

The Abbeville Banner.

"LIBERTY AND MY NATIVE SOIL."

VOLUME IV.

ABBEVILLE C. H., S. C., AUGUST 11, 1847.

NUMBER 24.

Published every Wednesday Morn^g by
CHARLES H. ALLEN,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

TERMS.

ONE DOLLAR AND FIFTY CENTS if paid within three months from the time of subscribing, or TWO DOLLARS if paid within six months, and TWO DOLLARS AND FIFTY CENTS if not paid until the end of the year. No subscription received for less than six months; and no paper discontinued until all arrearages are paid. Subscriptions will be continued unless notice be given otherwise, previous to the close of volume.

No paper will be sent out of the State unless payment is made in advance.

ADVERTISEMENTS, inserted at 75 cts. per square of twelve lines for the first insertion; and, 37 1-2 cts. for each continuance. Those not having the desired number of insertions marked upon them, will be continued until ordered out and charged accordingly.

ESTRAYS, TOLLED TWO DOLLARS, to be paid by the Magistrate.

For announcing a Candidate TWO DOLLARS, in advance.

The Postage must be paid upon all letters and communications to secure attention.

(WRITTEN FOR THE ABBEVILLE BANNER.)
GEOLOGY, NO. 5.

The practical importance to be derived from a knowledge of the rocks embraced in the secondary class, will be farther seen, when we consider one or two more of the

shall pass by *Greyband* and *Ferruginous sand-rock*, as there is very little of importance associated with them, if we except *Calcareous*, which is a sort of an omnibus limestone—it is found everywhere. *Calcareous* is an important rock, not so much on account of its intrinsic value, as from its mineralogical associations. As its name implies, we find *lime* here. This rock is found extensively in the canal district in Middle and Western N. York, overlying the two last rock mentioned. We not only find here the common *limestone*—the carbonate of lime,—but extensive beds of gypsum—the sulphate of lime. During the construction of the "Great Erie Canal," a most opportune discovery was made, in that of the *Silicious lime rock*, or as it is sometimes called *water lime rock*. This was precisely the article that was needed in the construction of the massive locks on the canal. This rock, when burned in the same manner in which the common limestone is burned, and then pulverized by grinding, and made into a paste, has the peculiar property of becoming a hard cement under water—a property possessed by no other rock with which we are acquainted. The common *limestone*, the *gypsum*, and the *water limestone*, differ in the following particulars: The first is burned in a kiln for a few days, and then slackened by pouring water on it; the result of which is, that it becomes a finely pulverized powder. The second is not burned at all—it is simply ground in a common corn mill, into a very fine powder, when it is fit for use in agriculture, the arts and sciences. The third is burned in the same manner as the first, and then ground, or pounded to a fine powder, when it is fit for the purpose above referred to. There are seven or eight different varieties of gypsum, all of which are important.

We are not satisfied that Gypsum has ever been found in any considerable quantity anywhere else, than in close proximity with *calcareous slate*—we are confident the water limestone has not, and hence neither of these articles can be found in this country—it would be useless to spend time in looking for them.

The most of the common metals are found in secondary countries, as well as in primitive and transition.

SCIENTIA.

COMPARATIVE NUTRITIVE POWERS OF GREEN AND DRY FODDER FOR CATTLE.—A communication has been made to the Paris Academy of Sciences, by M. Bous-singault, on the comparative nutritive powers of green and dry fodder for cattle. Hitherto the received opinion was, that natural or artificial grasses on their being converted into hay, lost a portion of their virtues. To determine this point, M. Bous-singault fed a heifer alternately, for ten days at a time, upon green or dry food, and he weighed the animal after each ten days.—He found no difference in the average weight, and therefore comes to the conclusion, that the hay made from any given quantity of natural or artificial grass has the same nutrition as the quantity of green grass from which it is made.

THE AZTECS AND TOLTECS.

