

The Abbeville Banner.

VOLUME IV.

"LIBERTY AND MY NATIVE SOIL."

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GEOLOGY, NO. 8.

As intimately connected with the subject upon which we have been writing for the last few weeks, we will make a remark or two, in regard to springs, mineral waters, &c. Iron is a metal, so generally diffused throughout the mineral kingdom, that perhaps we ought to be more surprised from its absence, than at its presence, in the ordinary waters of this country. Not that water possesses the property of combining with pure Iron, for this is not the case, much of the Iron found in this country exists in the form of the sulphuret, which has a yellow, shining metallic appearance, and is often mistaken by the common people for something valuable. The sulphuret of Iron, is easily decomposed by the action of atmospheric air, heat, or moisture, and when thus decomposed, and in some instances recombined, in the form of Alkalies, Carbonates, &c., it is held in solution by water, and is an excellent tonic. It possesses this property in proportion to the quantity of Iron contained in it. "Sulphur water," derives its peculiarity, generally, from the sulphur existing in the sulphuret of Iron. Water impregnated with sulphur is valuable in some diseases, as for instance, in diseases of the skin, and in those diseases where laxatives are necessary. We know of no "Lime stone water" in Abbeville, and at the same time we believe it is here, for the *Granular Lime Stone* is a primitive rock, and this is a primitive country. We are willing to hazard the opinion that "Lime stone water" will yet be found in Abbeville.

We suppose that Iron, Sulphur, Lime, Magnesia, and Alum, will probably constitute the basis of all the valuable mineral waters that will ever be found in Abbeville. Some of the gases, as Hydrogen, Sulphuretted hydrogen, and Phosphuretted hydrogen are occasionally found in combination with water about swamps, marshes, &c. The presence of the two former, may be tested in the following manner. On walking about such places bubbles will rise to the surface very numerous, and if a lighted candle, or torch, be applied to them, they will instantly inflame.—The latter will burn spontaneously, the moment it rises to the surface without the application of fire. One word as to the Hot, or Warm springs, spoken of in the books, and which are occasionally to be found in this country. In our opinion the water of these springs, is heated by the interior, "pent up" fires referred to in our first article. We confess we should regard a country where these springs are found, as rather unsafe in consequence of its liability to volcanic action, Earth quakes, and the like, and at the same time centuries, upon centuries, might elapse, without the development of any thing of the kind.

SCIENTIA.

Timothy Dwight, one of the first who advocated the Declaration of Independence, and who was President of the Yale College at the time, said like a true prophet, in an address before the College in 1775: The moment our interest demands it, speaking of Mexico; these extensive regions will be ours; The present race of inhabitants will either be exterminated or revive to the native human dignity by the generous and beneficent influence of just laws and rational freedom."

(WRITTEN FOR THE ABBEVILLE BANNER.) THE MAHS.

Mr. Editor—I had thought that this was an age of Improvement. But when I am brought to take a view of the present arrangement of the mails in this Section of our state: I am constrained to believe that our interests are intentionally neglected or that those who have the management of the mails at present must be rather green. How stands the case with all that section of country from Smithville in Abbeville District for miles on either side of the Line to Waterloo in Laurens District. Are our mail Communications received as early as they should be? They certainly are not: Do we receive our communications as early as we did under other Administrations? This question may be solved by a reference to the Post Office Books on the Line from Smithville to Waterloo. The account of mails at those Offices I presume, will show that previous to the appointment of His Honor CARR JOHNSON, that communications were received at the above named Offices from Charleston early on the third day. And this too was done principally by Horse power. The mails are now transported from Charleston to Columbia and Hamburg in one day, which bring our mails within Seventy-five miles of us and then strange to say Three days and a fraction is consumed in reaching the Offices in the section above alluded to, making the time say four and a half days, when it should not be more than two and a half days.

The mails should leave Columbia at 2 a. m., and arrive at Laurens C. H. on the same day by 8 p. m. The cross mail would receive them next morning at 6 a. m., and supply the offices between Laurens C. H. and Abbeville C. H. on the same day.— Thus making the time from Charleston in two days and a half, and this is allowing ample time. Mr. Editor our situation calls for a change and if a change be not made before the meeting of the next Congress it is hoped that our immediate Representatives Messrs. BURR and SIMMONS will not fail to give our case that attention which its importance may require.
August 21, 1847. SALEDIA.

