

# THE WEEKLY GLEANER.

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## The Weekly Gleaner

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All letters on business must be POST PAID, or they will not be attended to.

From a Pennsylvania Paper.

### AN ENIGMA.—[PUBLISHED BY REQUEST.]

My being's by negation made;  
Of beings too the lowest grade;  
An empty, lifeless, tasteless thing,  
But oft to thee I pleasure bring.  
I'm found in every age and clime,  
But neither know I age or prime;  
And tho' from something still I come,  
Yet naught but nothing still I am.  
I climb the lofty mountain's side,  
And cross the vast Atlantic tide;  
I neither know Attraction's sway,  
Nor Gravitation's laws obey.  
In me no essence you can find,  
I'm lighter than the fleeting wind;  
Yet if from me two-sixths you take,  
You'll me a real being make,  
And much esteemed among mankind,  
But to the watery world confin'd;  
Or, if transposed, the name I bear,  
If right, how sad it will appear.

PHILO.

A poetical solution is requested.

FROM THE FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER.

The following is copied from the Petersburg Intelligencer of the 3d inst.

Road to Roanoke.—A meeting of the citizens of this town was held on Tuesday last for the purpose of devising means for the commencement of a turnpike road from Petersburg to the Roanoke river. Resolutions were entered into, requesting our Delegate to use his endeavors to obtain from the General Assembly, at its present session, an amendment of the "Act incorporating a Company to establish a turnpike from the town of Petersburg to the North Carolina line," so that the width of said road need not be more than thirty feet, and empowering the corporation of the town to subscribe to the stock.

From the interest manifested in the subject at the meeting, we have no doubt but that, should the General Assembly grant the required amendment to the law, that the contemplated road, so highly beneficial to the whole country between this place and the Roanoke, will be speedily commenced and finally completed. From an estimate which has been made, it is supposed that the sum of ninety thousand dollars will defray all the expenses of its execution. We trust, then, that the citizens, both of town and country, who are so equally interested in this improvement, the want of which is so severely felt by the farmer, will not cease in their efforts, until there object shall be accomplished.

Thus, while North Carolina looks on with folded arms, are Virginia and South Carolina making Turnpike and Rail Roads to entice her trade to their ports, that they may realize the profits of it. Let their plans be accomplished, as there is little room to doubt they will be, and the wholesale merchants of North Carolina may shut up shop. The trade of all the counties North, West, and South of Chatham, will most assuredly seek these good roads to markets in Virginia and South Carolina, unless—but we need not say unless our own State do something for the improvement of the roads to her home markets. Every hope of this kind seems destined to be miserably disappointed. Even the experiment of a Rail Road from this town to the River, (if a Rail Road can be called an experiment,) was refused by the late Legislature, though its costs would not exceed three or four thousand dol-

lars, and a much larger amount is paid each year for drayage between the two points.

BETTING.—A note of a law case on a wager appears in the Aurora and Pennsylvania Gazette. Stephen Ives, on the 14th of May, 1821, bet one hundred dollars against fifty with John Phillips, that Bonaparte, who was then a prisoner on the Island of St. Helena, would, within two years, be removed or escape from the Island. Bonaparte died within the two years, at the end of which Phillips brought his action for the hundred dollars. The following is giving as the opinion of the majority of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania in the case, the Chief Justice and Justice Smith dissenting.

"Every bet about the age, or height, or weight, or wealth, or circumstances and situation of any person, is either malicious or indecent, or indelicate; all such bets are illegal; and that no Court ought, in any case, to sustain a suit on such a wager; and this, whether the subject of the bet was man, or woman, or child, married or single, native or foreign, in this country or abroad. I can perceive no principle of law or justice, which will require or permit the time of the country, and its Courts, to be wasted, to gratify the malice or curiosity, or the caprice of the unthinking and impertinent. There are many things which politeness would not mention, and charity would conceal, and I would not assist folly or malignity in making them public. I would not as a man, and I will not as a Judge. I hold no bet of any kind, about any human being, is recoverable in a Court of Justice."

