

IREDELL EXPRESS.

EUGENE B. DRAKE & SON,
EDITORS AND PROPRIETORS.

Statesville, Friday, January 14, 1859.

Can do so at our risk by taking the Post Master's receipt, to exhibit, in case the money is lost. Gold dollars, when sent, should be in the envelope, and the sheet with the receipt or a water-proof envelope should be used.

Mr. W. R. Hunter, the Great Friend of Sabbath Schools.

This distinguished Lecturer upon the importance of Sabbath School Instruction, and the proper training of children with other topics, has been spending a few days in our place this week, and delivered a series of lectures to the youth and adult population, in the Presbyterian church, which has excited the most lively interest in this community, and we doubt not, will follow important results to bless the rising generation and others to succeed them, throughout reviving ages.

We dare not attempt to report Mr. Hunter's peculiar method and happy faculty for addressing the minds of the young, and making a lasting impression on youthful intellects, so as to cause abstract subjects to be well understood by them, by apt and forcible illustrations—suffice it, that no other man has adopted a similar plan for advancing this great and good work.

Charter for the Bank of Salisbury with Branches at Statesville and Mt. Airy. This bill has passed its second reading in the House, and in all probability will become a law. We think the Legislature has done wisely in affording banking facilities to this portion of the State, which is denuded by every interest public and private.

The Salisbury Watchman. Utters a dolorous complaint against the location of our Railroad, and the management of the officials at this place, the bad work to town, omnibuses, &c. That the road was located so far from town has provoked comments and regrets from not a few, especially in bad weather, but the road was thus located, so we have been informed, to save many thousands of dollars, which would have had to be expended to cut through hills and all up ravines, if a nearer approach had been determined upon. The work to be done in winter set in; circumstances unavoidable in their nature have prevented this important being made earlier, however desirable for convenience and comfort—and especially for the accommodation of our esteemed brother when he shall again make his visit, which, until said improvement is made, we hope will fall on some clear day, though, we are ready to extend to him the "hospitalities of the city" at any time.

Perhaps the other causes for complaint, were accidental, merely, and will not again occur; yet, it is well enough to remind people of their duties.

The Greensborough Times. Came to us last week, enlarged and improved, in published in quarto form, and illustrated. Price, \$2 a year in advance.

The North Carolina Planter. For January is found, and contains the usual amount of valuable information to the farmers of the country. Monthly, one dollar a year—address A. M. Gorman, Raleigh.

Mountain Scenery of North Carolina. See the Prospectus of H. E. Cotton, Esq., in another column, who will soon issue a very interesting and useful little work upon the Mountain Scenery of North Carolina.

"Philadelphia and Its Manufactures." Is the title of "A Hand-Book" exhibiting the development, variety, and statistics of the Manufacturing Industry of Philadelphia in 1857. By EDWIN T. FRIEDLEY.

The Sale of Dr. Ayer's Remedies in Statesville, has been transferred to S. J. RICK, Esq. See advertisement.

Snow Camp Machine Shop, Alamance. Persons wanting to purchase Threshing Machines, Sugar Mills, Circular Saws, and other Machinery (for which see advertisement) will find this the best foundry in the State at which to procure them. The partners are all mechanics, and will send nothing but first rate jobs, warranted. Orders for work wanted to be delivered next Spring and Summer, should be sent in at once, either to the Agents in Statesville, or S. P. Dixon, Davidson, & Co., Snow Camp, Alamance County, N. C. A list of Prices may be seen at the Agency in Statesville, where orders will be received.

The Post Office at New Hope, Iredell county, has been discontinued by order of the Post Master General.

The Fayetteville Observer. Has donned a new dress, which means it is printed upon new type, and entered upon the thirty-eighth year of its existence with the senior Editor at the helm—E. J. HALE, Esq.

SUGAR and MOLASSES. We invite the attention of merchants of the interior to the advertisement of Messrs. HATHAWAY & CO., of Wilmington, N. C., who offer for sale several cargoes of Sugar and Molasses. This is one of the largest importing houses in the State, and of course can always sell at the lowest figures, and will receive North Carolina money at par.

