

most valuable and extensive tract of country, and is the most considerable tributary stream of Lake Michigan.

Gov. Cass, on his route to Chicago, ascended Miami to Fort Wayne. From thence his canoe was transported over a portage of about nine miles, to the head of the Wabash. This river he descended to its mouth, and then descended the Ohio to the Mississippi. This latter river he ascended to the mouth of the Illinois, one of whose tributary streams approaches within ten miles of Chicago.

The character of the Illinois is represented to us by essentially different from that of any other river in the western regions. It has more resemblance to a canal than to a stream. For 300 miles, not one rapid, nor even a ripple is discoverable. The water moves sluggishly, and for a considerable part of the distance, no current is perceptible. In ascending this stream, there are a number of places where the voyageur is liable to be lost, by following channels which terminate in extensive ponds. Within about one hundred miles of Chicago, the appearance of the country, and with it the character of the river, changes. A continued succession of falls and rapids, at this season of the year, puts an entire stop to navigation, and the boats and their contents must be transported by land to Chicago. This change commences at a remarkable hill, called by the early French voyageurs Le Rocher. It is a very elevated rock, not less than 250 feet high, perpendicular on three sides, and washed at its base by the Illinois. On the fourth side it is connected with the surrounding country by a narrow ledge, which can only be ascended by a precipitous winding path. The top of the rock is level, and contains perhaps three-fourths of an acre. It has been strongly fortified by the Indians, and many years ago was the scene of a desperate conflict between the Potawatamies, and a band of the Illinois Indians. The latter fled to this place for refuge from the fury of their enemies. The post could not be carried by assault: and tradition says that the besiegers finally succeeded, after many repulses, by cutting off the supply of water. Every person who appeared at the top of the rock, for the purpose of procuring water from the river was immediately shot; and the result was surrender, which was followed by the total extirpation of the Illinois band.

At the mouth of the Plein, and within about forty rods of its junction with the Kankakee, the party discovered one of the most remarkable mineralogical facts which has been seen in our country.—There is in the bed of the river a large black walnut tree, as it lies in the river, measures about fifty-one feet; but this is not its whole length, for a part of it is covered by the bank. It is from two feet and a half to three feet in diameter.—The tree is divested of its branches, but both the bark and the wood of the trunk are entirely converted into stone. Iron pyrites and crystals of quartz are evidently distinguishable in this petrified substance. The tree itself is in the bed of the river, and the rocky bottom of the stream is formed upon it. Some of the rocks, certainly *in situ*, which rested upon the tree, were taken up. They were a species of the latest sand stone. No other petrifications were discovered in the vicinity; nor did there appear to be any quality of the water which produced this remarkable result.

Large specimens of this tree have been brought to this city, and will be deposited among the various collections in the country.

We understand that Mr. Schoolcraft, who accompanied Gov. Cass, and who has remained at Chicago for a few days, has collected all the facts which could be ascertained, and which could reflect light upon this interesting subject. His mineralogical acquisitions are well known, and there are few men in our country who are more competent than he is to pursue such an investigation. The scientific world may expect from him an able and interesting memoir.

This tree must not be confounded with those partial or local petrifications which are frequently found in springs and small streams. It is entirely different, in its character, and its position, and the substances in contact with it, claim for it an antiquity at least coeval with that of the bed of the river. But we must leave to others, who are more able, the task of speculating upon this interesting and unexpected discovery.

#### FELLING OF TREES FOR TIMBER.

TIMOTHY PICKERING Esq. a gentleman who has paid profound attention to rural affairs, controverts the received opinion, as adopted by Commodore Porter, on the proper time for felling trees. To the moon he attributes no influence on the sap of vegetables, because its rays have no heat; and the circulation of sap requires heat.—We wish we could make room for the whole essay in the "Farmer," of Sept. 28, but can only make the following extract:—

"No one can doubt that dryness is favourable and moisture unfavourable to the durability of timber; and in winter the sap of trees is probably inspissated to

a considerable degree; but no living tree is then "devoid of sap." The important question, therefore, in relation to the felling of timber trees, is, I am inclined to think, not simply when trees have the smallest quantity of sap; but at what season the sap they contain will most easily escape, or be expelled. The facts I am going to state may show this to be in the spring; when the sap is thinnest and flowing in the greatest abundance.

