on foot as well as he could, where he did not arrive till late at night. "All my ill-luck," said the farmer to himself, "comes from neglect of a horse-shoe nail." Reader, look out for your horse-shoe nails.

Longevity in England.—We yesterday published a biographical sketch of Mrs. Curgenven, who recently deceased in Cornwalll in her 106th year, but some months since there appeared in the Illustrated London News an obituary of Miss Elizabeth Gray, teacher, who died in Edinburg in April, 1856, at the age of 108, having been born in May, 1748, who at the census of 1851 was then the oldest person in that city, and at her death was the oldest person in Scotland. Her oldest brother died in 1728, twenty years before her birth, and her father in 1755. So that she survived her father 101 years, and (which is so much more extraordinary that it may not again occur in a century) her *brother died* 128 *years before her.* She long taught school in her native city, and a gentleman now resident in London, stated he attended it 71 years ago.

We have somewhere read of a traveller who stood one day beside the cages of some birds, that, exposed for sale, ruffled their sunny plumage on the wires and struggled to be free. A way-worn and sun-browned man, like one returned from foreign lands, he looked wistfully and sadly in these captives, till tears started in his eye, and, turning round on their owner, he asked the price of one, paid it in strange gold, and, opening the cage, set the prisoner free; and thus he did with captive after captive, till every bird was away, soaring to the skies and singing on the wings of liberty. The crowd started and stood amazed; they thought him mad, till, to the question of their curiosity, he replied, "I was once myself a captive; I know the sweets of liberty."

Louisville Journal.

What evidence have we that Cowper was poor?

Answer—He "Oh'd for a lodge in some vast wilderness."

OUR FOREIGN DRINKS.

Secretary Guthrie and his subordinates in the United States Treasury Department must be wonderful men. Looking over the volume called the "Report on the Finances," with its six hundred and seventy pages of facts and figures, we are perfectly amazed at the amount of information it gives, and we marvel at the industry and the zeal, to say nothing of the arithmetical skill, that must have been brought into exercise in the preparation of the book. The number of tables and the variety of the information they give are perfectly bewildering. We wander among a maze of figures. We learn all about our exports and imports, not only for one year, but for scores of years. We learn all about population, wealth, cotton, iron, coal, coinage, commerce, and manufactures, and as we turn over page after page, we grow more and more sensible of the dignity of figures—the majesty of statistics.

Among the tables spread before us by the Secretary is one of some volume and detail, telling how much wine, spirits, and malt liquor have been imported into this country for a series of years. We have not room for the whole of it; but we give in a compact shape the number of gallons and their value imported during the year ending June 30, 1856. It is as follows:

	Gallons.	Value.
Madeira Wine,	44,393	$32,031
Sherry Wine,	398,392	270,317
Sicily Wine,	184,104	61,954
Port Wine,	264,816	158,729
Claret Wine,	1,516,018	561,440
Other red Wine,	697,334	285,111
Other white Wine,	517,135	180,496
Brandy,	1,715,717	2,859,342
Grain spirits,	1,582,135	772,276
Other spirits,	771,604	288,494
English Ale, &c.	792,153	504,146
Scotch Ale, &c.	359,486	193,000
Total,	8,843,370	$6,176,939

This is a snug little table for Brother Jonathan to sit down to of a winter evening. How the glasses sparkle on that board, and how comfortable the old gentleman feels, as he stretches his legs under the mahogany, groaning with its 8,843,470 gallons, while his purse is groaning at the little bill of over six millions of dollars, charged against him by his foreign cousins for the fluids they furnished to him. We begin to fear that he is a pretty hard drinker, for besides all these wines, spirits and ales reported on his Custom House books, he distils a fearful quantity of Monongahela and Bourbon; manufactures a dreadful supply of "French brandy," brews beer, ale and porter enough to fill every day any quantity of great tuns of heidelburg; and has lately taken to growing his own grapes and making his own champagne and other wines, so that he may soon be able to say that his country is a well-liquored as well as a well-watered country.

