[From the Raleigh Register, of March 25, 1845.

DR. MITCHELL'S SECOND LETTER.

To Hon. Thomas L. Clingman:

DEAR SIR---It will be long before the mountains of North Carolina will be fully explored, and their mineral contents ascertained. The part which are too steep, or too much encumbered with rocks to be cultivated, will seldom be traversed except by farmers looking for their cattle, or by hunters in pursuit of game. In either case, the surface will be so covered with brushwood and leaves as to prevent the discovery of the valuable minerals which may be there. It could not with reason be expected, even of a careful geological survey, that it would result in many important discoveries. Its principal benefit would be here as it has been elsewhere, to draw the attention of the inhabitants to the subject of minerals, and by making them acquainted with a few species, prepare them to examine and discover for themselves---to make every intelligent man in fact a miners surveyor, more or less able, of his own farm and neighborhood. With a view to such a condition of things, I offer a record of a few facts of a very miscellaneous character, that have fallen under my own observation in regard to the rocks and minerals of the mountains.

It is well known that the Western part of North Carolina is made up of ancient primitive, and Tennessee of more recent rock formations. The boundary between these two is generally, perhaps always, within the State of North Carolina, and at no great distance from the line separating the two States. Between Ashe and Carter counties it may at some points cross the border so as to give a few primitive rocks to Tennessee. On the other hand a long tongue from the formations of Tennessee enters North Carolina by the Watangs River, the Beech Mountain, Grand-father, and Linville, and extends quite down to the Catawba in McDowell county. What follows relates exclusively to the region of the primitive rocks.

The three principal kinds of these rocks, Granite, Gneiss, and Mica State, are so intermingled and associated that it will be a work of much labor to ascertain the different fields of each and the limits of those fields. Gneiss, and especially the hornblende variety, appears to be more abundant than the others. Of this the Black Mountain is principally composed. I saw more mica slate in Henderson (some containing imperfect garnets,) than anywhere else. A coarse grained granite abounds in Yancy county towards the head waters of Toe River, and on the road leading from Burnsville to the Turkey Cove. This is the kind that yields the materials of porcelain. When it has been so far decomposed that all the potassa is removed, the white, infusible mass that remains is the Kaolin, whilst the Feldspar, unchanged, is the Petuntze of the Chinese. When these two are reduced to fine powder, mixed, wrought into vessels, and baked with an intense heat, the fusion of the feldspar gives to the material so formed the translucency that belongs to porcelain. I found small masses of Kaolin near Thomas Young's, in Yancy county some years since, and during the present year a bed of it as white as snow was struck in digging a well at Burnsville. A body of beautiful feldspar, free from any intermixture of other minerals, has been observed on the lands of Mr. McKinney, in Cashier's Valley, Macon county. Neither of these may be of much value either now or at any future time, but they encourage the belief that the materials of porcelain of a good quality will be found abundantly in some of these counties.

Serpentine---Besides two in Ashe, whose precise locality I cannot give, I know of five considerable beds of this rock in the western counties; one of the waters of Cane Creek, near the Baker settlement; a second near Fagan Young's, but on the side of Toe River opposite to his house; a third at the ford of Ivy, on the road from Burnsville to Asheville; a fourth on the lands of Enoch Hall, near the head of Hominy, in Haywood county; and the fifth at the ford of Tuckasiege, in Haywood and Macon. In all these places it is a coarse, worthless rock, but interesting minerals associated with it.

Iron Ore.—Chemists are unable to account for the superior quality of certain kinds of Iron. This is true of the very best Iron that is made—that of Dannemora, in Sweden; the whole of which is sent to England to be converted into steel. I quote the following passage from Scrivenor's History of the Iron Trade, page 151:

"The cause of the superiority of the Dunnemora Iron has never been explained. Some chemists ascribe it to the presence of manganese. Bevulius attributed it to the presence of the metal of sillica, while others suppose it to arise from the nature of the process employed. Dr. Thomson was assured by one gentleman, who had bestowed particular attention to the subject, that by following a similar process he has obtained as good iron from other Swedish ores. But that something is due to the ore itself, is evident from the circumstance that the quality of the iron, though the same process is followed, differs a good deal according to the part of the vein from which the ore is taken."

From some unknown cause the iron made at Cranberry Works, in the northern part of Yancy, is, as I am assured by people who have used it, of an excellent quality—hard and tough. As there is an abundance of ore at this locality it bids fair to be the seat of an industry alike profitable to the proprietors and useful to the population of the county for a long period.