### BREACH OF MARRIAGE PROMISE.

A short time since a case was reported by the Cincinnati Chronicle, which shows that a breach of the marriage promise is held in detestation among Indians. A young Indian failed in his attention to a young and beautiful squaw. She made complaint to an old chief, who appointed a hearing or trial. The lady laid the case before the judge and explained the nature of the promise made to her. It consisted of sundry visits to her father's wigwam, "many little undefinable attentions," and presents of a bunch of feathers, and several yards of red flannel. This was the charge. In defence the faithless swain denied "the undefinable attentions" in toto. He had visited her father's wigwam for the purpose of passing away time, when it was not convenient to hunt; and had given feathers & flannels from friendly motives and nothing further. During the latter part of the defence, the young squaw fainted. The plea was considered invalid, and the offender sentenced to repair the wrong, by giving the lady "another piece of flannel, a brooch that was then dangling from his nose, and a dozen *coon* skins." The sentence was no sooner concluded than the squaw sprung upon her feet, and clapping her hands cried out for joy, "now me ready to be courted again."

A Fact.—Not long since, in South Carolina, a clergyman was preaching on the disobedience of Jonah, when commanded to go and preach to the Ninevites. After declaiming at some length on the awful consequences of disobedience to the Divine commands, he exclaimed in a voice of thunder, that passed thro' the congregation like an electric shock, "and are there any Jonahs here?" There was a negro present whose name was Jonah; and thinking himself called on, immediately rose, and turning up his white eye to the preacher, with his broadest grin, and best bow, very readily answered—"Here be one, Massa."

## GEOLOGY OF NORTH-CAROLINA.

Extracts from the Geological Report of Professor MITCHELL, made to the Board of Agriculture, Jan. 1829.

The county of Ashe appears to have been intended by nature for a grazing country, for the pasturage of cattle and sheep; and though a good many cattle are driven from it every year, much of its surface is still in a state of nature, and with extensive forests overshadowing the soil and preventing the vigorous growth of those plants upon which they are fond of feeding, it is evident that the quantity of stock it can support under the present circumstances, is incomparably less than what it will maintain when the forests shall have been levelled and the hills and mountains have been converted into artificial pastures. Some judicious farmers are beginning to turn their attention more particularly to this object—a course which would be inexpedient if they were on the other side of the ridge, but is wise and proper here. The effect of such measures must be to make room for a denser population, and prepare the way for the introduction of schools and other improvements, so that there can be no doubt that Ashe, become an old county, will be much more wealthy and respectable, and hold a higher rank among her sister counties than when the settlements were but recently made. No other county seems to possess in so high a degree, the means of ameliorating its condition through a succession of years. To this end, it would contribute greatly that the hunter habits should be more effectually laid aside. As the settlements advanced westward from the coast, the hunters kept retreating till they reached the Alleghanies, where they made a stand, and permitted the tide of emigration to flow past them into Tennessee, and now that the game is almost gone, they do not willingly turn themselves to the cultivation of the soil of a broken but fertile county. Patient, persevering industry, is too much confined to the females, whose habits in this respect are worthy of much praise.

Of the luxuries received from Ashe, none is more generally acceptable than the Cranberry—as pleasant a tart, unquestionably, as the world affords. It grows almost exclusively on the east side of New River, in the glades and swamps lying between that stream and the Blue Ridge. The plant which produces it, is a small low vine that completely covers the soil with the branches and runners which it throws out in all directions. When loaded with fruit in a favorable year, it presents a beautiful object to the eye, besides reminding us of the gladness with which it will animate the lover of good eating in a distant part of the country, when it shall have been suitably prepared for the table.

The circumstance of its flourishing almost exclusively on the north-western declivity of the Blue Ridge, is to be attributed partly to the characters of the soil, and partly to the elevation and consequent moisture of the ground, for there can be no doubt that though it is a country of mountains, and there are high knobs far away to the westward, there is a gradual descent from the crest of the ridge to the warm vallies of Tennessee. Vegetation is earlier in the Watauga settlement, and corn ripens better there than in any other part of the county.