From the statistics furnished by Mr. Guthrie it does not appear that our importation of all liquors is increasing. We get scarcely one-fourth as much Madeira wine as we used to; but this is owing to the failure of the vines in Madeira. The supply of Sicily wine is less than it was ten years ago. The Port has fallen off materially, and would appear still less, if none but the genuine article were reported. The claret is below the average of the past eight years; the "other red wines," as well as the "other white wines," are scarcely half what they used to be. Brandy has fallen off in quantity more than one-half from what it was in 1850, but it has cost us much more. The "other grain spirits" are increasing, and so are the English and Scotch malt liquors, notwithstanding that we make such amazing quantities of lager beer, ale and porter, and notwithstanding that our liquors of this kind are often as good and always far cheaper than the best we can import. The great increase of liquors imported is in Sherry wine, which has been steadily advancing, from 4,685 gallons in 1843, up to about 400,000 gallons in 1856. It is plain, indeed, that in spite of Temperance societies, liquor laws, and moral reforms of all kinds, we are still a hard-drinking people, and likely to continue so. The only encouraging thing that we see in Mr. Guthrie's figures is that there seems to be a growing taste for malt liquors and light wines, in preference to the pernicious spirits which we used to consume so lavishly.

Phil. Bulletin.

Yankee Enterprise.—A merchant in this city had a pile of lumber which he was anxious to ship, but on the day before shipment the great snow came on, and the lumber was covered with it. A gang of laborers could not be had, and what to do he didn't know. He was accosted by a young man to learn the time, when he asked him why he did not buy a watch. The young man said he could not afford it. The merchant told him he would give him his watch (worth $200) if he would dig the boards out by breakfast time next morning. The young man attempted the task, and accomplished it, working by moonlight all night, and the next day's sun shone upon the scene of his labors, displaying a vast pile of boards, over two hundred feet in length, fifty feet in width, and six in height. Having accomplished his task, he shouldered his shovel and marched home to breakfast, after which he repaired to the counting room of the astonished merchant for the prize he had so fairly earned. The latter promptly paid the forfeit. The young man is a Bostonian, about twenty-one years of age, and unused to laborious employment. So says the New York Herald.

A New Dodge.—A few days since a well dressed and gentlemanly looking man, leading a beautiful boy some five years of age, entered a jeweller's shop in Broadway, New York, and asked the price of a handsome gold bracelet; it was $125. The gentleman examined, and finally bought the article and put it in his pocket. He then took out a large purse, full of shining pieces, and opened it. At that moment he suddenly exclaimed, with a look of alarm, "Why where is Charley?" and, dashing the plump purse on the counter, he rushed from the store in frantic search of his boy who had disappeared. The clerk awaited the gentleman's return for some time, with his purse lying where he had cast it down in his excitement. No fear of trickery was entertained, as the purse evidently contained money amounting to twice the value of the bracelet. But when hour after hour passed without the gentleman's return, and it was found that the purse only contained brass medals, the size of half-eagles, the clerk and his master both came to the conclusion that their customer was a slippery one, and that his innocent looking boy was not being brought up in the way he should go.

Resistance to Ridicule.—Learn from the earliest days to inure your principles against the peril of ridicule; you can no more exercise your reason, if you live in the constant dread of laughter, than you can enjoy your life if you are in the constant terror of death. If you think it right to differ from the times, and to make point of morals, do it, however rustic, however antiquated, however pedantic, it may appear; do it, not for insolence, but seriously and grandly—as a man who wore a soul of his own in his bosom, and did not wait till it was breathed into him by the breath of fashion.—*Sydney Smith.*

A FRONTIER SCENE

About seven miles north of Hopkinsville, Kentucky, is a very remarkable spot. A solitary post oak stanks in the barrens, in the forks of the roads, and has obtained, universally, the name of the "Lonesome Post Oak." In the early settlement of the country—more than half a century ago—this was the only tree to be seen for many miles round, and hence obtained its name. It was then tall, green, and flourishing; it is now, however, if it yet stands, a leafless, branchless, thunder-riven, shattered trunk, sending up its shafts as straight as the mainmast of a ship of war. Superstition has long guarded the spot. The tree is looked upon with something like the same veneration with which the Egyptian regards his pyramids, those grim sentinels of antiquity.

The place is remarkable for a very severe battle fought by Harpe and Davis. The Big Harpe, and Little Harpe, his brother, were the terror of the surrounding country in those early times. Two more execrable monsters never disgraced humanity. They lived with two women as bad as themselves, in a cave about twenty miles from this tree. Blood and massacre were their delight. It was their custom to sally forth, and, without any reason, to murder, without distinction, all the men, women and children they could find. As the country filled up, the people could no longer submit to their horrid depredations. Men and dogs collected, and took the pursuit. They came on the two Harpes in a narrow valley, at about two miles from this tree. They immediately mounted their horses and dashed off in the direction of their cave. In going about five miles, Davis, whose horse was very fleet, had left his companions, and caught up with Big Harpe, he having previously separated from his brother, the Little Harpe.

