Terms of the Watchman.

For Subscription, per year, Two Dollars—payable in advance. But if not paid in advance, Two dollars and fifty cts. will be charged.

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Letters to the Editors must be post paid.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA,
ROWAN COUNTY.

In Equity--Spring Term, A. D., 1848.

Joseph Owens, George O. Tarrh and wife, Maria M., William A., and James Owens, infants by their Guardian, Joseph Owens, against Elizabeth Kennedy, John M. Kennedy, ——— Bell and wife, Mary C., sister of John and Elizabeth Kennedy, Nancy M. Kennedy and her husband, and Robert Kennedy, an infant.

IT appearing to the satisfaction of the Court, that the Defendants are inhabitants of another State: It is ordered that publication be made for six successive weeks in the Carolina Watchman, that said defendants appear at the next Court of Equity, to be held for the County of Rowan, on the 8th Monday after the 4th Monday in September, 1848, and answer the petition of plaintiffs, or judgment pro confesso, will be rendered against them and the petition be set for hearing exparte, as to them.

A. H. CALDWELL, C. M. E.

6t20—Printers fee $5 62½.

State of North Carolina,
DAVIE COUNTY.
Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, August Term, 1848.

Barbara Hunter and others, *vs.* Braxton D. Hunter and others. } *Petition for sale o Slaves.*

IT appearing to the satisfaction of the Court that Braxton D. Hunter, Benjamin Baker and wife Hannah, David Jones and wife Eliza, and Nathan Jones and wife Sarah, Defendants in this case, are inhabitants of another State. It is therefore ordered by Court, that publication be made for six weeks in the Carolina Watchman, printed in Salisbury, that they be and appear before the Justices of our next Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions to be held for the County of Davie at the Court House in Mocksville on the 4th Monday in November next, and then and there plead, answer, or demur to the Plaintiffs' petition, or the same will be taken *pro con fesso* and heard *ex par tee* as to them.

Witness, Caswell Harbin, Clerk of our said Court at office, the 4th Monday in August A. D., 1848.

C. HARBIN, *Clk.*

Sept. 28, '48.—21:6t—*Printers fee*, $5 50

THE CAROLINA WATCHMAN.

BRUNER & JAMES, *Editors & Proprietors.* } "KEEP A CHECK UPON ALL YOUR RULERS. } DO THIS, AND LIBERTY IS SAFE." *Gen'l Harrison.* } NEW SERIES, VOLUME V,—NUMBER 30.

SALISBURY, N. C., THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1848.

From the National Intelligencer.

ASHEVILLE, (N. C.) Oct. 14, 1848.

Gentlemen: As you have recently been publishing a series of letters in relation to that portion of the Alleghany range which is situated in North Carolina, you may, perhaps, find matter of interest in the subject of this communication. My purpose in making it is not only to present to the consideration of those learned or curious in geology, facts singular and interesting in themselves, but also, by means of your widely disseminated paper, to stimulate an inquiry as to whether similar phenomena have been observed in any other parts of the Alleghany range.

A number of persons had stated to me that at different periods, within the recollection of persons now living, a portion of a certain mountain in Haywood county had been violently agitated and broken to pieces. The first of these shocks remembered by any person whom I have seen, occurred just prior to the last war with England, in the year 1812. Since then some half a dozen or more have been noticed. The latest occurred something more than three years ago, on a clear summer morning. These shocks have usually occurred, or at least been more frequently observed, in calm weather.—They have generally been heard distinctly by persons in the town of Waynesville, some twenty miles off. The sound is described as resembling of distant thunder, but no shaking of the earth is felt at that distance. In the immediate vicinity of the mountain, and for four or five miles around, this sound is accompanied by a slight trembling of the earth, which continues as long as the sound lasts—that is, for one or two minutes. After each of these shocks the mountain was found to be freshly rent and broken in various places.