Send them your orders. We have long known Wilmington as one of the best Grocery and Produce marts in the South, and have wondered why merchants in the up-country do not deal more in the Wilmington market, and suppose the reason to be this: Wilmington houses do not advertise enough in the up-country papers to make themselves generally known.

Rev. G. B. Wetmore. (Providence permitting) will hold Divine Service in the Court-House, on next Sabbath, at 11 o'clock.

Further Enlargement of the "Express." When our supply of paper gives out, in a couple of months, we shall enlarge the dimensions of the "Express" by the addition of about another column, making the sheet longer.

Statesville Male Academy. This Institution, under the management of Pro. J. B. Andrews, Principal, re-opened on the 5th instant, with a very large number of pupils. Besides English and Classical studies Pro. A. teaches a thorough system of military tactics.

Correspondence.

For the Express. MESSRS. EDITORS.—We think a stage-ride at this season of the year would move the equanimity of a Job. The roads are almost impassable. We have traveled extensively, both in public and private conveyances, but our ride of this week, for discomfort, exceeds any thing we have ever met with. We hope the Western Railroad enterprise will succeed. It will be a joyful day when the cars shall pass through these mountains. We have a Luciferish inclination to wish that all those who have the means to assist in building rail roads, and won't appreciate them, were compelled to ride in the stage incessantly for a month. Just think of riding over a hundred miles, moving at a rate to which a "snail's pace" would be an express train, tossed about in every direction, now resolving to sit up and be still, and the next minute be howling beautifully to your friend in front, and in the effort to regain an erect posture, you come in violent collision with your next neighbor. Apologies are useless; it is a general thing, and too often repeated. We can only sigh at our misfortune, and invoke the goddess Patience, that if our troubles are not alleviated we may be able to bear them with some degree of equanimity. Night comes on, and we yet have miles to travel before there is any rest for our exhausted and mutilated selves. In the meantime, our apprehensions are increased at every advance; the road seems muddier, and the stage rocks frightfully. No matter: from sheer exhaustion we are soon under the influence of Somnus. We are aroused after a while to hear the groans of our fellow-travelers. "Wonder if we are in Purgatory, or what it all means." The next minute we are thrown violently against the stage, and a smarting check causes us to realize our situation. Next we are in Morganton; supper over, we retire about eleven o'clock; seem scarcely to have been asleep when aroused, and greeted with "Stage almost ready." It didn't suit our temperaments just then. The very word is repulsive, as suggestive of Hydra-headed Gorgons and Harpies, for some evil genius must certainly preside over this stage. A similar variety of scenes are enacted the following day, and then we are in Statesville. But, after all, we have seen things, and heard words, which are, with Daguerren skill, impressed upon the tablets of our memory—a glorious picture.

LINNETTE.
Statesville, C. College, Jan. 10, 1859.

For the Express. St. Charles, New Orleans, Dec. 4. MESSRS. EDITORS.—This is the rainiest, wettest, dampest, drizzliest, cloudiest weather I have ever seen. It is emphatically the rainy season in these parts. During nearly three weeks I have seen but two or three clear days.

You see I am in the Crescent City, where I arrived a day or two since. As my travels to this place may be read with some interest, I will say something of steamboat life on the Mississippi. I left Holly Springs, and came to Memphis, the largest and most important city between New Orleans and St. Louis. I went immediately on board the steamer City of Memphis, a large and magnificent boat, which was waiting at the levee for a distinguished character, in the person of Stephen A. Douglas. He had been met by a committee from the City, and requested to spend a day with them, and give them one of his Lincoln conquering speeches; which he did. I was sorry I did not arrive in time to hear him. He was escorted to the boat by a band of music, and the dignitaries of the City, with any quantity of huzzars! He is now the lion of the South, and every one seems anxious to get a look at him. He is doubtless a strong man, and if no reaction take place will stand a fair chance for the Democratic nomination for the next Presidency. I was on board the same boat with him for three days, and had a good opportunity for studying the man, and hearing him converse. He is low in stature, rather inclined to be corpulent, and slightly gray, and I would suppose his age to be forty-five. He has great decision of character expressed in his countenance. He is accompanied by his lady, whom I will not attempt to describe, for I would certainly fail. Read some of Chas. Dickens's descriptions of beautiful characters, and it will do her more justice than I can. I will only say, that she is a magnificent-looking lady, while few are more handsome or more intelligent.