In the year 1800, deusted of public employment, & about to commence husbandry, I made a visit to the late Joseph Cooper, of New-Jersey, one of the most intelligent farmers I ever knew, to converse with him on the subject of his vocation. Among other things, he spoke of timber; and stated the following facts.—His farm lying on the Delaware river, nearly opposite to Philadelphia, was exposed to the ravages of the British army while occupying that city. Pressed for fuel, his fences first fell a prey to their necessities. In the month of May, 1778, they cut down a quantity of his white oak trees: but circumstances requiring their sudden evacuation of the city, his fallen timber was saved. These trees he split into posts and rails. The ensuing winter, in the old of the moon in February, he felled an additional quantity of his white oaks, and split them also into posts and rails to carry on his fencing. It is now said he, two and twenty years since the fences made of the May-felled timber were put up, and they are yet sound; whereas those made of the trees, felled in February, were rotting in about twelve years. He then pronounced confidently, the best time for felling timber trees, for durability, was when vigorously flowing. He said, also, that white oak and hickory trees felled at that season, would not be attacked by the worms, producing what is called "powder pot." And added that hoop-poles oak and hickory ought, for this reason, to be cut at the same season.

In the same year, accident threw in my way the late Oliver Evans's book on the construction of mills; to which was subjoined a treatise of a Mr. Ellicott, a mill-wright, on the same subject. Turning over some of the leaves of this treatise, I lighted on the passage in which the author directed hickory timber, intended for the cogs of wheels, to be cut when the sap was running, that they might not become powder post.—In the following winter (1801) being in Boston, and conversing with a friend from the country on subjects of husbandry, I repeated Mr. Cooper's observation, as above stated. This friend then mentioned a farmer, the well-pole (or sweep) of whose well, happened to break at a very busy time: that to supply its place he cut down the first small tree that came to hand; and this was a white birch. The sap then running freely, he stripped off the bark, and put up his pole, and it lasted seventeen years. Had he put it up with the bark on, it would probably have rotted in a year, the closeness of the birch bark preventing the escape of the sap. A close coat of paint, laid on unseasoned wood, operates like the close birch bark, by confining the sap and hastening its decay.

More than fifty years ago, seeing a quantity of logs, with the bark on, piled up by a chair maker's shop, I asked him why he did not split them, that they might the sooner get seasoned. He answered, that so long as the bark remained on the logs the sap remained in them, and they were more easy to be dressed and turned. Unless timber trees be cut when the sap is running the bark cannot be stripped off; though with considerable pains it may be removed by the axe and drawing knife, but less perfectly.

The facts and reasoning of Mr. Pickering appear decisive; though the nine tenths of mankind believe contrariwise. By many experiments tried in Europe, it appears that trees, stripped of their bark, and left standing three years afterwards, were most solid and durable.

Farmers, mechanics, all men, are interested in this enquiry. Nature has been kind in presenting the most ponderous, beautiful and "incorruptible wood," to the inhabitants of the tropics. Those everlasting trees have all the instericties so charged with resin that the air makes no perceptible impression on, or decomposition of the timber for some centuries.

Posts of the *pin* have been taken out of the ground in the West Indies, after standing there for 150 years, without exhibiting any signs of decay.

Though no known or discoverable process of seasoning can probably render our oaks equal to those tropical trees, yet we are confident much may be done for the preservation of our common timber, in fences and in architecture of all kinds.

#### FROM SOUTH AMERICA.

BALTIMORE, OCTOBER 1.

The ship CHESAPEAKE, Capt. Lane, arrived here yesterday from Coquimbo and Valparaiso. The Chesapeake left Coquimbo on the 9th of July, and Valparaiso on the 19th.

On the 16th of July, H. B. M. frigate Owen Glendower, arrived at Valparaiso in 10 days from Lima, bringing intelli-

gence that the Armistice concluded between General San Martin and the Vice Roy of Lima, still continued. It was also reported that it was impossible for the city to hold out a month after the commencement of hostilities. Information was also received that an American vessel from Philadelphia, and an English vessel from Rio Janeiro, both deeply laden with flour, had eluded the vigilance of the blockading squadron, and had got in. The U. S. frigate Macedonian, (after repairing the Chesapeake) sailed for Lima, and thence contemplated visiting the Sandwich-Islands.

Lord Cochrane had the second time seized in the port of Arico, a considerable sum of money (upwards of 100,000 dollars) belonging to the brig Macedonian, Capt. Smith of Boston, last from Canton, under the pretext of breach of blockade, and had ordered the brig to sea under the command of midshipman Herron, late of the Macedonian frigate.—Capt. Smith remained on shore. Sir Thomas Hardy, commodore of the British squadron, had protested against the extent of the blockade declared by the Chilian government, and had declared that he should not respect it beyond the limits of three leagues to windward and leeward of Callo, and that within these limits a blockading force should be actually kept up.

#### Religious.

From the Western Carolinian.

SALISBURY, OCTOBER 2.

