



AND

North-Carolina State Gazette.

Ours are the plans of fair & delightful Peace,
Unwrap'd by party rage, to live like Brothers.

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NATURAL HISTORY.

It is known to most of our readers, that various opinions have been long entertained by the naturalists of our country respecting the character of the MAMMOTH, the bones of which have been found in different parts of the Union. The following letter from Doct. Barton, one of the most enlightened and diligent cultivators of natural science of the present times, to Mr. Jefferson, which we are enabled to present to our readers, cannot fail to awaken and reward curiosity.—*Nat. Intel.*

Letter from Dr. Benj. S. Barton to Mr. Jefferson, dated Blue Ridge, vicinity of Paris, Virginia, July 13th, 1840.

Dear Sir,—As you take much interest in the knowledge of every thing relative to the American Mammoth and other similar animals, I am persuaded that you will be glad to learn that I have recently received from Petersburg in Russia, some fine large drawings of the Great Asiatic Mammoth, whose skeleton, together with some portion of the skin and muscles, have lately been discovered, in a state of excellent preservation, under vast masses of ice, near the mouth of the River Lena, in Lat. 72 North. For this, to me inestimable present, I am indebted to the kindness of Mr. Tilesius, an eminent naturalist, by whom the drawings were made, and who has, at the same time favored me with some important manuscript observations concerning the animal.

I need not tell you that this Asiatic Mammoth is specifically distinct from the great Mammoth of North America; that whose bones have been discovered in so many parts of our continent, and that of which Mr. Peale has mounted the skeleton in his Museum. The two animals are specifically distinct, though I am far from thinking them *generically* so. But the Asiatic Mammoth has, at some former period, been a native of America, as well as of Asia, and of Europe. The grinding teeth, the incisors (or tusks) and other bones of this animal, have been discovered in several different parts of the United States, &c. as in Pennsylvania, in the Susquehanna, a branch of which I have elsewhere shown, receives its name of 'Chemung,' from the incisors of one of these huge animals. Similar remains have been discovered in the county of Wythe, in this state: in the same marlatic link along with the remains of the other Mammoth, or what we shall call for the present, the Ohio-Mammoth; in South Carolina, in digging the Santee canal; in Kentucky, and doubtless in many other places, some of which I could mention. I had long suspected, and even asserted, that the Mammoth of the Chemung was the same as that of Siberia; and this matter is now put beyond all doubt by the drawings and information communicated to me by Mr. Tilesius.

At least one species of Elephant, therefore (for it is by all naturalists allowed, that the Asiatic Mammoth was a legitimate species of Elephas), has been a native both of the old and of the new world. I am inclined, however, to think, that the species have never been so common in America as in Asia, from whence, therefore, I venture to conjecture, that the stock originally proceeded. It is too soon, however, in the more sober discussions of natural history, to press forward such conjectures as these. We have just begun the study of the natural history of our country. Future researches and discoveries may render it at least highly probable, that the Asiatic Mammoth, as we now call it, was once as common in North America, as in any part of the world. Permit me to add, that I am daily put in possession of facts which prove, that our continent and Asia have had, and still continue to have, in common, many species of animals & vegetables, in all essential points the same.

Mr. Tilesius's drawings are of great importance to me: and they came, unasked and even unlooked for, almost at the very time that I was busily occupied in superintending a drawing of the skeleton in the Museum, and in putting together my materials, the fruit of many years research, concerning the Ohio animal. The two animals, it is true, are very different from each other: but they have nevertheless, great and interesting affinities to each other. The affinities are such, that I cannot consent to consider the American animal as any thing but a species of Elephant. I know, indeed, that Mr. Crine is now of opinion, that the Ohio bones bespeak an

animal *generically* different from the Elephant. But although this naturalist's authority is deservedly high, and of great weight, I am disposed to adhere to my own opinion, and to consider the Ohio Mammoth as belonging to the same genus, or family, as the two or three still existing species of Elephant, and as the great extinct Mammoth of the North of Asia and of Europe; the *Elephas Primigenius* of Blumenbach: or, as we in America, may name it, to distinguish it from the Ohio Elephant, the 'Chemung Mammoth.'