I have visited no other ore bed, and do not believe that iron is abundant in this region, but I may be mistaken. Mr. Johnson, of Waynesville, gave me a very rich specimen of the magnetic oxide, from Sandy Creek, in Buncombe. In 1827. I saw in the hands of Mr. Rothe, in Salisbury, a specimen of the Spathic Iron ore, which he told me had been sent to him from Fine's Creek, in Haywood county. This is the most valuable of all the ores of iron, as very tolerable steel can be manufactured directly from it. I have never been able to visit the spot from which it is said to have come, and in answer to my enquiries for iron ore from that quarter, have had presented to me Foliated Anthophyllite from the Rich Mountain.---This was what I had from Dr. Hardy, at Asheville, Mr. Osborne, on Pigeon River, and Mr. Johnston, at Waynesville. Such specimens as I have seen are of no value, the quantity of iron being small, and the rock in which it is imbedded so refractory that it would be wrought with great difficulty. The thing is worth looking into I have sent a small specimen of true Spathic ore to Mr. Johnston for comparison, and will forward another to Dr. Dickson, at Asheville, by the first opportunity.

Chromic Iron---This is valuable only for the Chromium it contains. It occurs in small grains disseminated through the mass of Serpentine near Toe River, on the lands of the Messrs. Young, in Yancy county. As the rock is disintegrated by the weather, the grains fall out and may be collected in considerable quantities, but few that I have seen were larger than a pea. Mr. Enoch Hall, who lives five miles from the road, on the right hand as you go west, at the head of Hominy, gave me at Asheville a piece of yellowish ore in one that was of small grains of the same substance. I have made chrome yellow from the ore in both places. That from Mr. Hall's land was put into a small glass tube and committed to the care of Mr. Francis, who kindly undertook to deliver it. If at either of these places, or elsewhere, considerable bodies of this chrome ore could be found, it would be worth attending to.

Asbestus, also, is found in connection with the Serpentine on Toe River—small octaedral crystals of iron ore and chalcedony, with that on Ivy, near Solomas. Carter's—and at the locality on the Tuckasiege, Chalcedony (four's fast, one who has been raised near the spot told me he had been accustomed to call it himself and to hear it called by others),—is so abundant that I have supposed it might at a future time be used for mill stones; a number of different pieces being bound together with iron hoops, as in the French Burrs. The hardness and toughness of this mineral, and the cavities which that of the Tuckasiege contains seem to adapt it very well for this use. There is an abundance of it imbedded in the Serpentine, but the individual masses are not large.

Anthophyllite—In the north western part of Yancy, on the waters of Cane Creek, is probably a larger body of the mineral commonly called asbestus, but by mineralogists amianthus, than is to be found elsewhere in the U. S. In some parts of the world the fibres of this "incombustible flax" are so tough and pliant that it can be wrought into a coarse and worthless cloth. That of Yancy separates readily into very minute filaments but they are too brittle to sustain the force necessary to spin and weave them. I have supposed that this mineral might come into use in the manufacture of the safes that are employed in large cities for the preservation of valuable papers even when the building in which they are is burnt down—and that the article can be furnished in greater quantity and of a better quality from N. Carolina than from any other quarter. But not meeting with much success in the enquiries I made with reference to this point, I have perhaps treated the matter with too much neglect. Near the bed of amianthus is very fine black tourmaline, or chorl—of no value to any one but a professed mineralogist, and of but little to him. Coarse Kyanite occurs in Buncombe, on the road from Asheville to Waynesville, but the precise locality is not now recollected.

Gold, as is well known, is obtained in considerable quantities on the head waters of the Savannah River on the south side of the Blue Ridge, not within the limits of North Carolina. These deposit, or branch mines, are at an elevation of between three and four thousand feet above the sea. This is a very interesting region. It will be a fine grazing country in the course of a few years; the scenery is of the most romantic and impressive character—the quantity of the gold collected is considerable, and the mineralogist who should establish himself there and examine it thoroughly, might hope to be rewarded with interesting if not important discoveries. The rocks are generally of a gneissoid character, having the composition of granite and a structure more or less slaty. They afford fine specimens of their constituent minerals; considerable masses of pure feldspar and mica, and in the streams, rolled pebbles, of good size, of limpid quartz or rock crystal. In the gravel that is washed for gold two minerals occurring in grain have attracted so much attention as to have acquired distinct names amongst the workmen. These are the "red beads," and "steel points." They prove on examination to be varieties of garnet—one the common kind—for the other, which is always in irregular grains and would appear to be quite black but for the white sand adhering to it, I have not yet fixed certainly upon the appropriate name.

Zirconite, in fine, large crystals, is found in Henderson, on the road from Flat Rock to Green River, and I notice it chiefly with reference to the history of its discovery, as given me by Mr. Murray, the owner of the land on which it occurs and in illustration of the manner in which other discoveries, and of more valuable substances, are likely to be made—by accident in many cases rather than the most careful search.

Some gentlemen of South Carolina, Mr. Poinsett amongst the rest, were superintending the construction of the Saluda road, and had their quarters for the time at Mr. Murray's. Dr. Howard, of Savannah, was also there, and it was during a ramble of some of these persons over the hills near his dwelling, whether in search of minerals or exercise was not stated, that the bright crystals of the Zirconite attracted the attention of Dr. Howard. As they occupy but a limited space on the steep side of a small mountain, a geologist might have traversed Henderson county for a long time and have examined it very faithfully without falling in with them.

