

LINCOLN COURIER.

"THE PUBLIC GOOD SHOULD EVER BE PREFERRED TO PRIVATE ADVANTAGE."

VOLUME 5.

LINCOLN, NORTH CAROLINA, SATURDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 3, 1849.

NUMBER 32.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED WEEKLY, BY
THOMAS J. ECCLES.

TERMS.—Two dollars per annum, payable in advance; \$2 50 if payment be delayed 3 months. A discount to clubs of 3 or more. Advertisements will be conspicuously inserted, at \$1 per square (14 lines) for the first, and 20 cents for each subsequent insertion.

The World is Before Thee.

The wide world is before thee,
Go revel in its blaze;
Life's sunshine may restore thee
The smile of happy days;
I would not in thy bosom,
One bitter thought should spring;
Be like the treasured blossom,
That wears no secret sting.

Soon every strong emotion
Shall droop within thy breast;
The fiercest storms of ocean,
At last are lulled to rest,
And o'er the changed scene stealing
A cheering beam appears;
So, in the work of feeling,
Hope follows after tears.

The California Gold Regions.

The following article, prepared for the Aita California, and inserted in that paper of the 31st of August—the latest number received in the States—contains an excellent description of the gold region in California, with a well- reasoned theory of its formation, and some speculations on the future condition of that Territory. Of all the treasures of California that we have yet seen, to our mode of thinking, by far the best. It is evidently the production of a sober-minded, practical, and very intelligent person, who has thought well on the subject he treats. We commend it to the particular attention of our readers, and especially to those contemplating emigration to our rich Pacific possessions:

"It is now nearly two years since the discovery of the gold mines in the country, and yet it is for the first time, we can say, that we are able to give a correct account of them—an account that can be relied upon. Heretofore, we have heard nothing but Arabian Nights' stories about the gold region, drawn, if possible, with more vivid colors than even the Asiatic fancy could conjure up. The whole civilized world became electrified with these surprising stories and set in motion, and every day brings strangers to our shore from the most distant regions of the earth. So far so good; but it may not be so much longer, when crowds from Europe will begin to pour upon these shores. We feel our duty, in view of the bad consequences that all exaggerations do produce, to contribute our share toward rectifying the impressions that went abroad upon the subject of the mines in this country. Even our Government at home had not received an official account from its subordinates here, that represent the truth in its simple garb. In a word, there has been no thorough investigations of the subject; but people on all sides, simple citizens as well as Government officers, were content to seize upon a few remarkable cases, that were made more so by passing through many lips, and represent them abroad as of a common occurrence. Hence, much disappointment followed to hundreds who came here to shovel it, as they thought, the precious dust and be off for their respective homes in the twinkling of an eye.

It is not to be understood that we are going to decry the mines; no, for from it; we mean to divest them of the mantle which heaped fancy cast about them, and represent the simple truth without any poetic ornaments.

On the outset we wish it to be understood that we speak advisedly. We have surveyed, so to speak, the length and breadth of the mines by personal inspection and observation, at a great expense of our time, money and labor; and besides, we claim the right to presume somewhat upon the authority of science.

The region which is here known as the gold mines is closed on the East by the Sierra Nevada, or Snowy Mountains, running nearly North and South. Two large streams descend from the Sierra Nevada, one at the North, called the Sacramento river, the other on the South known as San Joaquin. These two streams run, as if purposely, to the apex of the triangle; they enclose there, to meet and make a common and united irruption upon the waters of San Francisco Bay. In this triangle, thus formed by these two rivers with the Snowy Mountains, are numerous streams, but they are all tributaries either of one or the other river; the largest of them are at the North and empty themselves into

the Sacramento. The surface of the country, looking westward from the ridge of the Snowy Mountains, which may be from five to six thousand feet above the level of the sea, is broken up in ridges, giving direction to the streams that separate, some West by North and others West by South, and, gradually getting smaller, they get confused into hills, till finally they soften into the plains enclosed by the two above mentioned rivers. The plains, generally speaking, are covered with luxuriant grass, skirted along the rivers with oak timber. As the hills rise vegetation becomes scarcer.