Here were two powerful men, armed with rifles, butcher knives and tomahawks, by themselves, far from help, and bent on death. Davis well knew that if overpowered he would certainly be killed; and Harpe had determined to die rather than be taken alive. They passed and re-passed each other, frequently making blows without effect, each dreading to fire for fear of missing, and thereby placing himself at the mercy of his antagonist. Finally, the horse of Big Harpe fell, and threw his rider, then rose and galloped off. Harpe sprang to his feet, and fired at Davis' horse which reared and fell. They were now not more than ten yards apart. Harpe, whose sagacity was equal to his courage and villainy, kept dodging and springing from side to side, approaching Davis, however, by imperceptible degrees. Davis, discovering he would soon lose the benefit of his gun, now fired in his turn but without effect. Each man now drew his knife, and they closed in mortal struggle. Very soon they fell, side by side; but at this juncture a large wolf dog of Davis' came to his master's assistance, and seized Harpe by the throat. This produced a diversion in favor of Davis, who immediately recovered himself and stabbed Harpe to the heart. The hideous yell which the wretch sent up, is said still to be heard on dark nights, ringing wildly along the heath. Some of Davis' friends soon joined him; they dug a hole and buried Harpe at the foot of the Lonesome Post Oak.

Little Harpe escaped, went down the Mississippi, and joined the celebrated Mason and his gang at Stack Island. Soon after Harpe joined him, Mason attacked a flat boat from Cincinnati, and killed all the hands. For this a large reward was offered for Mason, to obtain which, little Harpe decoyed him to Natchez, and there informed against and betrayed him. On Mason's trial, Harpe himself was recognized, was tried and found guilty; and on the same day that Mason was hung he also expiated his crimes on the gallows. Mason was a very remarkable and extraordinary man. He was distinguished by a strong double row of under and upper teeth that clenched together with the energy and tenacity of a steel trap.

A Little Millionaire.—The fact that Joshua Sears, of Boston, left his son, three years old, $1,567,000, has been published. The Boston *Traveller* says:

On the day he reaches the age of twenty-one he is to receive $30,000 in cash, from that period until he is twenty-five years old he is to receive $4,000 annually; from twenty-five years of age till he reaches the age of thirty years he is to be paid $6,000 per annum in cash, and after that period he is to receive $10,000 annually, during the remainder of his natural life, for his support. Should this son die, leaving no issue, the property goes to the blood heirs of the testator. When this youngster attains his majority, his property, if judiciously invested, should aggregate somewhere between four and five millions.

Mild Gunpowder.—The Boston Post tells a pleasant anecdote of Mr. G.——, who, a good many years ago, was a retail merchant in a populous town in Vermont. He was famous as "the very pink of politeness," and was indeed an expert salesman. If he had not got the article that might happen to be called for, he was sure to name something that was sufficiently like it to answer the purpose. Thus when a customer inquired for "winter-strained oil," the merchant told him he hadn't got that kind exactly—but he had some that was strained *very late in the fall!*" Disparage one article as you might, he was sure to find something to praise in it—if his tea was not strong, it was well flavored, &c., &c. On one occasion a customer having called for a sample of gunpowder, rubbed it in his hand to ascertain the proportion of charcoal, and then observed that it lacked strength. "I know," answered the imperturbable tradesman falling into his old tea-formula—"I know the powder is not so strong as some, but you'll find it *very mild and agreeable.*"

In 1815, $255,000 was voted as prize money to Commodore O. H. Perry, and the officers and seamen of the Lake Erie fleet, for their gallantry in the victory over the British. In 1815, $200,000 was voted Commodore McDonough, his officers and seamen. In 1816, $100,000 was voted Decatur's squadron. In 1855, $20,000 was voted Commodore M. C. Perry for eminent services in negotiating the treaty with Japan. Congress voted to Gen. LaFayette, at different times, $236,000 and 35,000 acres of land for his sacrifices in the revolutionary war.

TOTTLEBEN A SCOTCHMAN.