Having an opportunity afforded me a few days since, I paid a visit to the locality, and devoted a few hours to a hurried, examination. It is situated in the north-eastern section of Haywood county, near the head of Fine's creek. The bed of the little creek at the mountain is probably elevated some twenty six or seven hundred feet above the level of the ocean. The valley of the French Broad, at the Warm Springs, some fifteen miles distant, is twelve hundred feet lower. They are separated, however, by a mountain ride of more than four thousand feet elevation above the sea, and there are high mountains in all directions around the locality in question. The immediate object of interest is the western termination of a mountain ridge nearly half a mile to the east of the house of Mr. Matthew Rogers. The tob of this ridge, at the place where it has been recently convulsed, is some three or four hundred feet above the creek; at its western extremity, but it rises rapidly for the same distance as it goes off to the eastward towards the higher mountain range. The northern side of this ridge I had not time to examine, but the marks of violence are observable at the top of the ridge, and extend in a direction nearly due south down the side of the mountain four or five hundred yards, to a little branch; thence across it, over a flat or gentle slope, and up the side of the next ridge as far as I went, being for three or four hundred yards. The tract of ground examined by me was perhaps half a mile in length from north to south. The breadth of the surface subjected to violence was nowhere more than two hundred yards, and generally rather less than one hundred. Along this space the ground has been rent in various places. The fissures or cracks most frequently run in a northern direction, and towards the tops the mountains, but they are often at right angles to these, and in fact some may be found in all directions. While some of them are so narrow as to be barely visible, others are three or four feet in width. The annual falling of the leaves and the washing of the rains has filled them so that at no place are they more than five or six feet in depth. Along this tract all the trees have been thrown down, and are lying in various directions, some of them six feet in diameter. One large poplar, which stood directly over one of the fissures, was left open, and one-half of the trunk, to the height of more than twenty feet, is still standing. Though the fissures, which passed directly under its centre, is not more than an inch in width, it may be observed for nearly a hundred yards. All the roots of trees which crossed the line's fracture are broken. The rocks are also cloven by these lines. The top of the ridge, which seems originally to have been an entire mass of granite, is broken in places. Not only have those masses of rock, which are chiefly under ground, been cleft open, but fragments lying on the surface have been shattered. All those persons who have visited it immediately after a convulsion concur in saying that every fallen tree and rock has been moved. The smallest fragments have been thrown from their beds as though they had been lifted up. In confirmation of this statement I observed that a large block of granite, of an oblong form, which, from its size, must have weighed not less than two thousand tons, had been broken into three pieces of nearly equal size. This mass was lying loosely on the top of the ground, in a place nearly level, and there were no signs of its having rolled or slidden. The fragments were separated only a few inches, rendering it almost certain that it had been broken by a sudden shock or jar, which did not continue long enough to throw the pieces far apart.

Some parts of the surface of the earth have sunk down irregularly a few feet, other portions have been raised. There are a number of little elevations or hillocks, some of a few feet only in extent, and others twenty and thirty yards over. The largest rise at the centre to the height of eight or ten feet, and slope gradually down; some of these have been surrounded on all sides by a fissure, which is not yet entirely filled up. In some instances the trees on their sides, none of them large, are bent considerably from the perpendicular, showing that they had attained some size before the change of level took place on the surface where they grow.

The sides of the mountain generally are covered by a good vegetable mould, not particularly rocky, and sustaining trees of large size. But along the belt of convulsion the rocks are much more abundant, and there are only young trees growing, the elasticity of which enabled them to stand during the shocks.

With reference to the mineral structure of the locality, it may be remarked that that entire section seems to constitute a hypogene formation. It consists of granites, gneiss, sometimes porphyritic, hornblende rock, micaceous schists, clay slate, and various other metamorphic strata.—The nearest aqueous rocks that I know of are the conglomerate sand-stones and sedimentary limestone, in the vicinity of the Warm Springs, fifteen miles distant in a direct line. If any volcanic rock has been found in hundreds of miles I am not aware of it. The mountain itself bears the most indubitable marks of plutonic origin. It consists mainly of a grayish white granite, in which the felspar greatly predominates, but it is sometimes rendered dark by an excess of mica in minute black scales.—This latter mineral I saw also there in small rather irregular crystals. Some portions of the rock contained, however, its three ingredients, in nearly equal proportions; the quartz, in color, frequently approaching ash gray. In several places I observed that the granite was cut vertically by veins of gray translucent quartz, of from one to six inches in thickness.—There were also lying in places on the ground lumps of common opaque white quartz, intersected by narrow veins not exceeding half an inch in thickness, of specular iron, of the highest degree of brilliancy and hardness that that mineral is capable of possessing. It may be remarked that there are, in different directions within two miles of the locality, two considerable deposites of manegic iron ore. The only rock which I observed there possessing any appearance of stratification seems to consist of mica, hornblende, and a little felspar, in a state of intimate mixture. Having but a few hours to remain there, I do not pretend that there are not many other minerals at the locality; but I have no doubt but that the predominating character of the formation is such as I have endeavored to describe it, and I have been thus minute in order that others may be able to judge more accurately in relation to the cause of the disturbances.