The range of mountains in which gold is found is distinguished by a uniformity of its vegetable kingdom, which is neither meagre nor very abundant. The oak predominates here, only now and then relieved by several varieties of the pine family. As the gold disappears the reign of the pine and the granite extends. The depositaries of gold look universally more smiling to the beholder than their barren neighbors; the former always have the figure described by the line of beauty, viz: the curved line, be they ever so precipitous as they frequently are; a distinction never to be lost sight of. The extent of these auriferous hills is greater than the public know or imagine, but not in the direction it is supposed. They extend beyond the Sacramento and even San Joaquin, northwest of the former and southwest of the latter, bending towards the sea coast. Nay, the same formation with more or less difference, runs along the whole Pacific shores till it is lost in the southern portion of the Chilean Republic, but gold has not been, nor probably will be found any where in equal abundance as in Upper California. This abundance is much, however, exaggerated by the heated imagination of the public. It is not in the nature of placer gold to be durable long. A very few years, when there will be many arms at work, will exhaust it; its origin is the guarantee of this fact. The breadth of this auriferous region limits itself within the lines running north and south from forty to sixty miles from the Sierra Nevada, and on the west as the hills begin to soften in the plains.

At some remote period in the history of the globe, the same internal convulsions that heaved up the Sierra Nevada, have also upheaved the auriferous hills, which at first presented a naked surface to the atmospheric changes, by the influences of which the quartz constantly breaking up, left free the precious metal on its surface. In the progress of time the same atmospheric influences caused to accumulate on these hills, soils which grew deeper with every decay of vegetation till it grew strong enough to support the majestic oak. The freed particles of gold thus became covered by the soil and mixed up with it, and the process of the separation of the metal from the stone was arrested. How gold was injected into the veins of quartz it is more than we can say, but the fact that it was so in a liquid state, is beyond question, as we see it adapt itself to the sides of the stone in all imaginable forms, from the finest filament to the largest lump ever found with a most variedly indented surface, filling up completely the crack of the stone, always tending to a rounded tear like appearance, as is the case with all melting substances. When freed, external friction of course modifies its appearance more or less; hence we find it in rivers particularly, in fine flakes, but when it is in larger bulk, it puts on plate like appearance as it is here hammered out by the hands of an artisan—as really it is by the frequently enormous weight of stones under which it is deposited. Water, that universal carrier, washing the sides of the hills, brought the gold from the surface into the ravines and rivers, to which its own weight facilitated the process.

According to the strength of the current of water, the weight of the particles of gold, and the obstacles in the way, it is deposited in one or another spot, the lighter particles of course floating away the farthest from their original bed. As the process of gold deposition has taken place in some remote period of the earth's existence, hence we find all these deposits, generally speaking, covered with greater or smaller depth of soil, sand, gravel and stones. Strictly speaking, gold does not belong to the rivers, it was washed into them from the adjoining hills; hence it is useless to look for gold at the head of those streams, when the neighboring hills are not of the auriferous nature; and we find this fact corroborated by our personal examination of the heads of the streams of the gold region. The same rule holds good, for the same reasons in regard to the lower portion of a gold carrying stream, except that it is limited by the

fact that light particles of gold may be deposited a considerable distance below their original source.

The mode of deposit made clear, it will be equally clear that it is not on every spot in this very auriferous region that we must look for gold, which fact experience proves to be true; or at least, it is not on every spot that we can find enough of it to make it an object to bestow our labor on it. Hence it equally follows the limitation of the quantity of gold to be expected from the mines as a general aggregate, however rich they may prove.

The first comers had the best chances to hit upon rich deposits; but as diggers multiply, the chances of falling upon virgin deposits grow smaller, and they will have to be content with what the others, through imperfection of their labor, have left; consequently the work becomes more heavy and less profitable, although it may be yet sufficiently compensatory if the expenses of living be not excessive. This is precisely already the case, the labor is much harder this year than it was last. At present there are not so many of those happy hits as formerly, although we yet hear now and then of a lucky haul, which, however, when it reaches the ears of the public, becomes extremely distorted, and particularly so when companies that have damned some spots of some of the rivers wish to dispose advantageously of their shares; these easily find ready letter writers who communicate the lucky event to the public through the press. The accounts of successful digging in gold that went abroad never have been accompanied with statements of hardship attending the process; yet we are free to confess that there is no harder labor than that of gold digging and washing; this species of labor requires the strongest sinews inured to fatigue. Peculiar localities, together with general discomfort attending upon the life in the mines, may make gold digging particularly irksome. Yet all this can be borne, and one's labor may sometimes be crowned with a brilliant success.