Our boat is a fast boat, carries mostly passengers, will accommodate one hundred and thirty first cabin passengers, four hundred in the second cabin, and carries seven thousand bales of cotton. We have a daily paper issued on board, which is rather small, and in which appears the bills of fare for the day.

The first thirteen hours we ran two hundred miles. But little is to be seen on the river until we get to Baton Rouge, the capital of Louisiana, below which the sugar plantations commence. Baton Rouge is not a large city, but presents a good appearance from its elevated position. Here I first saw orange trees laden with their golden fruit, which suggest a tropical country. The embankments on the river are quite small, but they extend all the way below this city. The sugar plantations were just grinding and boiling their cane, and the tall chimneys of their mills are continually in view, emitting their white smoke. I counted as many as eight at one view, all puffing away; and this, too, on the Sabbath day; for they don't stop for Sunday after they once commence boiling. The law of the State requires the masters to pay each negro *se bits* for every Sunday he makes him work. The cane was nearly all cut down; but occasionally you could see dense fields, waving ready for the harvest.

The lands are nearly all under cultivation for two hundred miles above New Orleans, and I suppose are as rich as their owners could wish them to be.

We made a very good run, but were detained a few hours on account of the fog, which was so dense that a passenger remarked he could put it with a knife. The river may be as clear as can be wished for, and in three minutes one may be enveloped in an almost impenetrable fog, which rises from the surface of the water. When this is the case the boats are required to ring their bells every ten minutes, to prevent collisions. Often, in

such fogs, they run jam against the banks, and are in great danger of sustaining damage. They are then generally running slow, and are on the look out.

The traveler comes as near living at home on these boats as he well can do, not to be at home, or at a first-class hotel. Card-playing is the usual amusement for the male passengers, and novel-reading amuses the ladies. We had no gambling on our boat, as it was prohibited by the captain. The keepers and barbers take care of all the loose change that the male passengers may have to spare.

It was after dark when we reached this City. The news that Douglas was on board was ahead of us, and arrangements were made to give him a grand reception. Already the sea of lights made their appearance through the wintry-looking mists of the many ships that skirt the shores, and anon is seen a flash, and then the hollow booming of brass cannon shakes the ground; and as the vessel pulls slowly along, a thousand more lights come in view, while others recede. Our vessel now turns and seeks a landing; but the deafening peals still ring on, and the dense mass on shore anxiously awaits our landing. Scarcely is the plank out, when the rush is made, and our boat is filled in a moment. The Committee arrive, and conduct the Senator to his carriage amidst the huzzars of the crowd. We repaired to the St. Charles, where the crowd, which filled all the neighboring streets, would not be satisfied until the Senator appeared on the portico, and addressed them a short speech.

This magnificent hotel has often been described by visitors, and I will not attempt the task. It is quite an unfavorable time to be in this city, as the rain still falls incessantly. The streets are, like those of the Queen City, laid with round boulders, and can get muddy only to the depth of an inch; but this is a very disagreeable black mud. The water in the streets all runs from the river; and to go down street, we go to the river. The city is full of ditches next to the pavements, and we cannot wonder that this City is the mother of diseases.

New Orleans is indeed a world in miniature. We here can see people and vessels from almost every nation, hear the clangor of all languages, and see people of all colors. The levee at this City is said to surpass any in the world, and more is exported from it than from any other port. The shore of the river, giving the name to the City, is in the shape of a crescent, and from within we may see the thousand masts, and chimneys that block it up. Mankind, drays, and omnibuses seem to be in commotion, hurrying on the business of this world's trade.