Before visiting the locality I supposed that the phenomena might be produced by the giving way of some part of the base of the mountain, so as to produce a sinking or sliding of the parts; but a moment's examination was decisive on this point. It not unfrequently happens that aqueous rocks on beds of clay, gravel, &c., which may be removed from underneath them by the action of running water or other causes. Cavities are thus produced, and it sometimes happen that considerable bodies of secondary limestone and other sedimentary strata sink down with a violent shock. This, however, is found to be true only of such strata as are deposited from water. But at the locality under consideration the rocks are exclusively of igneous origin, and I may add, too, of the class termed *hypogene* or "*nether formed*." For though felspar and hornblende have been found in the lower parts of some of the lavas, where the mass had been subjected to great pressure and cooled slowly, yet quartz and mica have never been found as constituents of any volcanic rock, not even in the basaltic dikes and injected traps, where there must have been a pressure equal to several hundred atmospheres. It is universally conceded by geologists that those rocks, of which these minerals constitute a principal part, have been produced at great depths in the earth where they were subjected to enormous pressure during their slow cooling and crystallization.—Prior, therefore, to the denudation which has exposed these masses of granite to our view, they must have been overlaid and pressed down while in a fluid state by superincumbent strata of great thickness and vast weight. It is not probable, therefore, that any cavities could exist, nor, even if it were possible that such could be the case, is it at all likely that a granite arch which once upheld such an immense weight would in our day give way under the simple pressure of the atmosphere; or, even if we were to adopt improbable supposition that the mass of granite composing this mountain had been formed at a great depth below the present surface of the earth, and forced up bodily by plutonic action, there is as little reason to believe that any cavities could exist. In fact, they are never found under granites. On looking at the surface of the ground at this place there is no appearance to indicate any general sinking of the mass. At the top of the ridge, where the fractures are observable across it, there is no variation in the slope of the surface or depression of the broken parts. Immediately below it, where the mountain has great steepness, equal at least to an inclination of forty five degrees, where the line of fracture is parallel to the direction of the ridge, the surface is sunk suddenly ten or fifteen feet. This state of things, however, would inevitably be produced at such an inclination by the force of gravity alone, causing the parts separated by the shock to sink somewhat as they descend the mountain side. Lower down, where the steepness is not so great, the elevations much exceed the depressions. The same is true of the appearances on the south side of the branch, where the surface is almost level for several hundred yards; and I think that any one surveying the whole of the disturbed ground will be brought to the conclusion that there has been a general upheaval rather than a depression, and that the irregularities now observable are due to a force acting from below, which has during the shocks unequally raised different parts of the surface. One of the earlier geologists, while this science was in its infancy, would probably have ascribed these phenomena to the presence underneath the surface of a bed of pyrites, bituminous shale, or some other substance capable of spontaneous combustion, which had taken fire from being penetrated by a stream of water or some other accidental cause. If such a combustion were to take place at a considerable depth below the surface, and should to a considerable extent heat the strata above, they would thereby be expanded and thickened so as to be forced upward.—Such an expansion, though it would be less in granite than in some other strata as shown by your fellow-townsman, Col. Totten, would nevertheless, if the heated mass were thick and the elevation of temperature considerable, be sufficient to raise the surface as much as it appears to have been elevated; such an expansion, however, being necessarily from its nature very gradual, would not account for the various violent shocks nor for the irregular action of the surface. On the other hand, if the burning mass were near the surface, so as to cause explosion by means of gases generated from time to time, it is scarcely inconceivable that such gases, while escaping through fissures of the rock above, should fail to be observed, inasmuch as a great volume would be necessary to supply the requisite amount of force, nor is it all conceivable that such a state of things would not be accompanied by a sensible change of temperature at the surface. The difficulty in the way of such a supposition is greatly increased when we consider the form of the long narrow belt acted on, and from the recurrence of the sudden violent shocks after long intervals of quiet. Such a hypothesis in fact I do not regard as entitled to more respect than another one which was suggested to me at the place. As it has no other merit than that of *originality*, I should not have thought it worth repeating but for the statement of fact made in support of it. While I was observing the locality, my attention was directed to an elderly man who was gliding with a healthy step through the forest, carrying on his left shoulder a rifle, and in his right hand a small hoe, such as the diggers of ginseng use. His glances, alternating between the distant ridges and the plants about his feet, showed that while looking for deer he was not unmindful of the wants of the inhabitants of the Celestial Empire. On my questioning him in relation to the appearances, he said that he had observed them often after the different shocks; that the appearances were changed each time at the surface; that I ought to see it just after a shock, before the rain and leaves had filled the cracks, adding that it did "not show at all now." He expressed a decided opinion that the convulsions were produced by *silver* under the surface. On my remarking that though I knew that that metal in the hands of men was an effective agent in cleaving rocks and excavating the earth, yet I had not supposed it could exert such an influence when deeply buried under ground, he stated in support of his opinion that one of his neighbors had on the northside of the mountain found a spring hot enough to boil an egg. He also added that some three years since he had seen on the mountain, two miles to the north of this one, but in the direction seemingly of the line of force, a blazing fire for several hours, rising up sometimes as high as the tops of the trees and going out suddenly for a moment at a time at frequent intervals. He declared that at the distance of a mile from where he was the brightness was sufficient to enable him to see small objects. Several other persons in the vicinity I found subsequently professed to have seen the same light from different points of view, and described it in a similar manner. As no one of them seems to have thought enough of the matter to induce him to attempt to approach the place, though some persons represented that they had subsequently found a great quantity of "cinder" at the point, the statement of fact is not perhaps entitled to more weight than the hypothesis it was intended to support.