You gave me, a year or two since, a white salt which appears as an effervescence on some mountain or mountains. I believe in Haywood, which is supposed to be alum, and is used in dyeing by the people of the neighborhood. It belongs to the alum family, but is quite different from the alum of commerce, being a double sulphate of alumina and the protoxide of iron, instead of alumina and potassa or ammonia. It will answer very well for dyeing the coarse stuffs that are manufactured in the family for every day wear, but has very little commercial value. The beds of limestone near Asheville, I acknowledge with shame and sorrow I did not visit, and I have therefore nothing to say about them. Ore given me by Mr. W. Rice, from Bull creek or mountain, iron pyrites, of no value.

Scenery—On the subject of the scenery of the mountains I will be merciful to the readers of the Messenger. It must be seen upon the spot, or transferred by the pencil and graver to paper, to be enjoyed. My own experience is that the image created in the mind by the most exact and perfect description, bears no resemblance to that which it is supposed to represent. If the artists who furnish embellishments for souvenirs and albums would come to North Carolina for subjects they would provide something quite superior to what is commonly seen in such publications.—And where a spot amongst the fertile valleys, the lonely glens, the crags, and cliffs of these wild mountains for a love tale, that would touch and rend any heart that is not harder than the very best cast steel, well hardened! I will just notice a few spots that are worthy of the attention of such as are in search of the sublime and beautiful. In more than one, the Black Mountains is an important and striking feature.

1. The Pilot, an outlier from the main range of mountains, is again in its place and of its kind, but in passing it on his return after having been amongst the giants of the west, one feels a strong inclination to lift his foot and kick it over into the Yadkin.

2. I do not believe there is any town in the United States that will compare, for the beauty and grandeur of the views around it, with Morganton, in Burke county. We can hardly go amiss in search of good points for enjoying them, but perhaps the Lincoln road, as we come over the South Mountain and descend towards the village, affords the best. On the left hand, at a distance of 25 or 30 miles, towers the long dark range of the Black Mountain; Linville, the Hawksbill, and Table Rock, the two latter, rising like castles from ranges of less elevation, are nearer, more in front, and picturesque objects by themselves. The small mountains east of the village on the right hand, the Grandfather in the distance, and Morganton, with the fields in its neighborhood directly before us. Such is the picture.

3. The late Judge Gaston is said to have been greatly affected when, riding from Marion to the Turkey Cove, he came to where he first had a full and good view of the cliffs and rugged sides of Linville; and the man of taste who travels the road after him will not wonder at his emotion.

4. The Road to Burnsville ascends the mountains by a long spur of the Blue Ridge—and what a ridge it is along that spur! The deep vallies of the North and Turkey Cove creeks are below one—the Black Mountain is in full view, at a distance of 12 or 15 miles, and Linville not half as far.—Just by the road, towards the top, a farmer has established himself, and has a whole yard full of wild, touch, hearty boys. Are they affected at all by the views on which their eyes rest every day that they live—is their taste refined and improved by that magnificence of nature which is around them? The enquiry is naturally suggested to one as he passes them.

5. The ascent of the mountains by the Hickory Nut Gap has been much admired, and with reason. There is a small stream, which, pouring over the brow of the mountain, falls I know not how many feet. I never thought much of this. It strikes me as only queer. But take a point half a mile below Harriss' at the ford of Green river, and the case is altered. We have seen the mountains at a distance, have been gradually approaching, and finally winding our way amongst them, until the road seems about to end at the foot of a long range of tremendous precipices.—One notch only appears in this impassible barrier, and through this the rath winds by the river's side. The Greeks called such passes or gorges Pylæ Gates. I have thought that if the words "*Gates of the Western World*" meaning by the western world especially the States of Tennessee and Kentucky, could be cut in letters about twenty feet in height on the face of the perpendicular rocks, the inscription would be in harmony with the other parts of the scene.

6. The road by Howards's Gap affords a fine view of Tryon, Crowder's, King's, the Saluda, and Hogback mountains, and of a broad expanse of comparatively level country towards the south-east. Some of my legal friends, when they pass here, are fond of lingering about the crest of the ridge that they may refresh themselves by the enjoyment of the beauties of nature.

7. The hill above the Swannanoa, two and a half miles from Asheville, on the road to the Flat Rock, affords one of the finest views in the mountains, Pisgah and the whole range of the Black are in sight—there is an amphitheatre of smaller mountains around the broad valley formed by the junction of the Swannano and French Broad, whilst the fertile low grounds of those streams add the beauties of cultivation to the wilder features of the prospect. This view is for the eye, it is too broad, too much wanting in individual objects standing out from the rest of the picture, for the pencil. The man who is not affected by it had better go home and conclude that if there is any charm in such prospects he was not made to enjoy it. I have observed that the cattle choose this kind of place to rest and chew the cud. I have sometimes suspected that coolness is not their only object, that though they neither say nor write anything upon the subject, they have an eye for what is before them.