I visited the new Custom House which the General Government is building in this City. To give you some idea of its magnitude, I will give its outlines. It covers 87,333 superficial feet, and is 334 by 297 feet. It was commenced in 1840, and they have finished the second story. Some of the halls are superbly finished, with carved Grecian marble. One business room is 117 by 90 feet. The timbers on the outside cost a large sum, and it requires a number of workmen to keep them in repair.

The weather has been so disagreeable I have had but little opportunity of seeing much of the City.

I will let you hear from me again when I arrive in Texas.

This is the 4th, and the weather is oppressively warm, and we have an occasional case of yellow fever.

VIA TOR. For the Express. Jottings about Raleigh.

The first thing that attracts one's attention on his arrival at Raleigh by the cars is the sonorous voices of four or five lusty sons of Ham, proclaiming, with stentorian lungs, the merits of their respective hotels. Their importunities amount to downright rudeness, and you take refuge from their assaults by stepping into the most convenient omnibus. In a few minutes you are landed in the heart of the City of Oaks, at what your friend of ebony declares to be the best hotel in the place; but before you have been there many days, and footed up your board bill, you will wish you had made the selection of some other house. Your correspondent had a good room, a tolerable bed, and by dint of a little bribery he succeeded in getting at table enough to do; though it was neither of the nicest quality, nor of the finest flavor.

Raleigh is a beautiful place, elevated and healthy. The Insane Asylum may be noticed as one of the very finest buildings in the State. It is capable of containing some 250 patients, but now has only about half that number. Under the prudent management of Dr. Fisher, the unfortunate lunatic is here most skillfully provided for. It is also well worth while to visit the Institution for the Deaf, Dumb, and Blind. The inmates exhibit a degree of proficiency that is wonderful, while their cheerful countenances teach wholesome lessons of contentment.

The new Baptist Church is now verging towards completion. It was erected at a cost of twenty-eight thousand dollars, and will compare favorably with any structure of the kind in the State. To say that it was erected under the direction of William Percival, is sufficient guarantee for its good taste and architectural beauty. By-the-way, cannot Mr. P. be induced to deliver a series of lectures through our State on Architecture? Let us try him. He is a man of fine education, and great architectural skill, and one of his lectures would be worth a hundred windy orations from a modern politician.

The State House is a splendid granite building, modeled after the Athenian Parthenon. It stands in the centre of Union Square, which is neatly enclosed with iron, regularly laid out in walks bordered with shrubbery, while sturdy trees of natural growth

flourish in pristine beauty. Houdon's brazen statue of Washington, erected at a cost to the State of \$12,000, is quite an ornament to this pretty square. In the Capitol you will find a neat State Library of 5,000 volumes. But turn into the Cabinet. Here you will be detained and interested for some time. The State Geologist has here collected and artistically arranged thousands of curious things from various quarters of our honest old State. Here you may take a practical lesson in geology, mineralogy, ichthyology, ornithology, conchology, paleontology, and other *ologies ad libitum*.

But here is the Gallery of the Senate Chamber; let us step in and see the law-makers of the land—the "assembled wisdom" of the State. The Senate presents a dignified appearance, and has in it men of ability; but not many of its members will attract the special attention of the stranger. Mr. Speaker Clark is a good officer, and fills well his position. Perhaps the visitor will notice the venerable ex-U. S. Senator Brown; or the easy and graceful Pool; or the imperturbable Steele; or the Garrulous Turner; or the rising Houston; but in the petty bills before the Senate we are not much interested; so we turn to the House of Commons. The bill for the charter of the Danville Railroad is upon its second reading, and ex-Gov. Morehead has just commenced his argument in its favor. He made a strong speech, but had not finished when the hour for adjournment came. The consideration of the bill was postponed; but there is little probability of its passing.

There are several men in the House of very decided talents; but as a constitutional lawyer Mr. Smith of Hertford stands first. Outlaw is a strong, clear-headed man; so also are Morehead and Bridger. There are several young men of great promise in both parties; but compare the parties as to ability in proportion to numbers, and the Opposition has very decidedly the advantage.