I ken'd him well. The chiel was born in *Fyfe,*
The bairn of Andrew *Drummond* and his wife,
Sae restless that the neebors cald him, when
A bairnie, "toddle-but" and "*toddle-ben;*"
Because, instead of biding by his mither,
He roam'd the house, frae ae room to anither.
Whon he grew up, his uncle (wha was rich,
Frae being gairdner to the Czarovitch,)
Got him to Russia, where, part of the name,
Jocosely gi'en him when he was at hame,
He took discreetly; so that he was then
Known by na ither name than "Toddleben."
Atweel considered gleg beyont his years,
He was pit in their schule of Engineers,
Rose to be captain, and, when war brak out,
Obleeged to choose 'tween duty and the knout,
He went to the Crimea. There, if taken
By his auld name, he might be ken'd again:
Sae from the woodie to preserve his throttle,
He changed the spelling "*Toddle*" into "*Tottle.*"
Thus Scottish Andrew passes, amang men,
For "The Great Russian General Tottleben."

ARRIVAL OF THE ASIA!

NEW YORK, Feb. 22.

The steamer *Asia,* with Liverpool dates to the 7th, arrived to day, bringing nearly $400,000 in specie.

A telegraphic dispatch from Constantinople says that Russia demands the occupation of the Persian province Mazanderan.

The English have re-constructed the forts at Bushire, left troops there, and marched into the interior. They are also about to occupy two towns on the Persian Gulf.

The English and French troops have been ordered to evacuate Greece. Their demand having been fully complied with, a commission from the three protecting powers, Russia, England and France, has been appointed to investigate condition of the Greek finances.

Parliament met on the 3rd.

The Queen in her speech says, that she hopes, in negotiating with the United States and Honduras about Central America, all difficulties will be removed.

The wars in Persia and China were discussed.

Information was asked, and an interesting discussion occurred, concerning the Hudson's Bay Company, during which its annexation to Canada was broached by Mr. Laing, as the only means of averting a conflict, which might arise from American emigrants overstepping the borders and squatting on English territory.

The Sound Dues Treaty has been printed. It binds the states signing, to pay Denmark upwards of 30,000,000 Rix dollars. The government of Naples officially pardons all State prisoners in the Kingdom.

LIVERPOOL, Feb. 7th.

Commercial.—Cotton, fair and middling, the broker's circular quotes slightly lower, and lower grades slightly better. Closed firm. Sales for the week 45,000 bales.

Breadstuffs dulls and unchanged, except corn, which has advanced 6d.

Money slightly easier. Consols, for money 93¼.

DISTRIBUTION.

If it be so imperatively necessary to reduce the revenue, to guard against too large an accumulation in the Treasury, there are various modes of attaining that end without any serious advantage. Mr. Guthrie estimated a balance of about $44,000,000 on the 20th of June, 1858. We owe, in the shape of public debt for loans, exclusive of $20,000,000 to Indians, about $31,000,000. Let the Secretary of the Treasury increase his premiums for the redemption of these loans. He boasts of the saving of interest on the stock already called in, and a few per cent. more would not affect the result materially, or damage his reputation as a successful financier.

But there is another mode which is worthy of consideration, because it involves a principle of justice to the old States, and may now be on opportunity canvassed upon its abstract merits. Mr. Bell gave notice in the Senate on Thursday, of his intention to bring in a bill for an equitable distribution of the proceeds of the public lands among all the States, upon a just basis of population. This echo of the olden time, when Whig measures addressed themselves to the intelligence and patriotism of the country, vibrated gratefully upon many, who like myself, still cling with pride and with satisfaction to the glorious recollections of that party. It stirred our blood, like the blast of the war trumpet, when Clay and Preston, and Webster and Bell, and Mangum and Southard, and such like, sounded the call to duty, and summoned hosts of gallant men, from the remotest corners of the Union—men who knew only a common country, and were united by a common bond of patriotism. If Bell could carry his proposition, the figures of the Treasury Department demonstrate that the aggregate revenue might be reduced about $6,500,000 annually, by distributing the lands proceeds.