We have made the above statement with the view of laying the subject before those who may yet be novices in the matter, that they may understand their own case; we are far from discouraging the new aspirants after the favors of the dame fortune; we tell them, take your chance, it may be a good one, but such and such circumstances are attending this courtship. Those from distant parts, who, on mere sound of the discovery of gold in California, rush headlong, leaving very good business and comfortable living, cannot but rue the day, if they put their sole dependence upon their success in the mines. If they would come here with an intention of following some patient calling, they could not but grow rich with time. We have already plenty of miners; a large number of them only diminishes the profits of all. However, come they must, for they are bent on it, be the consequences what they may.

When this gold mania ceases to rage, individuals will abandon the mines; and then there will be a good opportunity for companies with heavy capital to step in; there will be enough of profitable work for them; and it is then that the country will enter on a career of real progress, and not till then. Such companies, with superior mechanical facilities to much labor, in a short space, will be enabled to go over the whole mineral field, although already dog over by individuals, and reap yet a rich reward of their efforts. And when there will be no more gold washing to be done, then a new era in the mining of the country will commence—we mean a regular system of mining by sinking shafts into the very bowels of the rocks will be entered upon. Spots for this system of mining are to be found in the auriferous region.

If we had a voice in the legislative halls of the Union, with the knowledge of the whole country in general, and the mineral region in particular we have, seeking to gratify no men, nor a set of men, we would say, divide the whole elevated portion of the land enclosed by the Sacramento and San Joaquin into a set of lots to be sold to mining companies at a very moderate price. The low lands or the plains of the same region, should be divided into a separate set of lots, to be sold to those only who wish to establish themselves as farmers. To avoid all difficulty and confusion in giving boundaries to these lots, we would adopt the following plan: In the mining districts proper, the elevated portion of the land, every lot should have for its centre the whole extent of one of the streams that fall either into the Sacramento or San Joaquin; the lateral boundaries of these lots would be the ridges on both the North and South side, that turn

the minor streams and ravines into the principle ones selected as centres of the lots. These lots, unless they are as large as this division would make them would not be worth the having; the land is worthless for any other purpose except mining; and if this even should fail them, the only means left for the unfortunate buyers to save themselves, would be to turn their attention to the making of turpentine, for which would find an extensive field. The other set of lots, comprising the low lands, should have for their bases the banks of the streams that run through the plains.

There should be but two lots between two neighboring streams, so that they would have the same law for their common boundary, while their respective bases would rest on their respective streams. The reason for such a division is, that the central portion of the plain lying between two streams, generally is destitute of timber and water; as exposed to the constant burning sun and scorching wind, and consequently, offering no spot for a farm-house. For the same reason, this portion of the country admits only of a spare population whose principal occupation must be raising of live stock, as there is plenty of grazing ground; each farmer, however, must have a bank of a river to put his residence upon. In view of these circumstances, these lots should be made sufficiently large to enable the farmer to devote his attention particularly to the raising of the live stock.—By this arrangement the whole country will be benefited; for the raising of live stock will be daily less tended to in the country South of San Francisco Bay, as the land there admits of smaller subdivisions for agricultural purposes. And it is there that farmers will crowd, as its climate, and fertility of the soil, is favorable to the maintenance of a dense population.

By the above disposition of the mineral region, we conceive, the country will be greatly benefited. The mineral region being under the sole control of mining companies, will exclude all private adventurers; thus first, benefiting the commerce by checking the unfavorable desertion of the crews of its shipping; and secondly, preventing an influx of all sorts of adventurers into the country, whose presence is more of a nuisance than benefit to any country. Then a farming population, cured of the gold mania, will seek to enrich itself by more sure means, the product of the soil, and will crowd to the Pacific shores. The arts will take a start, every species of industry will be called into existence; the surplus capital of the commerce will be devoted to the development of the internal resources of the country; nay, even capital from abroad may find an employment here; the commerce of the country will be put on a firm footing, and will grow easy and steady. Even the Government itself, thus rid of this bother of California gold, will find more leisure to do its duty to this newly acquired territory. In fine, the country will grow steadily in population, in strength of order and law; and the business of life will unavoidably fall into its natural and proper channels.