This Legislature is much more talented than was the last; but talent is not a guarantee for sound legislation, nor is it a specific against demagoguism. We are a practical people, and we need practical men to make our laws. We need none of your fancy men,—none of your be-gotched, be-kiddered sprigs of the law, who expect some day to be Presidents, and legislate only for Buncombe; and much less use have we for him who swims to the Legislature on a whiskey barrel, and soaks himself with its contents during the whole session. No! Shame on such legislators. We want men of clear heads and pure hearts;—men who seek after right, and follow their convictions of duty;—men who work for State and not for Party;—men who are capable of forming opinions of their own—who know their rights, and knowing, dare maintain, even if in so doing they break Party adrift. If our present Legislature consisted entirely of such men, we would be in no danger of being called croakers, when we complain of its inefficiency. But what has it accomplished so far for the good of the State? Echo answers what! Two ill-advised and dangerous legislative precedents have been set: the one, in allowing a minor, and the other, a regular minister, to hold their seats. To some it seems that these cases were intended to be excluded by the Constitution, and that by a sort of refining, hair-splitting process, the true spirit of that instrument has been set aside. By the one decision it is declared that minority is no barrier, and that even a free negro, or a dandy of eighteen, is eligible to a seat in our State Legislature! By the other, no minister, at least of the Methodist Church, can be excluded; for just so soon as he leaves his churches to enter the campaign, or to go to the Capital, he ceases to "exercise his pastoral functions," and may be admitted!

Another act of indiscriminate legislation was the abolishing the office of State Geologist. The office in itself is a good one, to which it seems our legislators were not opposed. Hence they stand in the undignified position of tearing down a good institution to reach an inefficient incumbent. The whole proceedings in this case were hasty and rude. It is to be hoped that we shall have something done for the good of the State. In no way can this be done more efficiently than by aiding the two most important works of improvement—the Coalfield Road and the Cape Fear and Deep River Navigation. Our rich minerals of this region must have an outlet, and it is a blind State policy that refuses it.

I had the pleasure of attending a concert at the Raleigh Female Seminary. The room was large and well lighted with gas, and was crowded to its utmost capacity by interesting and interested spectators. The exhibition was creditable, and passed off in the finest style. Some of the pieces were sweet, simple, and full of music; but I confess I never do like to hear a good old tune smothered with variations. Old Dan Tucker bears an honest phiz that is known to all; but when he comes out dressed in his Sunday variations, he is hardly recognized by one in twenty. I enjoyed the music, and also the company with whom good fortune threw me. I love the sweet strains of the piano or guitar; I love too the melodious symphonies of cheerily singing birds; but there is a melody and a captivating sweetness in

some human voices that the grandest orchestra possesses not!

Franklin once gave as an excuse for writing a long letter that he did not have time to write a short one. May this excuse avail for

QUILL.
January, 1859.

News, &c.

The overland mail has arrived at St. Louis, with San Francisco dates to the 13th ultimo.

Fifty persons were met returning from the Gila mines, discouraged in consequence of the scarcity of water. The Camanches continued to plunder the stations along the mail route. They and the employes of the company were virtually at war. The latter were building strong stations, well provided with guns. The Stockton and Kansas city mail party were turned back by the Navajoes, with threats of massacre if they attempted to cross the country.

According to the Naval Register, just published, the United States Navy consists of 7 sailing ships-of-the-line, 14 sailing frigates, 20 sailing sloops-of-war, 3 brigs, and 18 steam vessels of different classes; officered by 94 captains, 132 commanders, 382 lieutenants, 159 surgeons, 66 pursers, 21 masters, 200 midshipmen, of different grades, 96 engineers, 80 marine and about 200 petty officers. The United States marine corps consists of about 1,500 men, commanded by 80 officers. We have in actual service 6 squadrons, aggregating 37 ships, with 307 officers, 3,416 men, and 701 guns, including the vessels chartered for the Paraguay expedition.

The Missouri Legislature were yesterday considering a bill, which, it was thought, would pass, authorizing the Governor to call out the volunteers to protect persons and property, and to repel invasions of Kansas banditti, and appropriating for these purposes \$30,000.