8. If one wishes to make a romantic excursion through the mountains, let him turn up the Buckeye at the ford on the road to Franklin. His path will be for two or three miles by the side of the river, a clear, bright flashing stream; then through a country broken and mountainous, but fertile: next over the high pass of the Cullyhee and down to the river again. In the intermediate space it is said there are magnificent falls, and there has been a plan for altering the road, so as to make it lead close along beside them; but here at an elevation of about 3000 feet, on the sandy banks of a deep and sluggish stream, but for the peaks around, one might suppose himself in the low-country of North Carolina. The place recalls the lines of Campbell,

And in the visions of romantic youth
What years of endless bliss are yet to flow;
But mortal pleasure, what art thou in youth?
The torrent's smoothness, ere it dash below.

Following the stream, we pass a "barricade," some quarter of a mile in breadth, which will satisfy the most sceptical as to what the power of the wind is when the utmost strength is exerted. Over the ridge, we are on the head waters of the Savannah, and find a comfortable home and kind entertainers at Col. Zachary's, in the region of the gold mines.

The scenery here is a good deal as though the Pilot and the precipitous cliffs of the Hickory Nut had come on a visit to the top of the mountains. The height of the block back of Zachary's, above where the house stands, is about 400 feet less than that of the Pilot, above the fields at its base—but the situation is so different. From its top the distant view is like that from other high peaks, the near view is wild and stern in the extreme, especially across the valley of the mines, where, at the distance of three or four miles is a long front of bare and solid rock, very nearly perpendicular, and 5 or 6 hundred feet in height. And what are the names borne by these noble masses? Must they be told? It is enough to put one into a fury even to write them. That on which I stood is the Chimney Top, and the other, opposite, is the Hogback, big or little, I forget which. Never mind; those same tasteful and romantic Greeks were not so much better off than ourselves, after all. Cape Cynosura, that sounds so smoothly to us, was Cape Dog's Tail to their ears. It is difficult to change a name. The steep sides and dome shaped summit of the so-called Chimney Top, reminded me of the Pantheon or Rotunda at Rome. Will the latter name be adopted, and will it hold? I fear not—but that this will be the Chimney Top to the end of time.

This region is too remote to be often visited by the inhabitants of the North, it belongs rather to those of South Carolina, and these last have been there. The first time I ascended the Chimney Top, having an instrument in hand, which it was necessary to carry with some care, my guides turned from the most direct route, and took me by one that was longer but easier. Ascending by myself a day or two after, I came near the summit to a bare broad, shelving rock answering to the account given by the huntsman of a spot which he had just cleared in the fox-chase, and which a Lord, who was behind, hesitated to take after him—"Come along, my Lord, the more you look the less you'll like it." As I turned away to search out a better route it occured to me that I should be told that ladies had been along there, and so I crawled up. And sure enough I learned on my return that Mrs. Calhoun, brave little lady that she is, had been there before me.

For the illustration of our revolutionary history there is wanted a view to be engraved and handed down as an authentic memorial to future times of some scenes in the woods of Macon county, *such as they now are*. And many places in this same Cashier's Valley would answer very well.

The turning point in the revolutionary war; the event on which so far as we can judge the issue of the contest depended, was the battle of the Cowpens. It is to my mind one of the most sublime and affecting spectacles, if not absolutely the most sublime and affecting that the revolution afforded: Morgan with his men drawn up in *an open wood*, and waiting for Tarleton to bring his forces into order and lead them on. Will it appear upon canvass and occupy a niche now vacant in the rotunda of the Capitol at Washington? Though not much given, at least since the beard made its appearance under my nose, to the melting mood, I have read Judge Johnston's account of the battle of the Cowpens many times with tears. The man who fifty years hence, shall go with his measuring line to that battle field, and ascertain the exact position of the troops engaged, will have but an imperfect idea of the condition of things, because he can form no accurate conception of the *open wood* which then covered the country and gave scope for the movements of both armies in case of either victory or defeat. Just such woods there are now in the county of Macon, and they will remain for a few years. The person who has been amongst them will read with the more interest and intelligence on that account, the whole history of the movements of the hostile armies on the soil of North Carolina in the years 1780–81.

But little has yet been done in the remote west to heighten and improve the beauties of nature, and though good taste and judgment have been displayed in the selection of the sites for Court-houses and the villages connected with them, this is the utmost extent to which our commendations can be carried. Waynesville is beautifully situated in the centre of an amphitheatre of mountains, but the houses instead of being arranged with reference to beauty or even convenience, are huddled together as though every inch of ground were as valuable as in Pearl street in the city of New York. Burnsville has good capabilities of improvement, but it will be long before trade, manufactures, or any thing else will create an amount of wealth there which will enable the inhabitants of the place to give beauty and elegance to their village. If the people of Yancy when they come to Court, instead of listening to everlasting political harangues would turn in and clear away the loose works from the public square, work the streets, and plant out the sugar tree when they attend in the spring of the year, they would finally have a county seat which they would visit with pride and pleasure. I myself regard this place with feelings of deeper interest because in the field just west of it is the last resting place of a beloved pupil, a graduate of the University—John S. Smith, a native of Granville county, N. C. His character, like his name, was plain and unpretending, but most amiable, honest, and worthy as well as intelligent. Engaged in the study of the law, at Mocksville, and coming into the mountains to breath the pure air during the summer months, he sickened and died at Burnsville. His friends have proposed to remove his remains to his native county. It is the course which affection would dictate, but let him rather sleep here amongst the mountains where God in his righteous providence saw fit to strike him down—"till that last morn appear."