During the fiscal year which expired on the 30th of June last, the sales reached within a fraction of $9,000,000, and $13,000,000 are the estimated receipts for the year 1857 and 1858. By deducting the proceeds for the present and succeeding year, the balance in the Treasury on the 30th June 1858, which has excited so much comment in particular quarters, would be cut down to about $31,000,000, or just the amount of the public debt. Call that debt in according to the manner suggested, by increasing the rate of premiums, and there would be no balance to squabble over. Meantime Congress would have leisure to investigate the whole tariff question thoroughly, and to bring forward some practicable and permanent system, reducing the revenue proportionately to the expenditures. This seems to be a sensible solution of the difficulty which exercises gentlemen concerning a money plethora, and it furnishes a means of extrication, if there be cause for the apprehension which is asserted so gravely.—*Wash. Letter.*

Anecdote of John Wesley.—At one time, when Mr. Wesley was travelling in Ireland, his carriage became fixed in the mire and the harness broke. While he and his companion were laboring to extricate it, a poor man passed by in great distress. Mr. Wesley called to him and inquired the cause of his distress. He said that he had been unable, through misfortune, to pay his rent of twenty shillings, and his family were just being turned out of doors. "Is that all you need?" said Mr. Wesley, handing him the amount—"here, go and be happy." Then turning to his companion, he said pleasantly, "You see now why our carriage stopped here in the mud."

Pretty Good.—Mr. Robert Chambers is the proprietor of Glenmoriston, and notwithstanding his literary enthusiasm on popular rights and privileges, manages his beautiful estate much after the usual fashion. He erected, at the opening of an attractive walk, a board, on which was inscribed, "No thoroughfare this way. Trespassers will be prosecuted with the utmost rigor of the law." A wag during the night, painted on the other side of the board, "Chambers' Information for the People."

A Rat Story.—Rev. Walter Colton, in his diary of a voyage to California in a man-of-war, entitled "Deck and Port," relates the following rat story:

I have always felt some regard for a rat since my cruise in the Constellation. We were fitting our for sea at Norfolk, and taking in water and provisions. A plank was resting on the sills on one of the ports which communicated with the wharf. On a bright moonlight evening, we discovered two rats on the plank coming into the ship. The foremost was leading the other by a straw, one end of which each held in his mouth. We managed to capture them both, and found, to our surprise, the one led by the other was blind. His faithful friend was trying to get him on board, where he would have comfortable quarters for a three years' cruise. We felt no disposition to kill either, and landed them both on the wharf. How many there are in the world to whom the fidelity of that rat readeth a lesson!

Sale of Negroes.—The gang of 127 Negroes, sold yesterday by S. J. Davant, Esq., Commissioner in Equity for Beaufort District, at the Sales Room of Messrs. Capers and Heyward, averaged $735 88 each.—*Charleston Mercury.*

COMMUNICATION.

FOR THE OBSERVER.

A communication in the Wilmington Journal of the 18th inst., over the signature of "Deep River," commenting on the estimates of "Cape Fear," as published in the Observer of the 26th Jan'y, should have a passing notice.

"Cape Fear" disclaims any intention to undervalue, or misrepresent, in his statement in regard to the Deep River works, and if convinced of error, he will be the first to acknowledge and correct it. Truth is what he seeks.

He had always understood that the Locks (except those below Little River) would admit Boats only 16 by 80 feet, and it was so stated, and his estimates were based on Boats of that size.

But "Deep River" states that he "knows that the Locks will admit Boats 18 by 105 feet. If so, I acknowledge my estimate to be wrong so far as regards the difference in the dimensions of the Boats. But is not "Deep River" mistaken in the fact? This is a question easily settled—the Locks may be measured. But in the meanwhile, I will state, that the Steamer Sun, (as I am informed by the agent and part owner,) measures from stem to stern exactly 103½ feet long by 17 feet wide, and from actual trials he has ascertained that the Sun can't pass through the lower Locks. And I believe it is admitted that the Locks above Little River are less than those below.

"Deep River" is mistaken also in saying that Boats 18 by 105 feet will carry 75 to 100 tons and not draw more than 24 inches water. A Boat properly built, strong enough for the coal trade, would draw empty 9 inches, leaving 1 foot 3 inches for freighting. Allowing 15 feet for the rakes and rudder, and one foot for the sides, would leave in the clear 17 by 90 feet. Now to allow 1 foot 3 inches for freighting, would be equal to displacing 1912 cubic feet of water, and allowing 36 cubic feet to the ton, would make 53 1-9 tons measure. I believe 50 tons freight would sink the boat 2 feet, instead of its taking 75 to 100 tons as "Deep River" asserts.

