

SOUTHERN CORRESPONDENCE.

Ellicott's, Harper's Ferry, Wheeling, &c.
WHEELING, VA., July 15, 1847.

From Baltimore to Wheeling is a distance of 400 miles via Pittsburg, and 300 going by the Blue Ridge Mountains. It was a beautiful morning when we left Ellicott's Mills (9 miles west of Baltimore,) on board the Cumberland cars; the country along here presents a wild romantic appearance, and to the lovers of nature, the painter, the poet, and the geologist, rich fields are presented to their study. There are three factories within two miles of each other the "Thistle," (a Scotch settlement,) the "Patapsco" and the "Union" factories—in these factories the workers are well used, and the superintendents of them respected, and the morals of the people are good. A fourth large factory is in progress of erection, the stone and wood work completed, and when put into operation, it will be one of the finest factories in Maryland—it is called the "Granite Factory." Away we went, at the sound of the whistle, and after six hours top speed of the steam Pegasus we reached Harper's Ferry. Here the grand panorama of mountain scenery commences; these towering peaks and mountain woods present a scene at once grand and imposing; unsurpassed in the United States for height and majestic appearance, so say some of our travellers. Looking to the vertex of these high precipices overhung with trees, I could not but recollect the words of Lady Randolph in Douglass—
"Ye woods and wilds whose melancholy gloom," &c.

Harper's Ferry is rather an uneven, irregular built town without either design or regard to health, and there is at some seasons of the year much sickness about it. The manufacture of muskets for the government is extensively carried on in this place. It was here two pugilists from your city fought in the spring, when a band of lawless men defied all civil restraint, becoming conductors and captains of cars and steamboats the whole route from Harper's Ferry to Philadelphia. At half past 2, we again started, and while we passed the extremity of these huge mammoth peaks a heavy thunder cloud overhung them, which bellowed away down the Potomac Valley—The railroad runs for a great distance on the banks of the Potomac River and the country here presents a general sameness for twenty or thirty miles. The river is of a serpentine form, consequently the valley is the same.—There are a great number of towns, villages and little groups of houses on the route. We reached Cumberland in the evening. This city is rapidly progressing. Iron and coal are extensively found in the mountains and great quantities of the latter are now carried on to Baltimore. This is the terminus of the Western Railway, the first in the United States, the great route by which the produce of the Western world is brought on to the eastern cities. In the Spring and Fall the cars are loaded with merchants from the West and South, making their purchases of goods in Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York and Boston. The fare from Pittsburg to Baltimore is ten dollars. At a meeting of the stockholders of the Ohio and Baltimore Railroad Co. last week, measures were adopted to extend the line on to Wheeling, to the mouth of the Ohio river. At Cumberland we found the stages ready to receive us, and in half an hour we began to ascend the Cumberland Mountains. Travelling twelve miles we reached Frostburg, a little town at the foot of the far famed Allegheny Mountains; here we alighted and took supper, and I had the privilege of having the first black tea served out to me in this country, but it was too sharp for my nerves. We now began to face the first steep of the Allegheny heights, and suffice it to say, those who are partial to staging require only to cross these mountains to get their fill of it. The horses are kept in good condition, the stages clean and well fitted up, but such jostling, shaking, bouncing, internal twitching I never felt, enough to grind a hole in a fellow's shirt with his shoulder bone, and there are a few other disagreeables which I cannot here describe. We crossed the mountains during the night, at times the full moon shone with splendor over their dark extending outlines, all above clear and beautiful; at other times the

rain poured heavily upon us. At 7 o'clock in the morning we reached Uniontown, at the other side of the mountains, having been 12 or 13 hours crossing them, and here took a good breakfast sharpened by the mountain breeze. I have no time to say more at present. Yours, &c.

BRAMBLE BRAE.

The Perils of Mining.

A remark in No. 42 of the Scientific American regarding the common windlass struck me so forcibly, that I send you the account of an accident to which I was a witness, hoping that it will not be unsuitable to your columns.

In the coal districts of Scotland there are some mines dangerous to work in, from their near connection with old waste pit that are generally filled with water. In 1830, the water from a waste (old pit) broke into another where 3 miners were at work, in the middle of the night. Two of them reached the bottom and were drawn up, the other named Morton, perished, leaving a wife and three children to lament his loss. In four hours the water had risen 6 fathoms in the pit which was 13 fathoms deep and 4 feet square, and the mine 2 feet square and one fourth of a mile long. No sooner was the mournful event made known to the other miners in the district (Barrhead) than they all left work and crowded to the pit where the accident had occurred and for all the great amount of water which had accumulated, with such good will did they work and relieve each other, that in the course of 24 hours, just by the common windlass and bucket, all the water was discharged and the body of the lifeless miner recovered.

Fall River.

J. REED.

The Women of California.