DEXTERITY OF INDIAN THIEVES.—Once during the pursuit of the Pindarries, a considerable amount of money was sent to our camp to pay a large division of the army. Our tents were pitched in a wild, hilly and jungle country, and as it was known that the treasure was coveted by several of the plundering gangs, a havildar's or sergeant's guard was posted to watch the four tumbrils in which the money was placed. Suddenly in the middle of the night, a gang of these robbers, who seemed to have risen out of the earth, attacked the sepoy's sword in hand, while others attempted to break open the tumbrils. The sepoys made a desperate resistance at the point of the bayonet, and successfully protected their charge until the arrival of reinforcements compelled the plunderers to make a hasty retreat. Several of the robbers were killed, but not before some of the sepoys had received many severe wounds. It would be impossible to give an adequate notion of the craft and perseverance displayed by these robbers in ascertaining the amount and the exact position of any property they may covet, and the almost incredible deceptions they practised on the possessors. Precautions are almost useless for the contrivances employed.

Horses ever so securely picketed and guarded have been stolen from the midst of the camp; the whole property in a room or tent has been swept away without awaking the sleeping owner; nay, the very mattress has been removed by a thief, without disturbing the slumbers of the officer by whom it was occupied. I witnessed the performance of this last named feat, when in the camp at Trichsnopoly, by one of the collories, a class of persons noted for their expertness and adroitness as thieves. It was then performed for a wager, to convince an incredulous officer of the surprising dexterity of Indian thieves. When the officer's breathing gave proof of his being in a sound sleep, the Colliry entered the room stealthily as a cat, taking with him a small chafing dish, on which he burned some intoxicating herbs, especially the seeds of the bag or hemp plant, which is nearly as powerful a soporific as opium. He allowed the officer to inhale some of the stupifying fumes, and then gently tickled him with a feather; as he mechanically shrunk from the tickling, the thief adroitly pulled away the mattress, until he succeeded in removing it altogether, when he went out of the room without being detected.

FROM EUROPE.

Arrival of the Cambria.

From the Baltimore Sun.

Boston, Aug. 18, 7 o'clock, p. m.
The Cambria reached the dock at 15 minutes past 5 o'clock, with Liverpool dates to the 4th inst.

LIVERPOOL, Aug. 4, 11 o'clock a. m.
Parliament has been dissolved, and the new elections are proceeding vigorously.—So far as the returns have been made, they show a complete triumph for the free trade principle. Lord John Russell, who will form the new Cabinet, has been re-elected for the city of London.

The prospects of the harvests continue exceptionally encouraging, and everywhere promise a most abundant yield. It has already commenced in several southern counties. The crops of wheat, oats, and barley are unusually healthy, and the potato crop notwithstanding all that has been said about the re-appearance of the rot, is affected to a very insignificant extent. Reports from Ireland are equally glowing.

Famine and disease are rapidly vanishing from Ireland. The accessions of the clergy priesthood gentry of the country of Old Ireland party are large, and the weekly contributions steadily increase. It is expected that a large proportion of Repealers will be returned to the Imperial Parliament at this election.

The remains of Mr. O'Connell were embarked at Birkenhead for Dublin, on Sunday last, where they arrived the following day.

Several heavy failures have occurred in the corn trade, and many others of a serious character are apprehended.

A distinguished literary amateur performance for the benefit of that child of genius Leigh Hunt, was given in Liverpool on Wednesday last. The principal characters were borne by Charles Dickens, Douglass Jerrold, Mark Lemon, Cruickshank, Foster and Leach.

A formidable conspiracy, of the most diabolical character, has been discovered at Rome. The object of the conspirators, who amounted to several hundreds in number, was to massacre the citizens and remove Pope to Naples by force. Five Cardinals, of exalted civil and military officers, have been discovered to have been abettors.

Popular feeling has become more tranquil in France. The King was well received by the people on the celebration of the glorious three days.

The Chamber of Deputies is about to be dissolved.

Several sanguinary battles have been fought between the Russians and Circassians—the former having been defeated with considerable loss.

Switzerland is threatened with revolution. The Souder, a band or Catholic league, have armed themselves, but are likely to be suppressed.

Mr. Walter, the celebrated proprietor of the London Times, died last week.

The Wesleyan Conference commenced their sittings at Liverpool on Wednesday last. The Rev. Samuel Jackson was elected President.