#### THE SYNOD

Of the Presbyterian Church of the Carolinas, closed their session yesterday morning, as did also the Presbyterian Missionary Society of North-Carolina.—During their session many excellent and pathetic sermons were delivered to crowded and solemn audiences. We have reason to believe that many lasting impressions were made, and that numbers will have occasion to remember this meeting, when "this globe, and all who inhabit, shall be dissolved."

It is with much pleasure we have listened to the expressions of gratitude, and satisfaction, which have fallen from the Fathers in Israel who have attended here, for the kind and generous hospitality with which they have been received, and the respectful and profound attention with which they have been heard. With heartfelt joy we reciprocate their expressions of gratitude; and most sincerely do we wish that they may be restored in safety to their families and flocks; that the richest blessings of an indulgent God may be showered upon them in this life; and that the blessings of hundreds and thousands, "who were ready to perish" for lack of spiritual knowledge, may be their crown of rejoicing at the bar of God.

#### NARRATIVE

Of the State of Religion within the bounds of the Synod of North Carolina.

In a free conversation on the subject of moral and benevolent societies, and on the state of religion generally, the Synod of North Carolina are happy to receive from the different churches such interesting and heart-cheering intelligence. Although there is so much to lament within our bounds—in some places vice and immorality, in many churches coldness and lukewarmness, and in a few congregations an inattention to pious and benevolent institutions, yet, upon the whole, we regard the state of religion, during the past year as more than encouraging; and may safely say that there never was a period when there was such a general attention to the concerns of piety, and when such signal success has accompanied pious exertions.

It is with pleasure that we learn, that almost universal attention is paid to the religious instruction of the rising generation. Sabbath schools seem every where to prevail. Bible classes have been generally established, and are well attended. Instruction in the catechisms of our church is not neglected. The Synod view with encouraging delight the establishment, and progress of such institutions; they believe them to be among the most effectual means of securing the salvation of the young, and promoting the general cause of religion. Many who are now "rejoicing in hope," and who are pillars in the church of Christ, can look back and date their first serious impressions from such religious instruction.

The monthly concert for prayer has been generally established, and is well attended. It is pleasing to discover so general a disposition to encourage this meeting; to see, throughout our churches, so great an anxiety to unite with the thousands of Israel on the same evening, in praying for the prosperity of the Redeemer's kingdom. May the united supplications of God's children, bring down upon his Zion the blessings which they desire.

In some congregations, Bible, Tract, Missionary, Moral and Peace Societies have been instituted, and attended with success. In three or four congregations, societies auxiliary to the American Colonization Society, have been established.

We are happy to learn, from the report of our congregations that the people of colour have not been neglected. An attention to their religious interest is evidently increasing throughout our bounds. Many additions among this class of people, have been made to our churches during the past year; many sabbath schools have been established for their religious instruction, and many private exertions are making in families for their salvation.

Some of our congregations have felt for the situation of the western Indians, and have done something for their civilization and spiritual improvement, by assisting the children at Brainerd and Elliot.—Such commendable conduct we cannot too highly applaud; and would recommend to our congregations to follow such benevolent examples. Surely, as far as we have opportunity, we should assist our brethren at these missionary stations, and use our utmost exertions for the savages of the desert.

Thus, while other parts of christiandom, in this age of christian philanthropy, are engaged in promoting the cause of the Saviour by means of pious and benevolent institutions, the churches within our bounds have not been deficient; they too have engaged in the glorious work, and have established societies which God has honored and made extensively useful.

But while we are thankful for the establishment and success of such institutions, we would peculiarly bless God for the outpouring of the spirit with which he has visited many of our churches. Since our last meeting, he has been gracious to many of our congregations; reviving the drooping spirits of his children, and displaying his power and grace in the salvation of sinners. In the town of Hillsborough, considerable seriousness has prevailed; many have been added to the church, and between twenty and thirty are still under deep convictions.

In the congregations of Eno and Little River, still greater solemnity is visible; fourteen have lately joined the church, and the number of souls in both congregations that are still inquiring, is about one hundred. In the congregations of Cross Roads, the same glorious work has commenced, and is extending. Besides the great number that have lately united themselves with the church, many are still seeking the Lord sorrowing.—About sixty persons have become the subjects of this revival. The congregations of Third Creek, Back Creek and Unity, have been specially visited with the influences of divine grace; fifty have lately publicly professed religion; twenty more are hopefully pious, and about thirty are still anxiously seeking. In these congregations, the far greater part of those who were called were in the early period of life, and among these many promising young men. How cheering to see youth rising up to become useful members of the church, when the heads of their fathers are laid in the dust.—There is one circumstance connected with the revival which is worthy of attention: It is remarkable that the most of those who, at the commencement, opposed and ridiculed the work, were themselves deeply humbled under a sense of their sins and brought low at the footstool of mercy. Great attention to religion and universal seriousness have prevailed in the congregations of Bethany and Concord; many persons, particularly among the young, have become the subjects of divine grace. Forty persons have lately been admitted into the church, and a considerable number are still serious. In the congregations of Bujaloe and Alanance, there is unusual solemnity; eight at the last communion season were admitted into the church, and fifteen since that period have been hopefully converted. There is one circumstance connected with the conversion of these persons which should be deeply impressed upon ministers and upon the hearts of the young: Almost all those who were here brought to a saving knowledge of the truth, were members of Bible Classes.