It is probable, however, that some difficulty will attend any explanation that can be offered in relation to the phenomena at this place. We know that the elevation of the surface of the earth is at many places undergoing a change, so gradual as not to be observed at any one time. Some of the north-western parts of Europe, for example, are experiencing a slow *upheaval* equal to five or six feet in a century, while on the coast of Greenland the *subsidence*, or depression, is such, that even the ignorant inhabitants have learned that it is not prudent for them to build their huts near the edge of the water. Similar changes are observed in various other places, but they obviously bear no analogy to the facts under consideration. Again, it is well known that earthquakes from time to time agitate violently portions of the earth's surface of greater or less extent; that while one single shock has permanently raised two or three feet the coast of Chili for several hundred miles, others have elevated or depressed comparatively small spaces. It usually happens, however, that when the shock is so forcible at one point as to break the solid strata of the globe, the surrounding parts are violently agitated for considerable distance. In the present instance, however, shock for half a mile at least in length and for the breadth of one hundred yards, is such as to cleave a mass of granite of seemingly indefinite extent, and so quick and sudden as to displace the smallest fragments on the surface; and yet at the house of Mr. Rogers, less than half a mile distant, a slight trembling only is felt, not sufficient to excite alarm, while at the distance of a few miles, though the sound is heard, no agitation of the ground is felt. Should we adopt the view of those who maintain that all the central parts of the earth are in a state of fusion, and that violent movements of parts of the melted mass give rise to the shocks which are felt at the surface, the explanation of this and similar phenomena is still not free from difficulty. Upon the supposition that the solid crust of the globe has no greater thickness than that assumed by Humboldt, some twenty-odd miles, it would scarcely seem that such a crust, composed of rocky strata, would have the requisite degree of elasticity to propagate a violent shock to so small a surface without a greater agitation of the surrounding parts than is sometimes observed. Volcanic eruptions, however, take place through every variety of strata; but these volcanoes are rarely if ever isolated; on the contrary, not only the volcanoes now active, but such as have been in a state of rest from the earliest historic era, are distributed along certain great lines of force, or belts, the limits of which seem to have been pretty well defined by geologists. But I am not aware of there being any evidence afforded of volcanic action, either in recent or remote geological ages, within hundreds of miles of this locality. Even if such exist beneath the sea, it must be at least two hundred miles distant. If then we attribute these convulsions to the same causes which have elsewhere generated earthquakes and volcanoes, it is probable that this is the only point in the Aleghany range thus acted on? The fact that nothing else of the kind has been, as far as I know, published to the world, is by no means conclusive, since the disturbances here have not only been unnoticed by writers, but are even unknown to nine-tenths of those persons living within fifty miles of the spot. Is it then improbable that different points of the great mountain range are sensibly acted on from year to year? It is true that this may be the only locality affected. It might be supposed that there is at this place a mass of rock, separated wholly or partially from the adjoining strata reaching to a great depth, and resting on a fluid basin, the agitation of which occasionally would give a shock to this mass. Though such be not at all probable, yet it is conceivable that such a mass might posssess the requisite shape; and if at the top, instead of being a single piece, it should have a number of irregular fragments resting on it below the surface, then it might be capable of producing inequalities observable after each successive convulsion. From the form, however, of the belt acted on, as well as from other considerations, such a hypothesis is only possible, not probable. It would perhaps more readily be conceded that there was in the solid strata below an oblong opening, or wide fissure, connected with the fluid basin below and filled either with melted lava, or more probably with elastic gas, condensed under vast pressure, so that the occasional agitations below would be propagated to the surface at this spot. Or if we suppose that steam, at a high heat, or some of the other elastic gaseous substances, should escape through fissures from the surface, so as to accumulate from time to time, until their force was sufficient to overpower the resistance, then a succession of periodic explosions might occur. Such a state of things would be analogous to the manner in which Mr Lyell accounts for the Geysers, or Intermittent Hot Springs, in Iceland, except that the intervals between the explosions in this instance are much greater than in the former. It is easy to conceive that the [illegible] of some former earthquakes may [illegible] produced the requisite condition in the strata at that place.