With affectionate salutations to a living pupil, and hopes of his health and happiness,

I remain yours,
E. MITCHELL.

To Hon. Thos. L. Clingman.

OUR MINERAL SPRING.

The very valuable Spring owned by George Kittrell, Esq., and distant from this place some twelve miles, is now the place of considerable resort. There are no accommodations other than those to be found among the farmers who live from one to two miles off, and yet so well is this Spring appreciated, that some fifty persons have gathered around it, having pitched their tents or erected rude log shanties. We verily believe that this water is worth every mineral spring put together, that is to be found this side of the celebrated Springs of Virginia. The persons now at Kittrell's, have not gone there for fun—for that is not to be found in the now desolate and rocky place—but they have gone there in search of health. Thus early in the season, some violent cases have been *cured*—yes *cured*. Dropsy, and specially Scrofula, meet in this water their antidote. It has never, we believe, in one instance failed to cure the latter disease. Indeed, it is a specific in many diseases which it is unnecessary to here mention. The proprietor, if he will not erect the necessary buildings himself, and make this a pleasant as well as a health-giving place of resort, should by all means dispose of it to those who will. Mankind, afflicted and sorely diseased should have this spring open to them—we mean, by finding suitable accommodations there. Certificates from at least thirty persons who have been positively cured of the diseases alone, mentioned above, could be easily procured. We hope by the next summer to see buildings erected, sufficiently commodious to entertain at least 100 guests.—*Leisure Hour.*

A COURAGEOUS WOMAN.

The following account of the courageous conduct of the a young lady has been communicated to a New Jersey paper:—A Mr. M., whose health was found to be impaired by the climate of the seaboard, was induced to remove from the city of New York to the interior of Illinois, his family consisting of his wife and three children; the oldest a young lady of seventeen summers, and the youngest some three years. Early that spring, a maiden lady, a particular friend of the family, and very much attached to Mrs. M. and her children, removed from New York and took up her abode with them. She had not been long in her new home before she was suddenly taken away by death. While Mr. and Mrs. M. were attending the funeral of Miss W. Miss M. was left in charge of the house and the young child, and the room containing the effects of the late Miss W., which was situated on the second story of the house, was locked by the young lady and the child put to sleep in an adjoining room, while Miss M. was busying herself with her duties.

Some time afterward, Miss M., hearing a noise up stairs, and supposing the child had awoke, proceeded to look after it, but found it sleeping quietly. With a thought as quick as electricity, she concluded that some one had entered Miss W's room from the outside for the purpose of robbing it. Acting on this theory, she immediately went down stairs, procured her father's double barrelled gun, and returning opened the door of the room of the late Miss W., when her expectations were fully realized in beholding a stout man in the very act of appropriating a gold watch and chain, which he had just taken from a trunk of the late Miss W. She ordered him to lay down the watch, and the fellow, noticing her determined attitude and manner, very readily complied. She next ordered him to take the money from his pocket, which he had extracted; he denied having taken any, when she gave a more peremptory order, accompanied with suitable movements of a military nature, when he, thinking discretion the better part of valor, produced the money and deposited it with the watch. She then gave him the passage and orders to march, which he readily obeyed.

On the return of her parents measures were taken (which proved successful) and the fellow, after being caught, was speedily brought to trial, fully identified, convicted, and sentenced to the State Prison, and the Court caused to be presented to the young lady a testimonial in the form of a beautiful pin, with a suitable inscription.

A short time after this, the same young lady was at home alone as before, and her parents not returning at dark, she took the precaution to fasten the outer door. She had not long done so when she heard a knock, but before exposing herself to danger, took the precaution to provide the means of defence in the same two barrelled gun she had used on the former occasion. On carefully opening the door a strange man presented himself and inquired, "Are you Miss M?" She replied, "Yes, what do you want?" He inquired again, "Are you the young lady who had a man sent to the State Prison?" She replied, "I am;" then said he, "I am his friend, and have come to put you out of the way," and, drawing a long dirk knife, was proceeding to enter the door, when she deliberately aimed the gun at him, and told him if he advanced a step he would be a dead man. She immediately noticed that he changed countenance and began to tremble; whereupon she pursuing her advantage, ordered him to about face, march, which he very readily obeyed, and as he was retreating, she gave him a parting salute, by discharging one barrel of her trusty companion, which unfortunately only accelerated his retrograde motion.

GHOST STORIES.