Christmas in Turkey.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Oct. 27th, 1858. We hear the most exaggerated accounts from Europe and America respecting an excited state of the Mussulman mind in Turkey against the Christians. A late number of the New York Observer contains extracts from a private letter, in which the writer gives the most alarming statements in regard to Constantinople itself, and the danger of Mussulman insurrection here. We who live upon the ground, happily, are ignorant of any such state of things. We may be in the greatest danger although we know it not; and this danger those at a distance may discover who those who are near may be blissfully ignorant of it. However, I think it will be hard to make any one of us believe it, and we expect to sleep just as quietly since reading the letter in the Observer's correspondence as we did before.

In the same paper it is gravely announced that an uprising of Mussulmans had taken place in the vicinity of the city, and that the city was destroyed! We have heard of this for the first time by way of New York, and I rather think that every house in Aleppo is still standing just as it was a year ago. The fact is that a true Turkish spirit is the spirit of fanaticism, and hostility to every other creed, and that the place remote from the capital an occasion only is required to call this spirit into lively exercise. Such an occasion was offered in Jeddah, and every now and then it is offered in other parts of the empire; but there is at present anything like a general reviving of the old hostility to the Christians, and the old fondling a general uprising and massacre. I do not at all believe. And as to the capital, why there is not a Turk here but knows that in a single day a few foreign ships could destroy this whole city with the greatest ease.

I saw a scene the other day which certainly does not give occasion to an uprising here, if any thing could. The foundation stone of an English church was publicly laid by Lord Stratford, in the midst of the Turkish quarter in Pera. If the distinct object of the foundation had been to do the greatest possible violence to the most sacred feelings of the Turks, it really seemed to me they did every other thing that was appropriate to the locality, and the occasion was delivered, in the midst of a large company of Englishmen, on the very spot groups of Turkish women were gathered around, watching with the most intense interest and anxiety every part of the ceremony.

In the midst of the group was a Jewish man, who was giving out the scene as the rest, and seemed to say the glory of Islam is departed. While the proceedings were going forward, it came to be one of the hours of prayer and the Imam went up to the top of the minaret to give notice to the neighborhood, according to invariable custom. But his issuing from the hole in the minaret was the signal for a general uprising, some of the Ambassador's Kavases (guards of honor) below who, putting their fingers to their mouths beckoned to him to be still; and he remained as silent though sad spectator of the scene, leaning over the balustrade of the minaret for a full hour!

The women below said one to another in a suppressed tone, "See how our poor Imam weeps."

A Turkish man, who said he had been changed and I think you will agree with me in saying the minds of the Turkish population are not in a very favorable state, and they would not have allowed so venial an occasion for rising to pass unimproved.

The fact is the Turks are dispirited, and they have occasion to be. In European Turkey, especially, including, of course, Constantinople, they stand on very precarious ground. Out of fifteen or sixteen millions of inhabitants not more than four and a half millions are even nominally Mussulmans, and of these not more than one and a half millions are real Ottoman Turks, the rest being of Christian nations.

I can well believe that there may be, before many years, something like a general insurrection of the Christian races against the Turks, but nothing of the sort against the Christians.

There is now a good deal of talk about a "Bank of Turkey" having recently been formed in England, though by a regular treaty with the Porte. This is to regulate the currency and the exchange, and it will solve an important financial problem for the ill-fated country if it succeeds. Rakalun as the Turks say; that is, we shall see.

A New Discovery in Light.