Or, should we reject all such [illegible] tions, it might be worth while to [illegible] whether this and similar phenomena may not be due to electricity? The [illegible] seems to have become general with [illegible] of science, that there are great [illegible] of electricity circulating in the [illegible] the globe, mainly if not entirely in [illegible] tions parallel to the magnetic [illegible] The observations and experiments [illegible] Fox Lyell, established the fact that [illegible] are electro magnetic currents along [illegible] talliferous veins. Taking these [illegible] be true, it may well be that the [illegible] ty in its passage should be collected [illegible] concentrated along certain great [illegible] During any commotion in the great [illegible] of electricity, the currents along such [illegible] or rather where they are intersected [illegible] might give rise to sensible shocks [illegible] exceeding quick, vibratory motion [illegible] observed on such occasions, seems [illegible] ogous to some of the observed effects [illegible] electricity. In the present instance [illegible] line of force appears to coincide with [illegible] direction of the magnetic needle [illegible] represented that the sound accompanying [illegible] the convulsions is heard more distinctly [illegible] Waynesville, twenty miles distant [illegible] than it is within two or three miles [illegible] east or west of the locality, seems [illegible] imply that the force may be exerted [illegible] long line, though it is more intense [illegible] particular point. In adverting, however, [illegible] to the manner in which the phenomena observed at this place, might possibly [illegible] accounted for, it is not my expectation [illegible] be able to arrive at their cause [illegible] whose attention is mainly directed [illegible] litical affairs, and who at most [illegible] an occasional glimpse of a book of [illegible] ought neither to assume, nor to be [illegible] ted to accomplish this. I have [illegible] the above mode of making suggestions [illegible] to the causes, solely to enable me [illegible] plain the facts observed in a more [illegible] gible manner than I could do by [illegible] detail of the appearances and [illegible] narrated. Perhaps those whose [illegible] chiefly occupied with the consideration [illegible] of such subjects, will find an easy [illegible] of these phenomena. Should this [illegible] be instrumental in eliciting information [illegible] in relation to similar disturbances [illegible] where in the Alleghany range, [illegible] publication may answer some [illegible] purpose.

Very respectfully, [illegible]
T. L. CLING[illegible]

Messrs. GALES & SEATON.

The Asiatic Cholera proves by [illegible] tion, the Medical Examiner says, [illegible] inflamation and ulceration of the [illegible] membrane of the bowels.—The [illegible] of the stomach and intestines ferment, [illegible] putrify, vomiting, and swelling of [illegible] domen quickly follow, and the [illegible] sinks. Dr. Maxwell, of Calcutta, [illegible] cured himself by copious drafts [illegible] vescent soda powders in cold water; [illegible] he afterwards saved many a life [illegible] same treatment. He says that [illegible] dy will avail except relieving the [illegible] of the fermenting contents, and if [illegible] not done gently, it will be fatal.

MYRIADS OF ANIMALCULES.—In [illegible] seas, where the water is pure [illegible] tramarine color, parts of twenty or [illegible] miles, 1,500 feet deep, are green [illegible] from the vast numbers of minute [illegible] Captain Scoresby calculated it would [illegible] 80,000 persons, working unceasingly [illegible] creation of man to the present day, [illegible] number of insects contained in [illegible] green water. What, then, must be [illegible] of animal life in the Polar regions, [illegible] fourth of the Greenland sea, for 10 [illegible] latitude, consists of that water.

RAILROAD EXTRAVAGANCE.—The [illegible] Times remarks, that a hundred mil[illegible] sterling have been lost in England [illegible] ing of Railroads. There has of [illegible] serious check to that enterprise in [illegible] And probably the interests of this [illegible] not suffer, if this branch of our [illegible] conducted with a little more moderation.

There is said to be a sweet [illegible] Louis four feet four inches long, [illegible] New Jersey. We should like to see [illegible] potato very much. Seeing is believing.