While the Thirty-third or Wellington's Regiment was quartered in Canada, the officers of the mess table saw the doors open and a figure pass through the room. He was deadly pale, and was recognized as a brother, Wynard by name, known to be then in England, on sick leave. There being but one exit, and as he did not return, some one of the party looked into the room he entered, but found no trace. Not merely one, but all saw the figure. Some took notes of the incident; and in the "log book" of the regiment, (if a nautical phase is admissible in matters purely military,) may be read, the written statement of the facts. News of his death, afterwards received, proved the hour of his dissolution and appearing to have been simultaneous. An instance similar to the Barnsford case, and others, I could mention, where doubts have been entertained as to the possibility of a denizen of a higher sphere appearing to its beloved ones on earth, occuring to a friend of my own, and to the companion of his early youth, who, having obtained a cadetship, went to India. His story runs thus: Several years ago, the former was, towards evening, alone across a wide, barren heath. Suddenly, by his side in the vehicle was seen the figure of his playmate. He knows not why, but he experienced neither surprise nor dread. Happening to turn his head from him to the horse, and on looking again, the apparition had vanished! And now an indescribable feeling of awe thrilled through him; and remembering their conversation together, he doubted not, but that his friend was at *that moment dead;* and that in his appearing to him, he was come in the *fulfilment of their mutual promise*, in order to remove all previous-ting doubts. By the next India mail was received intelligence of his death, showing the exact coincidence as to the time of the two events, and bringing home at once conviction to the mind of the bereaved. One conclusion is evident, from all I have hitherto gathered, that in our future and disembodied state our present identity is retained. More than 20 years ago, I was called, before daylight, to visit the late Mrs. S, living in Marybead Cottage, and found her in a most excited state, arising from an *impression on her mind, as she stated to me*, that she had seen her *old friend*, Mr. Adams, who lived near Tones, open the end curtain of her bed and look at her, and that she was *conscious that he was dead*. A few hours after, a lady brought a letter announcing his death, at the very time that she said she had seen him. I learned afterwards that her husband had destroyed himself, and that she said she heard a pistol shot, and the ball roll along the floor—he being far away.

Notes and Queries.

AN EXCITING TIME.

PERIL OF THE SURF.—A correspondent writing from Atlantic City, under date of August 16th says:

"Yesterday there was the wildest excitement near the United States Hotel, owing to the perilous position of Miss T———, of Senator Slidell's family, who, with Mr. Bonnerville, from New Orleans, got beyond the surf. The accomplished lady said she was sinking, and Mr. B., who could not swim, found himself helpless in his efforts to rescue her. I was a spectator of the scene. The gentleman struggled and sunk, but the young lady appeared to be floating easily, and rapidly went out with the then receding tide. When the peril of the bathers was fully appreciated, the shrieks of females and the cries of men, added to the general alarm. The case seemed hopeless, for there was no boat, no cord, no stick, by which it could be safe to approach the suffering parties. Still some bold hearts went to work, and by great effort succeeded in catching Mr. B———, who was dragged, apparently lifeless, upon the beach.—Even after this was done, the lady still floated onward, but by the energy of Mr. Clayton was aroused from a state of syncope, and made to seize a plank by which she was drawn to the beach.—Her preservation was miraculous, for having learned the rules for floating, she threw herself into the proper position before she became insensible, and thus her body kept on the surface of the wave. Had she clung to her companion, both must have been drowned.

The first train passed over the entire length of the Norfolk and Petersburg Railroad on Tuesday last. It reached Petersburg at 1 P. M, bringing the chief engineer, Major Mahone, contractor Crawford, and a small party of gentlemen, all of Norfolk city. A grand excursion from Norfolk to Memphis is talked of.

RATS.—When a house is infested by rats which refuse to nibble at toasted cheese and the usual baits, a few drops of the highly scented oil of rhodium poured on the bottom of a cagetrap will almost invariably attract it full of the "mischievous rodents" before morning. We have known this to be tried with marked extraordinary success. Where a tract infested with all manner of odious vermin had proved to attract a single rat, the oil of rhodium caused it to be completely crowded night, after night until the house was cleared of the noisome visitors. So says one of our exchanges.

From the Mount Vernon Record.

AID TO THE MT. VERNON FUND.

"There is a modest Mansion on the banks of the Potomac."

Who, among the sons and daughters of our blessed land does not wish to contribute his or her portion towards the Home and Grave of our beloved Washington? Who but will consider it a blessed privilege to give help in aiding the "Mt. Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union," in the labor of love they have undertaken in gathering means for that sacred purpose?

A large sum is yet to be obtained, and a wider and more extended generosity is now asked of the people, that an early possession of this sacred and honored spot, may be acquired for the Nation—North, South, East and West.

The eloquent appeal of the Regent of the Association, (Miss Cunningham,) is now before the public; do not let it plead in vain, but with willing hearts *work;* for the object is glorious, and well worthy of woman's pure and lofty patriotism.

Among the modes of collecting means for this purpose, *one* presents itself as being decidedly appropriate and acceptable: It is by forming clubs in all parts of the country, and sending for "Sartari's Gold Mounted Oil Portrait," which the Association offers at the small tribute of *one dollar* each.