The London correspondent of the N. Y. Commercial Advertiser writes that a new discovery in light is about to be introduced, which, if it realizes the aversments of the pa-

teentes, will revolutionize all our methods of illumination. It was first publicly exhibited during the visit of the Queen to Cherbourg, while Her Majesty was passing at night from her own ship to that of the Emperor. The raw material may be a cheap gas, made from the most common materials, and the increased brilliancy is obtained by passing it through a new medium, which is said to have all the advantages of flame, without its destructibility. The calculations put forth are, that a light equal to that of 400 street lamps, and lasting twelve hours, can be obtained at a cost equal to 87 cents, or 3s. 6d. sterling; while, "for domestic purposes," one jet equaling in effect 18 pounds of candles, and costing 4d. for twelve hours will give a light fully double that of any ordinary gas burner. It is asserted, also, that the requisite apparatus is cheap, perfectly portable, and capable of being managed by a child; that the light is free from smell, very white, extremely pure, and characterized by the property of burning steadily, continuously, and without diminution. The patentee is the Hon. W. E. Fitzmaurice, and the statements made are so far endorsed by respectable and competent persons as to lead to the hope that the discovery may prove what it is represented to be.

The Mineral Wealth of Chatham County, N. C.—A Letter from Commander Wilkes.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23d, 1858. To the Hon. Warren Winslow.

MY DEAR SIR:—I take great pleasure in answering your letter relative to the examination of the Deep River country, which I am now enabled to do, as my report is finished, and will be handed to the Department for presentation to Congress after the holidays. This, you understand, is unofficial, and will be a short synopsis, which will give you a correct idea of the result of my examination. Owing to the delay in receiving the specimens from the Deep River country, the analysis of the coals and ores has postponed my official report much longer than I anticipated, and some of them must still elapse after it is handed in, before it can be published by Congress, on account of the engraving of the Maps and Sections of the Geological formation.

I need not point out to you the situation of the Deep River district, but you must be aware as well as I am, how little is really known of its geographical position as well as its valuable productions, and the apparatus with which all improvements for the possibility to this district have been viewed, on the part of many in your State, and the prejudice which has existed against it, from the appropriations having been lavishly and usefully expended in the construction of inefficient Dams and insecure Locks, which were found inadequate to bear their own weight, without the force of the water.

These mishaps and procrastinations have acted very unfavorably in preventing appropriations being made by the Legislature, as well as deterring individuals from subscribing towards these great and useful works. I am sure that there are very many who entertain doubts, and are unwilling to give their money and exertions, or credence to the truth which has been fully brought to light by the well-directed efforts of Mr. Wm. McFlane in shaking the shaft at Egypt; this fully established the existence of the veins of coal, and left no room to doubt the existence of a coal basin, and large quantities of the best bituminous coal as well as a great variety of iron ores which had been noticed by Prof. Emons, the State Geologist, in many localities, and I can now add that it is fully confirmed by the recent examination of the Commission; indeed, there are few places to be found in any country where there is such a concentration of material, and which can be mined with so little toil and expense; an abundance of the best fuel, consisting of charcoal and the mineral coals susceptible of being advantageously coked, in great variety and quantity for all purposes of the arts as well as domestic uses.

Although these deposits of coal and iron in the Deep River country will not bear a comparison with the vast fields and mountains of these minerals in our Western States, yet of their position, proximity to market and adaptability to many purposes of great interest to your State, and I consider of national importance.

The outcrop of the bituminous coal has been traced 18 miles, and five seams of coal found at the surface. The shaft at Egypt is sunk to the depth of 460 feet and includes the lower coal seam, and by it we are assured that there are four coal seams, two having united as they descended; the largest is there found to be 26 feet wide, separated from the others by beds of carbonate of iron known as the "Black Band."

The coal has been proved to be of the best quality of bituminous coals. It is a shining clean coal, resembling the best specimens of Cumberland; it ignites easily, burns with a bright, clear combustion, and leaves very little ash; it swells and agglutinates, making a hollow fire; is a desirable coal for the parlor grate and for blacksmiths' use; is well adapted for fuel, coking and oil; and is superior to most coals for the production of gas, for which it will be in great demand; it is almost entirely free from sulphur; its coke is light and porous; when rapidly burned, it inclines to smother and flow, but when under slow combustion it does not exhibit this tendency, which is owing to the presence of large quantities of bitumen; it does not easily disintegrate when exposed to the atmosphere.