CHAIN OF BEINGS.—Woman, as all know, are like the link upward between us and angels, and a writer gives us the links downward thus:

"Bitumen and sulphur is the link between earth and metals—vitrols unite metals with salts—crystalisms connect salt with stones—the amethyst and lytophites form a kind of the between stones and plants—the poly unites plants to insects—the tube worm seems to lead to shells and reptiles—the water-serpent and the eel form a passage from reptiles to fish—the anse nigra are a medium between fishes and birds—the bat and flying-squirrel link birds to quadrupeds—and the monkey equally gives the hand to man."

Sir Humphrey Davy goes still further: There may be beings, near or surrounding us, which we cannot imagine. We know very little, but in my opinion, we know enough to hope for immortality, the individual immortality, of the better part of man. The caterpillar, on being converted into an inert scaly mass, does not appear to be fitting itself for an inhabitant of the air, and can have no consciousness of the brilliancy of its future being. We are masters of the earth, but perhaps we are the slaves of some great and unknown beings. The fly that we crush with our finger, or feed with our viands, has no knowledge of man, and no consciousness of his superiority. We suppose that we are acquainted with matter and all its elements, yet we cannot even guess at the cause of electricity, or explain the laws of the formation of the stones that fall from meteors."

A BRITISH OUTRAGE ON AMERICAN SOIL.—Pierre Chouteau, jr. & Co., the successors of the American Fur Company, have a trading establishment in the Sioux country,

on the head waters of the Red River of the North, several miles within the American territory and from the line dividing us from the British colonies. For some time past in fact, ever since the apprehended difficulties between the two countries concerning the Oregon boundary—the British Government have kept stationed in the vicinity of Selkirk settlement, a body of regular troops, who, it is now well understood, were intended if hostilities had occurred, to take Fort Snelling and other posts and property on the Upper Mississippi. A short time since, some of these troops, as is alleged, deserted and came across into the American territory, and, we believe, some of them entered into the employ of the American traders.—Subsequently, a British officer, with a force of regular soldiers, came over to the American trading station, and arrested these men, asserting that they were deserters.

Against this act of invading our soil, and insult to our national authority, the agent at the station remonstrated. He had neither the authority, nor the means of resistance; nor was he disposed to protect the men against lawful seizure, but he earnestly protested against the British government exercising this high prerogative upon our soil, and this, too, without investigation or the shadow of authority from the United States. His remonstrance and protests were unheeded; the men were seized, bound, and carried back into the British possessions. The fate of the parties arrested is not known.

It is unnecessary to dwell upon the illegality of this act, or the insult it gives to the jurisdiction of the government of the United States. All we now add is, that, for the truth of the facts, the testimony of men of the highest respectability may be had, if the government thinks proper to look into it.—St. Louis Reporter.

MAINE AND THE WILNOT TREASON.—At a celebration at Rumford Falls, on the 5th of July, the following toast was sent by the Hon. V. D. Parris:

Maine and Wilnot Proviso:—Misrepresented for a time by presses which they have sustained and by the functionaries whom they have elevated to places of distinction, the republicans of Maine will spurn their treasonable design and abandon both, before they will yield their attachment to the Constitution of their country, and to the great principles of fraternal compromise upon which that Constitution was based.—They have never sanctioned a policy which would clog grants of men and money for a just and existing war with Proviso's in relation to territories, the acquisition of which was merely possible. To territories which is to be won by our victorious arms, they desire the application of no principles inconsistent with the spirit of American institutions, and the just claims of all portions of the American confederation. Jealous of their own rights, they will respect the rights of others; and venerating the most important maxim of wisdom bequeathed among the legacies of the Father of his Country, they will frown indignantly upon the first dawn of any attempt to alienate any portion of our country from another."

"Give me" says a vigorous writer, "the money that has been spent in war, and I will purchase every foot of land upon the globe. I will clothe every man, woman, and child in an attire that kings would be proud of. I will build a school house upon every hill side and in every valley over the whole habitable earth; I will supply that school house with a competent teacher; I will build an academy in every town, and endow it; a college in every State, and fill it with able professors; I will crown every hill with a church consecrated to the promulgation of the gospel of peace; I will support in its pulpit an able teacher of righteousness, so that on every Sabbath morning chime on one hill should answer to the chime on another, around the earth's circumference and the voice of prayer and the song of praise should ascend like a universal holocaust to Heaven."