Clubs of 10, 20, or more persons, can remit to the "Regent;" Mrs Susan L. Pellet; Corresponding Secretary, at Richmond, Va., or such Vice-Regents as are named in the circular, representing the Mt. Vernon interest in other States.

This plan of forming clubs, entered into by friends of the cause, in their own immediate circle, relieves the Association from the necessity of forwarding *single* copies, when ordered, the transmission of which is attended with so much more trouble and expense, especially when sent to remote quarters of the country, while, by the plan proposed, the farthest point can be reached, and each person, composing a club of a dozen or more, can possess this picture at a trifling cost of post or express charges. Parcels of 5, 10, 20, 50, or 100 copies, will be carefully put up and sent to any point of address, on the receipt of *one dollar*, for each picture ordered. Thus, ten dollars, remitted for ten pictures; fifty dollars, for fifty pictures, &c.

Persons north of Virginia can address and remit to S. F. Watson, Phila., or to L. A. Godey, Esq., of the Lady's Book.

N. B.—Please write names legibly, as each one of a club will be published under the "Mt. Vernon. Portrait Subscription"—also, forward all monies *without* being registered.

Together with woman's persuasive influence is added that of the eloquent son of Massachusetts, the Hon. Edward Everitt, whose noble efforts in behalf of the Fund, thus far, have been crowned with the highest success. That gentleman recently said, in a public address at Richmond, that he would deliver his oration on Washington *seven hundred and seventy times*, if the people desired it, (he having already pronounced it for the benefit of the Mt. Vernon Fund *seventy times*, yielding over forty thousand dollars.) And with the aid of other eloquent voices in this labor of love, how can she fail in rescuing from oblivion the Home and Tomb of our beloved and immortal Washington.

WARM POLITICAL CANVASS IN ILLINOIS.

The political contest in Illinois is getting somewhat warm, and considerably personal. Mr. Lincoln and Senator Trumbull are Mr. Douglas' opponents on the stump. The former recently charged that Mr. Douglas, though now proclaiming popular sovereignty, really had conspired with the administration to subvert the constitutional power of the States, and establish slavery over the land. Mr. Douglas, in a recent speech at Beardstown, pronounced this statement "an infamous lie."—Mr. Trumbull, in his address to the people, made this charge distinctly, and furthermore said, that to "the man who does deny it, I will cram the lie down his throat till he shall cry enough."—Doughs, in reply, comes up to his work boldly, and says:—

"This charge was once made in a much milder form in the Senate of the United States. I did brand it as a lie, in the presence of Mr. Trumbull—and Mr. Trumbull sat and heard it thus branded, without daring to say that it was true. I tell you he knew it to be false when he uttered it at Chicago, and yet he says that he is going to cram the lie down the throat of the man who denies it, until he shall cry enough. The miserable craven-hearted wretch, he would rather have both ears cut off than to use that language in my presence, where I could call him to account."

These extracts will serve to show the temper of the canvass in Illinois, and the likelihood of the republicans and popular sovereignty democrats coalescing.

TALES OUT OF SCHOOL.—The Washington correspondent of the St. Louis *Republican* (Democratic organ) thus refers to the intrigues of the leading members of his own party in reference to the next Presidential nomination:

The scramble for the succession in 1860 is now becoming interesting, and while some of the Presidential aspirants have ample time to make a pilgrimage to the West, others are detained here by public engagements. Yet they all watch each other like hawks—the play is for high stakes, and as the game proceeds, the parties excited adopt every expedient to check-mate each other. Slidell, Bright, Stephens, Breckinridge, Douglas and others court the growing strength of the Far West—while Senator Davis, of Mississippi, goes to sun rise to feel the political pulse of New England."

That correspondent should have a hint given him not to "tell tales out of school." He is bringing scandal upon the "great and glorious" Democratic household. Think of the various Democratic aspirants "watching each other like hawks."—*Lynchburg Virginian.*

THE CROPS.

We hear of short crops in nearly every portion of the State. In the Spring the prospect was unusually good, but with the rust in the Wheat and the present exceedingly severe drought for the corn, crops will make a great failure. We learn from a gentleman in the East that his crop of wheat which ought to have been 5000 bushels only measured out 800. His is the common experience of that part of the State. And the corn crop he says, is no better. The fodder is burnt perfectly dry.

In this section for a few days past we have had several gentle showers, but no amount of rain can repair the damages of the protracted drought.—Within a few days past, flour has risen from one to two dollars on the barrel.—*Greensboro' Times.*

FAILURE OF CROPS IN IOWA.—We have various advices from Southern and Central Iowa, all agreeing that the crops of that State have been nearly ruined by the tremendous rains of July. Wheat is less than half a crop; Oats nearly a total failure; Corn looks weak and backward, but may be two-thirds of a crop; Hay, not made because of rains; Hungarian grass not yet ripe and may be a full crop. Wheat and flour have risen in price one-half; corn from 15 cents per bushel to 25.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

The "cable" is still the topic, and the arrival of the Niagara at New York, has, if anything, increased the excitement. She was on her arrival, saluted with thirty-one guns, from the line-of-battle ship North Carolina, and a royalty salute of twenty-one guns. Mr. Field on landing received the congratulations of his friends. Captain Hudson, of the Niagara, whose residence is in Brooklyn, had a fine reception there. By the way, Tiffany & Co., the jewellers, in order to satisfy the public demand, have purchased the remainder of the cable on board the Niagara, eighty miles, to sell in small pieces.