What are called the "Aztec ruins," in Mexico, have excited very considerable interest. In the Edinburgh Christian Instructor for 1811, there is a Review of Humbolt's New Spain, from which we make the following extract respecting these races:—

"The Indian chronologers have fixed the era of two distinct eruptions into their provinces, or those adjacent; that of the Toultecs, previous to the year 677, and that of the Aztecs in 1245. The progress of both was from the north southwards; and they both adhered invariably to the ridge of the Cordilleries. With regard to these nations many interesting questions have been proposed. The Abbe Clavigero has shewn, that the Toultecs and Aztecs spoke the same language; a fact which determines the identity of their origin. The language itself, too, appears to have been of a particular character. It was rich, diversified, and fluent, and widely different, therefore, from that of any people in the infancy of improvement. It was, in truth, more like the speech of the Incas, than the rude and scanty dialects of the Otomites, and other Indian hordes. But whether this account refers to it in its early or its advanced state, that is, when the Toultecs and Aztecs had respectively established themselves, and had long been settled in the country which they are known to have occupied, we have not the means of ascertaining.

Were the Toultecs Asiatics? Does the fact, that in some of their monuments men are represented sitting with their legs crossed after the Eastern manner, imply that they came from Asia? What account can be given of the *harp*, an emblem found in the hieroglyphical paintings of the Toultecs or Aztecs, yet remaining on the north-west coast of America, or what inference can justly be drawn from it? Whence did the Mexicans derive their knowledge of astronomy? Whence the resemblance between their temples, and the ancient monument of Babylon, called the mausoleum of Belus? a resemblance particularly alluded to by M. de Humboldt. Were the Toultecs, and Aztecs, Tartars? Mangols? Or were they of the same people with the Hioungnou, (Huns) who by the account of the Chinese historians, emigrated in the 5th century, under Punon their leader, and disappeared in the wilds of Siberia? In attempting to answer these questions, men of genius and research have lost themselves in probabilities. There appears to be little doubt, however, that the Toultecs and Aztecs were of Asiatic origin; but when we attempt to go farther than this general assertion, there are, perhaps, no very precise data on which an opinion may be founded. After all, though it were demonstrated, that these Toultecs and Aztecs were Asiatics and were Huns, it would still remain a subject of inquiry, whether these Toultecs or Aztecs were the first inhabitants of central America, or whether they only dispossessed the natives, and occupied their territory.

In the year 1245, the Aztecs, afterwards called the Mexicans, had arrived at Chalcopec. It was not, however, till the year 1325 that they founded their city. An ancient tradition had been preserved among them, that wherever, in the course of their migrations, they should observe an eagle perched upon a nopal, (cactus,) the roots of which entered the crevices of a rock, they should fix in that place the seat of their dominion, and of their worship. Accordingly in the year last mentioned, on a small island in the Lake of Texcoco, the nopal, referred to by the oracle, was seen. On this island, therefore, and on those which were contiguous to it, the Aztecs laid the foundation of their city. And on the spot where the nopal was found, they built their *Tespan*, *Tescalli*, or House of God; an erection, to which the Spaniards, in the 16th century, gave the name of the Great Temple of Mexith.

This temple appears to have undergone several alterations, corresponding to the power and increasing resources of the Aztecs. It was originally built of wood, like that of Apollo at Delphi, as described by Pausanias. In the year 1486, an edifice of stone was raised on the consecrated ground, by the order of king Ahuitzotl. Its form was that of a pyramid, very securely laid out, with 818 feet base, and it was truncated to so great a degree, that when seen at a distance, it had the appearance of an enormous cube. We know not of what materials the Toccalli was composed. All that is recorded is, that it was faced with stone. This, indeed, has been completely ascertained. Enormous fragments of porphyry, with a base of granitum, filled with amphibelos and vitreous feldspath, have, from time to time, been discovered in the site of the ancient edifice, (where the Cathedral of Mexico now stands,) and digging in the square, carved stones have been found at the depth of 30 feet. The ascent