Although in the general form of the molars or grinders, there is a much greater affinity between the Asiatic Mammoth and the existing Asiatic Elephant, than there is between either of these latter animals and the Ohio Mammoth, yet there are several other characters in which the resemblance is much closer between the Ohio animal and the extinct Asiatic Mammoth, than between this latter and the living Elephant of Asia. I shall only, at present, mention one of these characters; that of the incisors, or *defences*, which we call tusks. These in the Ohio-Mammoth and in the *Elephas Primigenius*, or Chemung Mammoth, are, indeed, very similar, both in their relative proportion to the general mass of the skeleton of the two animals, and in their degrees of curvature.

On the other hand, the Ohio mammoth and the living Asiatic Elephant seem to have been more nearly allied to each other, in the form of their feet, than were the latter animal and the extinct Asiatic Mammoth: i. e. the Chemung Mammoth. When Mr. Tilesius shall publish his history and drawings of the *Elephas Primigenius*, and when the history of the *Elephas Mastodontus* shall be completed, every intelligent and candid naturalist will be forcibly struck with the circumstances which I have mentioned: and I flatter myself, that some of the most learned of these naturalists, and among others my candid and liberal friend Tilesius, will not refuse their assent to my opinion, that the Mammoth of the Ohio has been a true species of Elephant.

Mr. Tilesius's drawings are important to me in another point of view. They plainly show, I think, what has been the natural direction of the incisors in the head of the Ohio-Mammoth. Indeed, previously to the receipt of these drawings, I had satisfied my mind as to this point, from the information which I have received from an intelligent correspondent, who had had an opportunity of seeing the incisors still occupying their original position in the head of a Mammoth which was discovered, a few years since, in one of our western marlatic licks, or salines.

As to the form of the grinders, and the disposition of the vitrious body, or enamel, upon and through them, I grant that it is very different in the Ohio-Mammoth and in the extinct as well as existing Elephants of the old world.—But if this difference be of sufficient importance to constitute a difference of genus between the American and Asiatic animals, then we must proceed consistently to break up several of the long established genera of mammalia, subdividing each genus into at least two distinct genera. I may mention the genus *Marmota*, to which belongs our Ground-Hog or Manack, as illustrative of this idea. I shall call the Ohio Mammoth, *Elephas Mastodontus*. It is the *Elephas Americanus* of Mr. Blumenbach.

I have nearly prepared, and shall shortly present to our Philosophical Society, an extensive memoir on the extinction of the species of mammalia.—This memoir will necessarily contain much matter merely of a speculative nature: but I flatter myself that it will also contain some interesting, and hitherto unnoticed facts.

I shall be much gratified if this letter, written among the mountains of your state, at a distance from my books and papers, afford you any amusement. Of all the subjects of animal natural history, there is not one more interesting than that which relates to the characters and history of those vast organized bodies—many of them, too, endowed with an immense portion of intelligence—which the God of Nature had created; and after suffering them to grow and exist through ages, unknown ages of time, has, at length, entirely removed from the earth; not merely as individuals, but as species. There is something awful in the consideration of

this subject: and yet this very subject is admirably calculated to display to us the wisdom, as well as power, of him who formed all things. The harmony of nature is not, in the smallest degree, disturbed by the total destruction of what many have deemed *necessary* integral parts of a common whole. Nor is this business of the extinction of species *at an end*. That which has already taken place, with respect to species of Elephant, Rhinoceros, and other vast families of animals, will unquestionably take place, with respect to many of the families of animals which now cover the surface of this globe. The steps of this vast and generally unlooked for change, are rapidly preparing, in different parts of the world; and in none, I think, more rapidly than in that portion of it which we inhabit.

I am, dear sir, with very great respect, your obedient servant, &c.

BENJ. SMITH BARTON.

LICENSED SPY.

The following article is copied from *The Cabinet*, a valuable Republican print, published in Schenectady, State of New-York.

A foreign government captures our vessels, impresses our seamen, taxes our commerce, murders our citizens & commits outrages on our national ships—these are stubborn facts; not attempted to be denied. Are there not, however, men in this country who justify that foreign government—and who are they? Ans. There are, under the false assumed name of federalists—they endeavor to cloak their intentions, and are in reality 'the friends of England in America.'