Open flats, if they could be used to carry coal, might do more; and I suppose they are the kind of Flats "Deep River" speaks of as being built at $300 to $500. Such flats, with even 30 tons coal, would soon get *water-logged* in navigating the river to Wilmington. Better far resort to the "birch canoes of 1790" than such craft. Coal Boats (indeed all boats carrying heavy freight) require to be built with *strong timbers,* with *kelsons, beams and knees,* and I think should be one quarter decked; and they will cost when properly built not less upon an average than $1000.

We know that some of our Harnett friends can do grand things! Yet we are incredulous in regard to the fact, "that a flat costing $600 took from Summerville on ordinary water, [not drawing over 2 feet through the Locks,] 900 barrels Rosin averaging 300 lbs. [to Wilmington] making in all one hundred and thirty-five tons." If done it was, we admit, a wonderful achievement!

The present capacity of the River from Fayetteville to Wilmington is estimated at three millions tons per annum—besides a due allowance for rafts and for all the Boats that may ever come from above; without, however, making any drawback for obstructions by the lodgment of Dams or fragments of locks in the River, which we may occasionally expect.

In conclusion, "Cape Fear" will stake his reputation, that there will never a Boat carry coal, through the present class of Locks, at $2 per ton for one year, without bringing the owner in debt.

CAPE FEAR

SUPREME COURT.

The following opinions have been delivered by the Supreme Court:

By NASH, C. J. In West v. Sloan, in equity, from Mecklenburg; plaintiff entitled to a re-conveyance and to an account. Also, in Marshall v Flinn, from New Hanover, affirming the judgment. Also, in *Doe ex dem* Kerns v Feeler, from Rowan, affirming the judgment. Also, in McElroy v Harris, in equity, from Davidson, declaring there is no error in the order appealed from. Also, in Doe *ex dem* Black v Caldwell, from Mecklenburg, affirming the judgment. Also, in Dewey v Cochran, from Cabarrus, affirming the judgment.

By PEARSON, J. In Mann v Hunter, from Pasquotank, affirming the judgment. Also in Rives v Dudley, in equity, from Northampton. Also, in Brown v Brown, from Orange, affirming the judgment. Also, in Neal and Richardson v Wilcox, from Jones, affirming the judgment. Also, in Springs v Harvin, in equity, from Mecklenburg, directing a reference. Also, in Perry v Yarborough, in equity, from Franklin.

By BATTLE, J. In Threadgill v. Barnawell, in equity, from Anson, dismissing the bill. Also, in Barnawell v Threadgill, in equity, from Anson, decree for plaintiffs. Also, in Watt v Johnston, from Chatham, affirming the judgment. Also, in Schoolfield v Chambers, from Person, affirming the judgment. Also, in Symons v Northem, from Davidson, affirming the judgment. Also, in Ingram v Ingram, from Union, affirming the judgment. Also, in Smithwick v Shepherd, from Martin, affirming the judgment.—*Ral. Standard.*

Water Buckets.—We usually decline making any editorial reference to advertisements in our columns; and will not admit that an advertising customer has any claim upon us for such notice, as he only pays for the space occupied by his advertisement. Nevertheless, we will depart from our usual course, to call the attention of North Carolina merchants to Mr. Makepeace's establishment at Fayetteville for the manufacture of water buckets. Mr. M. is an enterprising and worthy citizen of our State; and money paid to him for the product of his labor, is not sent out of the State, but again invested among us—adding to the wealth and prosperity of the community.

If our own worthy mechanics were adequately sustained and encouraged, instead of looking to the North for every article of mechanism, a great deal of pressure in money matters would be avoided.—*Greensborough Patriot.*

We learn that, on Monday last, at the institution for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind in this City, a boy about sixteen years of age named Harrell, a pupil in the deaf and dumb department was killed in a sudden altercation, by another pupil, William Keek. The altercation and fatal result took place a little after dark, in the common study room, and in the presence of a number of witnesses. Blows were exchanged by the parties several times. Keek is a powerful young man, and the other was comparatively feeble. His death was immediate, and seemed to result from the the blows inflicted by the fist of his adversary. A few moments before, the parties were apparently on friendly terms. The matter will be investigated to-day, Tuesday.

Raleigh Standard.