was by regular stairs, and on the top were small altars, protected by cupolas; and here too was the 'stone of sacrifices,' that stone where so many human victims were annually put to death, in order to glut the revenge, or propitiate the favor of the god Mexith. It was the delight of the Aztec priests to open with a knife, made of obsidian, the chests of these devoted persons, while yet alive, and having pulled out the heart, to mark, (as it vibrated upon the altar,) with a savage satisfaction, and with philosophical care, the last movements of expiring nature. The obsidian (itzi) was sought for, and dug from the earth for this very purpose. On other occasions, it was the practice to strip the victims naked, and compel them, by torture, to dance before the image of the god; and it is surely mournful to add, that to this fate, as well as that of a cruel death, the Spaniards taken during the retreat of Cortes on the "night of sorrow," were unhappily subjected."

THE HORRORS OF WAR.

Description of the Arrival at Dresden, of a Remnant of Napoleon's Army in Russia.

I was lately an eye witness of a terrible scene. The regiment of the body guard that acquitted itself so manfully, at Minsk, had, in the retreat from Moscow, been altogether cut up, mainly by the frost. Of the whole regiment only about 70 men remain. Single bodies arrive by degrees, but, in the main, in a most pitiable plight. When they reach the Saxon border, they are assisted by their compassionate countrymen, who enable them to make the rest of the road in some carriage or wagon. On Sunday for noon last I went to the *Linkeschin Bad*, and found a crowd collected round a car, in which some soldiers had just returned from Russia. No grade or grape could have so disfigured them as I beheld then the victims of the cold. One of them had lost the upper joints of all his ten fingers, and he showed us the black stumps. Another looked as if he had been in the hands of the Turks, for he wanted both ears and nose. More horrible was the look of the third, whose eyes had been frozen; the eye lids hung down, rotting, and the globes of the eyes were burst, and protruded out of their sockets. It was awfully hideous, and yet a more hideous spectacle was yet to present itself. Out of the straw, in the bottom of the car, I now beheld a figure creep painfully, which one could scarcely believe to be a human being, so wild and so distorted were the features. The lips were rotted away, and the teeth stood exposed. He pulled the cloth from before his mouth, and grinned on us like a death head. Then he burst out into a wild laughter; began to give the word of command, in broken French, with a voice more like the bark of a dog than anything human, and we saw that the poor wretch was mad, from a frozen brain.—Suddenly, a cry was heard, "Henry! my Henry!" and a young girl rushed up to the car. The poor lunatic rubbed his brow, as if trying to recollect where he was: he then stretched out his arms towards the distracted girl, and lifted himself up with his whole strength. A shuddering fever-fit came over him. He fell collapsed, and lay breathless on the straw. The girl was removed forcibly from the corpse. It was her bridegroom. Her agony now found vent in the most terrible imprecations against the French and the Emperor, and her rage communicated itself to the crowd around, especially the women who were assembled in considerable numbers: they expressed their opinion in language the most fearfully frantic. I should advise no Frenchman to enter into such a mob; the name of the King himself would help him little there: Such are the dragon-teeth of wo which the Corsican Cadmus has sown. The crop rises superberly; and already I see, in spirit, the fields bristling with lances, the meadows with swords. You and I doubtless, will find our place among the reapers.—*Reminiscences of the year 1813, in Germany.*

DISGRACEFUL.—The following resolution, with many others, was adopted at a public meeting in Michigan, at which Ex-Senator Norvel presided. No man who justly appreciated and loved the privileges and duties of a freeman, could disgrace himself by assenting to it.

RESOLVED, That the practice which has for several years prevailed, of requiring the candidates for the Presidency to make public confession of their opinions on the passing political tropic of the times, is a departure from the example set in the earlier and purer days of the republic; that it would be unnecessary for Gen. Taylor to respond to calls of the kind; that no man ought to be elected for the Presidency, whose integrity, character, principles and patriotism have not been made sufficiently manifest by his past life and conduct, and that the Chief Executive Magistrate of a country like this ought to be left free and untampered, to act according to its varying circumstances and exigencies.