A foreign government sends an agent into our country, with full power to make a final settlement of differences. The American government accept the proffered terms. Were there any who vilified and abused our government—asserting that those terms had been repeatedly before offered and refused.—Ans. There were—they were nominal federalists, 'friends of England in America.'

A temporary change takes place on the European Continent—the British statesmen are too sanguine in their anticipations of complete success, and regret the conclusion of a constrained adjustment with the American government. The contest between their honor and apparent interest was, not, however, long or doubtful; the former was expelled, and, in obedience to the dictates of the latter, the pledged faith of the nation was broken and the concluded arrangement basely disavowed. Were there then any to be found in this country who yet justified them, and declared the terms better than we had a right to expect or demand—and who were they? Ans. There were—they styled themselves *Patriots*; but like the Ass covered with a Lion's skin, their braying exposed them—they were the *Anglo-Federalists*—the members of the anti constitutional Jacobin Clubs—the opposers & violators of our sacred laws—the contemners of the advice of the Father of his country, the immortal WASHINGTON, in short 'the friends of England in America.'

The anticipations of the British minister, on the European continent, soon passed 'like the baseless fabric of a vision, leaving not a wreck behind,' and they again regretted in some measure a premature rupture with America.—Anxious, however, to retain all their usurped maritime power, they selected an arch fiend on earth to represent them in America—a man without probity or honor—one well versed in the work of contention and division—the corrupt carrier and distributor of the bribes of a more corrupt government. On his arrival here he found himself most egregiously deceived.—Desirous to make the government odious to the people he sought an occasion to insult them—was denied any further communication—misrepresented facts, and indirectly appealed to the American people against the administration of their choice.—Were there any who justified this conduct, and again vilified our own government? Ans. There were—they styled themselves the admirers of the character and principles of Washington, and yet formed 'associations and combinations,' against the constituted authorities. A combination, connected by an oath to destroy the democratic government of our country, they style a 'benevolent society.'—These are the no-

minial federalists 'the friends of England in America.'

This discarded Ambassador, now no more than a LICENSED SPY, publicly travels through our country, the inhabitants of which conceive themselves injured by his conduct.—He takes unwearied pains to cause his approach to be generally known as he moves thro' the different cities and towns. To every reflecting mind the object is evident—his progress through our country answers a triple purpose—whereas one only of the three will admit of an avowal. The first and greatest object is to discover who are Britons at heart—on whom reliance can be placed, and what their influence is in society. Next publishing his approach to induce the real but unguarded incautious American to insult him on his way, by that means affording an opportunity to the British advocates to appear in the false but imposing character of peace-makers, and quellers of disturbances and riots—giving them a better opportunity to deceive the honest part of the community—extend their influence and widen if possible the political breach. The last and ostensible object of his travelling is the gratification of curiosity, while still in this country; but our people may rest assured that this curiosity is more political than topographical—that the character of Ambassador is gone, and he is now a SPY. Are there any in this country who can see all this, and yet justify the foreign emissary & his government? Ans. There are—they are the purchased 'friends of England in America'—they are not honest federalists.

From the Philadelphia Register.

AARON BURR.

The following article is taken from the Gentleman's Magazine, printed in London, the oldest and most respectable publication now existing. It is extracted from the number for February last.—After mentioning the source from whence the article is derived, we shall say nothing more as to its authenticity.—Our readers will take it for what it is worth:

'Col. Burr's visit to Paris has for its object to submit to the French executive a project for disuniting the American States, and for other measures of effectual hostility in the event of a rupture between the two countries.'

Mr. Burr communicated his plans to our government, together with his view of the means necessary for their execution; at the same time announcing his determination of applying to France, in the event of his proposals here being rejected. Although the state of our relations with America, mortifying and precarious as they long have been, hardly entitled the U. States to that delicate consideration on our part, which have been observed towards them, we think ministers honestly sustained the character of the empire, in foregoing a probable advantage, rather than clandestinely cultivate a system of hostility, while they publicly profess their desire for peace. Bonaparte's policy is not hampered by like considerations of honor or consistency. If Burr's agency can conduce to the advancement of his views towards America, he will doubtless use it.