SINGULAR DEATH.—We learn that Mr. Bunch, section master on the lower end of the Seaboard and Roanoke railroad, started in a hand car from Suffolk, Va., on Tuesday last, for the purpose of going to Portsmouth to procure a metallic coffin for a friend, who had died in the neighborhood, and had gone but a short distance when, by some means, he fell out at the front end of the car, the wheels passing over him and killing him instantly.—*Raleigh Standard.*

LATER FROM EUROPE.

QUEBEC, August 22.—The steamer Anglo-Saxon has arrived, bringing Liverpool advices to the 11th inst.

The Cherbourg fetes concluded on the 8th of August, with the inauguration of the statue of Napoleon, The Emperor made another pacific speech on the occasion.

Queen Victoria and Albert left on the 10th for Prussia.

It has been resolved to receive orders for the purchase or charter of the Great Eastern steamer, also, to advertise her for sale at auction; the company meanwhile to raise money on a mortgage.

An editorial in the London Times favors the annexation of Mexico to the United States.

Advices from China state that the allies had advanced unopposed to Tierisin, followed by the Americans and Russians. A high Mandarin had been sent there to negotiate.

COMMERCIAL.

LIVERPOOL, August 10.—Breadstuffs—All qualities slightly declined. Provisions steady.

[From the Baltimore Patriot.]

THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH.

BY ANNIE SOUTHCOMB.

Hark: the news is gladly ringing from the ocean
to the land,
Telling of the mighty conquest won by genius' powerful hand—
Of the triumph over matter, swayed by glorious mighty mind,
Of the daring ocean-spanning, borne upon the wings of wind.

FRANKLIN—thrice revered projector of our vast magnetic plan—
Left to MORSE to perfect system by his bold, untiring hand.
Lighting came at his good pleasure, then retreated at his word;
O'er the wires flew the message, swifter than a winged bird!

While the savans, who had named it a daring, impious scheme,
Prophesied it would resemble fleeting phantoms of a dream—
Stood and gazed in speechless wonder at the awe-inspiring hand
That with swift and powerful fingers spread the news throughout the land.
Yet they could not grant the ocean privileges of the shore,
And denied that ever genius would with cable track it o'er;
Bearing voices from the Old World through the bosom of the deep.
Speaking in the voice of lightning, waking ocean from its sleep.

Crown'd Sovereign of the Old World speaks in tones of friendship true,
And Columbia's chosen answers—thus our friendship we renew!
Listen to the loud bells ringing and the cannon's booming noise,
Glad sounds fill our own gay city as they bid us to rejoice,
For the hand of union joining free Columbia's happy shore
To the chalky cliffs of Alban, teeming with its storied lore;
Of the track through boundless waters, where the fabled Naiads have
Peerless forms and lovely features thro' old ocean's dark blue wave.

Where the wild winds chant a requiem, and the loved uncoffin'd sleep,
All unmindful of the anguish of the mourning friends who weep;
Where the snowy, foam-capp'd billows dash around the rocky shore,
And engulph the death-doom'd victims who can greet us never more!
O' the pearly shells of ocean and the lovely coral grove
Where the sea nymphs sport and gambol with a strange, unearthly love;
Where the syren hides in ambush, 'mid the seaweed of the deep,
Watching for the doomed seamen whom her song will lull to sleep.

Honor, then, to mighty genius—names whose memory still will live;
Minds whose powerful thought projected, and whose daring hand could give
Wire to bring through air the message, Cable that could knowledge yield;
Honor, then, to noble FRANKLIN, daring MORSE, and CYRUS FIELD!

Baltimore, August 17, 1858.

BANK STOCK FOR SALE.---47 Shares of Stock, Bank of Cape Fear
apply to C DEWEY.
jy 21—tf

TOWN PROPERTY FOR SALE!

I WISH TO SELL PRIVATELY THE FOLLOWING property in the City of Raleigh, viz:

1st. The HOTEL at the corner of Wilmington and Martin Streets, formerly occupied by O. L. Burch, and at present in the occupancy of H. L. Winton. This Hotel is admirably located, and commands a large share of transient and permanent custom.

2nd. The two **Store Houses** fronting on Market Square, one occupied by E Rosenthal, as a Clothing Store, which also fronts on Fayetteville Street, and the other in the occupancy of A. Smith as a Grocery. These stores are situated in a position which cannot fail to command an extensive patronage.

3d. Two **Dwelling Houses**, one on Wilmington Street, near the Capitol Square, at present occ