I think every one who visits this coalfield must be satisfied from the regularity of its seams, and the limitation of the dip as it descends, provided to be some 8 or 10 degrees to the

shaft of Egypt, which is 1500 feet within the outcrop, that it seems conform to the shape of a basin, or trough, and I am satisfied that the greatest depth will lie on the northern side of the axis of the trough, and that this valuable mineral does not extend to such depths as to render its mining difficult, but, on the contrary, both easy and profitable.

The ores of Iron consist of the Black Band, in juxtaposition with the coal seams, and so situated as to be regularly mined with the coal; Specular, Hematitic, the Argillaceous and Magnetic ores are all found to be rich, and in quantity, and for their manufacture besides the mineral coal, there is an abundance of wood for charcoal; the uncleared lands of this district will have the primitive forest growing upon them, and charcoal can be obtained in any quantity and at a cheap rate; and there can be no question, but that the best quality of Iron can be manufactured there, and that there is no locality in our country where a better and cheaper article can be produced.

Fire clay for refractory furnaces, building materials of sandstone, gneiss and granite, millstone grit and fine sandstone, roofing slates, and sands for the manufacture of glass, and porcelain clay, of which there is a large tract. There are also rich copper mines and quarries of soap stone and agalmatolite.

The proximity of the Deep River country to market gives it great advantages, and I think insures its becoming at no distant day a populous manufacturing district. The bulk of coal and iron in its raw state renders its transportation expensive, and will cause the erection of manufactures on the spot, which will be more economical and profitable. I am of opinion that when such is the case, very little coal can be afforded to be shipped, except it be for the production of gas, which may be able to afford the prices it will command for the manufacture of Iron.

I would, however, remark, that all these minerals and materials are valueless, unless the routes are opened and every convenience afforded to reach the district, not only with easy and safe transportation, but in the quickest possible time from all parts of your States; and unless this is effected they must remain entirely dormant.

I think it must be apparent that it cannot be expedient for the General Government to establish machineshops for the construction of machinery, &c., &c., for naval vessels, until this district is shown to be accessible from every direction. The completion of your Western Railroad and slack-water navigation will tend in a great measure to give the facilities for speedy and sure transportation for both passengers and freight.

To acquire some estimate of the quantity of coal, and allowing but half the width of the basin for the extent of the coal, we shall have the area of 75 square miles; this gives an approximation to the quantity of mineral wealth locked up in this district. Surely no legislature can hesitate for a moment to expedite its development by any means in its power.

Although we have no actual proof to offer, yet there can be little doubt that the extent of the coal must underlie the basin. I was desirous to place this beyond question, and had it been in my power, I should have ordered borings to be made considering it of great importance in a national point of view; but as there was no appropriation to meet its expenditure, it could not be made.

Having thus given you a short synopsis, I will close, referring you to my official Report for the particulars of my examination and the conclusions at which I have arrived.

Very respectfully yours,
CHARLES WILKES.

The Fate of Mexico.

When Cortez conquered Mexico, it was the first civilized State of the western continent, even superior to Peru, which was remarkable for the high culture of its people. Mexico had a complete system of polity, a powerful priesthood, and a people skilled in all kinds of useful and ornamental arts. All this has been overturned by the corrupting influence of Spanish rule, which has weakened the resources and destroyed the manly virtue of every country where it has prevailed. The present state of the Government of Mexico is a standing warning to all who would seek to prosper in spite of constant, systematic disregard of law. There was nothing in the original construction of the Mexican Government, which could prevent its attaining a high degree of prosperity as has been reached by the great North American Union. It had a complete republican constitution, which, if faithfully carried out, would have made it prosperous and powerful. But it would seem that no form of government could avail to save the Mexican people from the national disorganization and ruin so naturally and inevitably resulting from their ceaseless restlessness, lawlessness, and dissensions. The evil is within themselves. With such a population, no country on earth, no matter how excellent might be its form of government, could ever secure peace and prosperity. It must cure the inherent disease that consumes it, or still remain, as hitherto, weak and contemptible.

The problem of Mexican politics bids fair to be finally solved, at no distant day, by the necessary intervention of foreign Governments, for the protection of the lives and property of their citizens, now exposed to con-