THE FLORIDAS.

From the Louisiana Gazette, of July 2.

The people composing the district of New Feliciana, which comprehends that part of West Florida, bordering on the river Mississippi and extending eastwardly about one hundred miles, have long wished and expected that the government of the U. States would either by negotiation, or otherwise, get possession of that part of Florida, which they have claimed under the treaty and purchase of 1803, lying west of the river Perdido. The inhabitants are generally Americans, and many of them have purchased lands and settled in Florida since the cession of Louisiana to the United States; fully impressed with the belief that they would soon find themselves under their former laws and government. They have long anxiously expected to hear of the unfortunate fate of Spain, of her entire subjugation to the arms of France, and in an event of that kind, they have calculated, that either the conqueror of Spain, or Great Britain, the ally of Spain, would claim the Floridas; and they generally revolt

at the idea of being placed under the government of either of these great nations.

The officers who have declared for Ferdinand the VII. and now bear the semblance of power among the people, are divided in their attachment. The real Spaniards are few, their zealous attachment to the cause of Spain would induce them to submit to any order from the Spanish Junta—they would willingly pass under the British government, if it was their order. Bonaparte has his friends and emissaries in office, who speak of his imperial greatness, and recommend the people to declare for King Joseph—this, however, is done generally under the rose, but it is well known to be a fact. In this distracted state of things, without law or government, the people have thought it proper and prudent to hold meetings to consult for their general safety.

The local situation of West Florida, surrounded almost as it is with the laws and government of the U. States, and nine-tenths of the inhabitants being either native born Americans, or strongly attached to the American principles and government—it was reasonably to be expected that they would turn their eyes towards the United States for protection. The inhabitants have never raised a clamor against Spain, or against the Spanish patriots, or the glorious cause they are engaged in—they have been solely guided in all their deliberations by principles of *self-preservation*, the first law of nature. No demagogue or demagogues, who for their own private views, interest or aggrandizement in my opinion, are concerned in the meetings, and should the same unanimity prevail that has so far marked those meetings, there is little doubt but their views and plans will terminate happily. The government of the United States will not, cannot withhold their protecting hand as far as their just claim extends, which as before described, is from the Mississippi to the Perdido, and in giving that protection, I have no hesitation in saying that the people will cheerfully become citizens of the U. States and feel themselves happy in the appellation.

COMMON SENSE.

In 1807 Mr. Nicholson of Maryland, from the committee on that subject, made a most ingenious report to Congress on the benefits of a purchase of the Floridas. \$2,000,000 were appropriated to that effect. Mr. Monroe repaired to Madrid, as our agent—but, he failed in the purchase. The particulars of this negotiation have not yet been laid before the world—but it is said, that the prince of peace started some objections, because he himself laid claim to a million of acres, which our minister did not think himself authorized to buy.

We are already entitled to as much of what has been styled West Florida, as reaches to the Perdido—for this river was the eastern boundary of Louisiana.

Considering that the Floridas are so contiguous to us, it is curious that we have not gleaned a more particular account of their strength, population, resources, &c. Ellicot's Journal of his tour in '99, &c. has a few faint sketches of this region:

By itself, West F. may be of little importance—but it is of immense consequence, when 'viewed as possessing all the avenues of commerce to the large productive country to the north—a country which extends north from the 31st degree of north latitude to the sources of the Pearl, Pascagola, Tombecby, Alabama, Coenecuh, Chattahoochee, & Flint Rivers, and at least 300 miles from east to west. The coast abounds in live oak & red cedar, in considerable abundance, fit for ship-building, which is not to be met with north of the boundary. From the safety of the coast of this province, added to the great number of harbours proper for coasting vessels; that of Pensacola, into which a fleet may sail, and ride with safety; and that of St. Joseph's, into which vessels not drawing more than 17 feet may sail at all times; it must be highly important in a commercial point of view, and if connected with the country north of it, capable of prescribing maritime regulations to the Gulf of Mexico.'

The population in W. F. as it has been defined, is small—the principal settlement lies towards the Mississippi.—On the north of the Iberville and the lakes, on the Gulph of Mexico, there are a few scattering inhabitants—thence along the coast to the Mobile are a few