These revivals were carried on without noise or tumult during public worship.—Every thing like enthusiasm was discouraged. The work was deep, and often extensive; but yet a still solemnity seemed to prevail.

In reviewing such scenes, our hearts swell with the warmest gratitude to God, for the interest and tender care which he manifests for his Zion. We feel grateful that he has not withdrawn his presence from us, but that he has visited some of our churches with copious showers of divine grace, and others with the gentle droppings of his blessed spirit. "It is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes." Let us be encouraged to still greater exertions in this holy work; let every nerve be strained to action; every power of the soul exerted to urge forward the cause of the Redeemer. Let what the Lord has already done increase our exertions; let us strive more ardently to advance the kingdom of our Saviour; and let us not relax our exertions till every church within our bounds be visited with the outpouring of the spirit; till "the whole earth be filled with the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the great deep."

In consequence of the cheering intelli-

gence contained in the above report, the Synod adopted the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Synod appoint the first Monday in December next, as a day of Public Thanksgiving to Almighty God, for the special blessings with which he has favored several congregations under our care, in reviving religion, and in giving us in general the blessings of health, and in favoring us with fruitful seasons.

And the Synod also recommend that the churches under our care, on the day above named, offer their prayers to Almighty God for a general revival of religion within our bounds, and throughout the world.

Churches.—It is stated in a New-York paper that there are now seventy-three houses of public worship in that city. But two of them are incomplete and another is repairing.

#### NEWBERN ACADEMY.

THE Trustees of the Newbern Academy announce to the public, that the vacation terminates and that the quarter began on the 5th of October.—Mr. FREDERICK FREEMAN, whose talents and diligence are well known to the community, will preside over the Institution. In the classical and mathematical departments, he will be aided by Mr. DANIEL DREW, who has been introduced to the Trustees, under the strongest recommendations. Mr. ARMOUR, so uniformly approved as the Teacher of the Lancasterian Department, will continue his valuable services.

The Trustees earnestly hope, from the ability, zeal and industry of the Teachers whom they have provided, to realize the expectations of those Parents and Guardians who may intrust the education of their children and wards to the Newbern Academy.

September 27th, 1821—184 2i.

#### NOTICE.

AT the late term of Craven Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, Administration on the estate of Francis P. Munson, late of Newbern, deceased, was granted to the subscriber. All persons having demands on the estate of said intestate are required to produce them within the time limited by the Acts of Assembly of this State, or they will be barred of recovery by the operation of said Acts—debtors to the estate will please settle their accounts without delay.

Charles Stewart, Admr.  
Newbern, Sept. 15, 1821—182 4w.

#### FOR SALE,

BY THE SUBSCRIBER,

360 Acres of Land, five miles above Newbern, lying between Neuse and Trent Road, in the little Pecosse.

One new House & half Lot,

In the Town of Newbern,

known by the numbers 288 and 289 opposite John Jones Esq. Half the front of Lot No. 21, on the south side of Front-street, extending to the channel.

Also, a valuable

#### MILCH COW.

For terms, which will be accommodating, apply to

John R. Good.

Newbern, July 21st, 1821—17 2

#### DANCING SCHOOL.

MR. W. H. CLAY, respectfully informs the Ladies and Gentlemen of Newbern, that he intends visiting them in November, for the purpose of opening a DANCING SCHOOL in December to be continued through the winter.—Mr. Clay hopes from his former acquaintance, that he may not be disappointed in the patronage of the Ladies and Gentlemen in general. He expects to attend at Washington, in like manner.

July 12th, 1821—17 4t.

#### MUSIC TUITION.

THE Inhabitants of Newbern, are respectfully informed that JAMES AYKROYD, Professor of Vocal and Instrumental Music, contemplates establishing himself in Newbern, the ensuing November, as a Teacher of those Sciences, and respectfully solicits a portion of the publick patronage. His terms moderate.

Piano Fortes and other musical instruments, warranted to be of the best quality, together with every description of Music, can be had by leaving orders with JOHN W. GIBSON, Esq.

N. B. Piano Fortes, &c. tuned and repaired by J. A. July 28—cow 11st Nov.—175.