We might have said something more upon the subject in hand; but we have done for the present, hoping we have said enough to clear a little the vision of the public that suffered itself to be blinded by the brilliancy of the California gold. At some future time we may have something to say upon the practicability of roads into and through the mineral region, as well as railroad tracks across the continent to the Pacific shores, and we believe we are in possession of a little better data than the government itself can command. But for the present, in forbearance for our readers, we close.

Short Story.—When Mary and I were married we were young and foolish, for we had nothing to be married with, but Mary was delicate, and I thought I could take care of her best. I knew I had a stout arm and a brave heart to depend upon. We rented a chamber and went to house keeping. We got together a little furniture—a table, bedstead, dishes—but our money failed us before we bought the chairs. I told Mary she must turn up the toes; for I could not run in debt. No, no, it was not long before our rich neighbor Mrs. M—, found us out, and kindly enough she supplied us: half a dozen chairs added to our stock. They were old ones, to be sure, but answered just as well for us. I shall never forget the new face those chairs put on our snug quarters—they never looked just right before. The tables are turned with Mrs. M— and me now—she has become a poor widow, but she shall never want while I have any thing, never!

cried the old man, with a gleaming face. "I don't forget those old chairs."

Ah, now the secret was out. It was the interest of the old chairs which maintained the poor widow. She was living upon the interest and compound interest of a little friendly act done fifty years before, and it sufficed for herself and daughter.

How beautiful is it to see how God blesses the operation of his great moral law, "Love thy neighbor;" and we should oftener see it could we look into the hidden paths of life, and find that it is not self-interest, not riches, not fame, that binds heart to heart. The simple power of a friendly act can do far more than they. It is these, the friendly acts, the neighborly kindness, the Christian sympathy of one towards another, which rob wealth of its power to curse, extract the bitter from the cup of sorrow, and open wells of gladness in desolate homes. We do not always see the golden links shining in the chain of human events; but they are there, oh yes, they are there, and happy is he who feels their gentle but irresistible influence.

The following appeal to the common School Teachers is from a gentleman whose life has been devoted to the instruction of youth, who possesses a full sense of the importance of popular education to the perpetuation, improvement and glory of our free institutions.

Who will hear this report? How many Teachers will take encouragement from his exhortation, and determine henceforth to elevate the standard of their arduous and honorable Profession? The grand idea of associated action in this class begins to be developed among many who have the true glory of the State and the happy progress of the race at heart. Is there life, intelligence, energy enough among our Teachers to carry it out? We trust that the small beginning proposed in Guilford will result in a great end.—*Greensboro' Pat.*

To the Teachers of Public Schools of North Carolina.

I address you, gentlemen, as entrusted with our children, with their character and nearly all the learning that controls the election of County, State and National agents: Not one voter in five hundred goes to college. As individuals, confined to unlearned labor, you are weak; but united in one great and public occupation, you are strong, more useful, better rewarded and more honored. No period, no year in our colonial or State history, is like the present so auspicious for organizing yourselves into County Associations, for your personal improvement, and for all great interests of the Schools. The whole people are in motion for improvement. Let the Judges in open court give notice of your first meeting—you will soon elect delegates to form a State Convention of Teachers. Concert is every thing. Nothing so requires system and public sentiment as the education of a great and free people.

The appointment by the Legislature of a Superintendent of Common Schools, to visit every county and combine the whole people, and to make the public money accomplish ten times its present good,—to do for North Carolina all that Horace Mann has done for Massachusetts,—depends on your county and State associations, both for its adoption and success. Guided by such a leader, effort and improvement will have no limit. Our State will then be in a position to establish, on the line of her great central railroad, the cheapest, the most needed of all her institutions, a Normal School—a seminary to educate virtuous young men and women in the art and science of conducting schools. None so well understand its importance as yourselves. Were it now in operation, hundreds of you would gladly there increase your experience and skill. Explore all its bearings, and let detect, only double your efforts, till those who succeed you enjoy its light.

Let the maxim of a great writer on jurisprudence be your own:—"Every man owes something to his Profession." Associated, you form a Profession—the most numerous branch of the most learned and liberal of all secular professions. Thus organized, you will promote every element of our civilization. Writers and publishers will apply to you—colporteurs, editors, agents, will find you the enlightened discerners between truth and imposition. Candidates for office will become advocates of the People's Senates. The higher institutions will be sustained by your best pupils.

Let Editors not only publish this most respectful appeal, but also with a home solicitude and patriotic zeal, take this cause under editorial care.