VALLEY OF THE MISSISSIPPI.—Mr. Benton, in his letter to the Chicago Convention, said,—

"The river navigation of the great West is the most wonderful on the globe; and since the application of steam power to the propulsion of vessels, possesses the essential qualities of open navigation. Speed, distance, cheapness, magnitude of cargoes, are all there, and without the perils of the sea from storms and enemies. The steamboat is the ship of the river, and finds in the Mississippi and its tributaries the amplest theatre for the diffusion of its use, and the display of its power. Wonderful river; connected with seas by the head, and by the mouth—stretching its arms towards the Atlantic and the Pacific—lying in a valley which is a valley from the Gulf of Mexico to Hudson's Bay—drawing its first waters not from rugged mountains, but from the plateau of the Lakes in the centre of the Continent, and in communication with the sources of the St. Lawrence and the streams which take their course north to Hudson's Bay—draining the largest extent of the richest land—collecting the products of every clime, even the frigid, to bear the whole to a genial market in the sunny South, and there to meet the products of the entire world. Such is the Mississippi! And who can calculate the aggregate of its advantages, and magnitude of its future commercial results?"

Many years ago, the late Governor Clark and myself undertook to calculate the extent of the boatable water in the valley of the Mississippi; we made it about 50,000 miles! of which 30,000 were computed to unite above St. Louis, and 20,000 below. Of course we counted all the infant streams on which a flat, a keel, or a bateau could be floated, and justly; for every tributary of the humblest boatable character helps to swell not only the volume of the central waters, but of the commerce upon them."

SILAS WRIGHT.—From Sacket's Harbor, I descended the St. Lawrence to Ogdensburg, and from thence by stage to Canton, to visit Governor Wright.

"Governor Wright and myself are personal friends—besides, we both belong to the democratic party; and though he was at the head of it in the State, and I somewhat nearer the caudic extremity, still extremes oft-times meet—and I took a friend's privilege to visit him socially. In the morning after my arrival I accompanied him to the hay-field, and admired the ease and dignity with which he adorned his translation from public to private life. Ah! sir, could you have seen him with his cool straw hat and cooler tow pants, and noted how dexterously he handled his scythe and neatly laid his swaths! Visions of Roman austerity and simplicity—Cincinnatus behind the plough, "the noblest Roman of them all"—danced before my sight, and then swelled out in all the pomp and circumstance of a glorious reality. I could not but wish that I had a daguerreotype apparatus at hand to catch the portrait as it was, for the benefit of some future Livy, to illustrate and adorn his text. His excellency was in the best of spirits of health—the scurvy tricks of fortune and party do not ruffle him a particle.

Corr. Syracuse Star.

FAITH OF AN INDIAN MOTHER.—If a mother lost her babe, she would cover it with bark and envelope it anxiously in the softest beaver skins; at the burial place she would put by its side its cradle, its beads and rattles; and as a last service of maternal love, would draw milk from her bosom in a cup of bark, and burn it in the fire, that her infant might find nourishment in the land of shades. Yet the new born infant was buried, not as usual, on a scaffold, but by the wayside; so that its spirit might secretly steal into the bosom of some passing matron, and be born again under happier auspices. On burying her daughter, the Chippewa mother adds, not snow shoes, beads and moccasins only, but (sad emblems of woman's lot in the wilderness,) the carrying belt and the paddle. "I know my daughter will be restored to me," one said, as she clipped a lock of hair as a memorial, "by this lock of hair I shall discover her, for I shall take it with me," alluding to the day when she, too, with her carrying belt and paddle, and the little relic of her child, should pass through the grave to the dwelling place of her ancestors.

Bancroft's History.