WHO CANNOT BE RICH.—A Polish woman, who has a stall in the Franklin Market, found herself about five years ago, a widow with four young children, and an estate of just one dollar and fifty cents in money. She did not, however, turn her steps towards the Alms House, nor spend her time in begging from door to door.—Though embarrassed by a very poor knowledge of our language, she immediately invested her capital in some articles which she could sell and commence operations, employing the children as she could for her assistance. For a year or two past, she has had the market stall. A few months ago she learned that the owner of a good farm of seventy-five acres in one of the central counties of the State, was very desirous to sell his farm for money. She examined the farm, found a good house, barn, &c., and fifty acres under cultivation. Her twelve

shillings had grown to twelve hundred dollars, all safe in the Savings Bank, and she offered it for the farm, and it was accepted, for it was all in cash. The Polish widow now has her country estate, where she has been spending some months; though, unwilling to retire as yet, she has returned and resumed her stall. What a fine provision for herself and family has she secured by five years of determined effort! What proof has she made, that this is the land where all may be rich who have health, and where they only who have it not are proper objects of charity.—N. Y. Jour. Com.

THE BIBLE.—How comes it that this little volume, composed by humble men in a rude age, when art and science were but in their childhood, has exerted more influence on the social system, than all other books put together? Whence comes it that this book has achieved such marvellous changes in the opinions of mankind—has banished idol-worship—has abolished infanticide—has put down polygamy and divorce—exalted the condition of women—raised the standard of public morality—created for families that blessed thing a Christian home—and caused its other triumphs, by causing benevolent institutions, open and expansive, to spring up as with the wand of enchantment? What sort of a book is this, that even the wind and waves of human passion obey it? What other engine of social improvement has operated so long, and yet lost none of its virtue? Since it appeared, many boasted plans of amelioration have been tried and failed; many codes of jurisprudence have arisen, and run their course, and expired. Empire after empire has been launched on the tide of time, and gone down leaving no trace on the waters. But this book is still going about doing good—leavening society with its holy principles—cheering the sorrowful with its consolations—strengthening the tempted—encouraging the penitent—calming the troubled spirit—and soothing the pillow of death. Can such a book be the offspring of human genius? Does not the vastness of its effects demonstrate the excellency of the power to be of God?—Dr McCullough.

BREAK THE CRUST.—Every observant farmer must have noticed the crust which forms on the surface of newly stirred soils, lying a few days to the action of the dews. A much heavier crust is formed by each shower of rain which falls. Good and successful cultivation requires that this newly formed crust be often and repeatedly broken by the hoe, harrow, or other instruments.

A striking instance in proof of the importance of this practice has just been stated by an extensive farmer. He planted a field of broom corn, and by way of banter, told the man who assisted him, that each should choose a row as nearly alike as possible, and each should hoe his row, and the measured amount of crop on each should be the proof which was hoed best. Our informant stated the result in substance as follows: "Determined not to be beaten, I hoed my row well once a week, through. I had not seen my assistant hoe his at all; but had observed that for a long time he was up in the morning before me. At length I found him before sunrise hoeing his broom corn, and I asked him how often he hoed it; he answered, once a day, regularly. The result of this experiment was his row beat mine by nearly double the amount.

Albany Cultivator.

THIS IS LIFE.—If we die to-day, the sun will shine as brightly, and the birds sing as sweetly to-morrow. Business will not be suspended for a moment, and the great mass will not bestow a thought to our memories. "Is he dead?" will be the solemn inquiry of a few, as they pass to their pleasure or their work. But no one will miss us, except our immediate connections; and even in a short time they will forget us, and laugh as merrily as when we sat beside them.

Thus shall we all, now active in life, pass away. Our children crowd close behind us, and they will soon be gone. In a few years not a living being can say, "I remember him." We lived in another age, and did business with those who have long since slumbered in the tomb. This is life. How rapidly it passes! Oh, blessed are they who are held in everlasting remembrance!

THE SUGAR CROP.—A gentleman who has just arrived from a journey through the Attakapas country, informs us that the cane there never looked so fine as it does now. Last year's crop was considered a good one, but so promising is the appearance of the cane this year, that many of the planters anticipate a crop a third larger. From every part of the sugar country, the papers bring accounts equally gratifying.
N. O. Picayune, 13th.