A western editor, having studied for two weeks to make some poetry, finally succeeded. Here is a specimen of the production:—
All hail to the land where freedom was born
All hail to the land where daddy hoed corn
He stucked the hoe into the ground,
Pulled it out and no corn he found.

FROM THE GRENADA PRESS.

It is Hard for the Young to Die.

It is hard for the young to die!
To pass to the grave's cold night,
When their azure morning sky
With the coming sun is bright;
When rustle the draped trees,
And the flowers begin to bloom,
And givo to the waiting breeze
Their blushes and perfume.

It is hard for the young to die!
To fade from the world away,
When their thoughts are flushing high
With the golden gleams of day:
When Hope's empurpled wing,
Still raying rosy mirth,
O'er shadows everything,
And makes a heaven of earth.

It is hard for the young to die!
When their bliss is just begun,
To have broken the dearest tie,
And know that the race is run.
To have shattered Life's jewel'd bowl,
With Love's ruby drops, that hold
A charm for the raptured soul,
In the wave of their ruddy gold.

It is hard for the young to die!
It is sorrow to depart,
When the heart, that respire to sigh,
Is pledged to a livino heart!
But ever to the grave's cold night,
In the joy of Love's holiest day,
While the prospects are opening bright,
Must the young still pass away.

MYRTLE.

DIVERSITY OF FEATURES.—It is a very evident proof of the adorable wisdom of God, that, although the bodies of men are so conformed to each other in their essential parts, yet there is so great a difference in their external appearance that they may be easily and infallibly distinguished. Among so many millions of men there are no two perfectly alike. Each has something peculiar which distinguishes him from all others, either in face, voice, or manner of speaking. The variety in face is the more astonishing because the parts which compose the human face are few in number, and are disposed in every person according to the same plan. If all things had been produced by blind chance, the face of men must as nearly resemble each other as eggs laid by the same bird, balls cast in the same mould, or drops of water from the same bucket. But this is not the case; we must admire the infinite wisdom of the Creator, which in diversifying the features of the face in so admirable a manner, has evidently the happiness of man in view. For, if they resembled each other perfectly, so that they could not be distinguished each from each, it would occasion an infinity of inconveniences, mistakes, and deceptions in society. No man could ever be sure of his life, nor of the peaceable possession of his property. Thieves and cut-throats would run no risk of being discovered, if they could not be known again by the features of their face or the sound of their voice. Adultery, theft, and other crimes would go unpunished, because the guilty could scarcely ever be discerned. We should be every moment exposed to the malice of wicked and envious men; and we could not guard against an infinity of mistakes, frauds, and misdemeanors. And what uncertainty would there be in judiciary proceedings, in sales, transfers, bargains, and commerce. What confusion in commerce! What frauds and bribery in respect to witnesses? Finally, the uniformity and perfect similitude of face would deprive human society of a great part of its charms, considerably diminish the pleasures which men find in conversing with each other.

The variety of features constitute a part of the plan of Divine government, and is a striking proof of the tender care of God towards us; for it is manifest that not only the general structure of the body, but also the disposition of its particular parts, have been executed with the greatest wisdom. Every where we behold variety connected with uniformity, whence result the order, proportion, and beauty of the human body.—Let all who consider this subject admire the wise arrangements.

IDLE DAUGHTERS.

spectacle in fact the drudge, to see the daughters elegantly dressed, reclining at their ease, with their drawing, their music, their fancy work, and their reading, beguiling themselves of the lapse of hours, days, and weeks, and never dreaming of their responsibilities; but as a necessary consequence of neglect of duty, growing weary of their useless lives, laying hold of every newly invented stimulant to arouse the drooping energies, and blaming their fate, when they dare not blame their God, for having placed them where they are.

These individuals will often tell you with an air of affected compassion, (for who can believe it real?) that poor dear mamma is working herself to death. Yet no sooner do you propose that they should assist her, than they declare she is quite in her element; in short, that she is quite happy.