Of the women, with their witchery of manner, it is not easy, or rather it is not possible for a stranger to speak with impartiality, inasmuch as our self-love is naturally enlisted in favor of those who, in every look tone and gesture, have apparently no other end in view than the pleasure of pleasing us. With regard, however, to their physical charms, as distinguished from the adventitious accomplishments of education, it is difficult even for a willing pen to exaggerate. Independently of feeling or motion, their sparkling eyes and glossy hair are in themselves sufficient to negative the idea of tameness and insipidity; while their sylph like forms evolve fresh graces at every step, and then eloquent features eclipse their own inherent comeliness by the higher beauty of expression. Though doubtless fully conscious of their attractions, yet the women of California, to their credit be it spoken, do not "before their mirrors count their time," being on the contrary by far the more industrious half of the population. In California such a thing as a white servant is absolutely unknown,asmuch as neither man nor woman will barter freedom in a country where provisions are actually a drug, and clothes almost a superfluity; and accordingly in the absence of intelligent assistants, the first ladies of the province, particularly when treated, as they seldom are, by native husbands, with kindness and consideration, discharge all the lighter duties of their households with cheerfulness and pride. Nor does their plain and simple dress savor much of the toilet. They wear a gown sufficiently short to display their neatly turned foot and ankle to their white stockings and black shoes, while perversely enough they bandage their heads in a handkerchief, so as to conceal all their hair except a single loop on either cheek; round their shoulders, moreover, they twist a shawl, throwing over all when they walk, or go to mass, the "beautiful and mysterious mantilla."

If Sir George Simpson is correct in the above description, we hope that when California comes into the possession of the United States, that the dignity given to labor by the matrons of the west, will not give place to the insipid prejudice with which labor is looked upon by too many of our republican dames.

Spontaneous Combustion.

The United States steam ship Mississippi took fire a short time since at Vera Cruz. It was occasioned by the spontaneous combustion of her coal and was only extinguished by the greatest exertions of the crew.

Foreign Items.

Pope Pius IX. on the 15th ult gave an audience to the son of the Liberator of Ireland, and made a eulogy on Daniel O'Connell, in terms which must have excited the gratitude and admiration of the young member for Dundalk. At the moment at which the visitor arose, after having kissed the feet of the holy father, the Pope said to him: "Since I am deprived of the happiness so long desired, of embracing the hero of Christianity, let me, at least, have the consolation of embracing his son!" And at the same time the holy father pressed him twice to his heart.

A correspondent of *The Times* proposes that the flour of the horse chesnut should be used for the stiffening of calico, &c., instead of flour obtained from wheat.

Such is the rage for emigration in Germany, that a new word, *Europamude*, tired of Europe, has come into fashion, to express the discontent of the people with their native land.

In the High Court of Justiciary, at Edinburgh, many a jurymen, who had attended the court in a state of intoxication, was fined £20.

A singular old gentleman, conceiving himself overcharged in a surgeon's bill, sent word by the servant of the practitioner to his master, "That for his medicines he would pay, but as for his visits he would return them."

A respectable bookseller, of Birmingham, has received an intimation that he has rendered himself liable to fourteen year's transportation, by exhibiting for sale valentines, &c., which resemble bank notes. It appears such is really the case, in England.

A little church, of a pretty Gothic design, (says the Jerusalem correspondent of the *Daily News*.) is waiting for the roof, which, though of timber, is to be brought from England. The highest point of Mount Sion crowned with an English church is an interesting object for contemplation.

Singular Accident to a Snipe.

A dead snipe was found lately in one of the Castle meads, Hertford, England. It had evidently been starved to death with food in its break. The upper part of its long bill was jammed into a piece of hollow reed about an inch long, and in the lower part of the bill towards the point was enclosed a small beetle. The bird had no doubt been boring into the reed of the beetle, and the stump of a reed had broken, leaving a portion fitting so tightly round the upper part of the bill as not to be removed by any efforts the bird could make. The bird has been stuffed by Mr Knight with the beetle within, and the reed around its bill, as a curiosity.

Walking and Riding.

Walking is the best of all exercises. It is better than riding. It gives motion and exercise to the whole body. Look at the Indian. He can walk farther in a day than an enfeebled white man can ride. He can in a few days tire out the best horse. Early rising, with a morning's walk of half a mile is the best of medicines for persons of sedentary habits.

The use of the horse has created a disrelish for walking. Ladies and gentlemen now make hot house plants of themselves and must be moved round, rather than move themselves. President Jefferson was of the opinion that we have lost more by the use of the horse than we have gained.

Heroism in a Child.

Two little children of Robert Donnell, of Montgomery, Alabama, were severely scalded on the 25th ult. By the upsetting of a tea-kettle. One of them, a little boy, died in a few hours. The *Journal* relates of the little sufferer, only seven years old, that when the servant rushed to remove the kettle from off him, he cried out, "Let me alone and save sister;" and throughout evinced great patience and equanimity, until death closed the scene of suffering.

New Waterfall.

There has been a new waterfall discovered in the river of St. Louis. This cataract falls into the western part of Lake Superior, which has never yet been described by the geographer. It would appear that this new wonder is second only to the Falls of Niagara. The volume of water is immense, and the height of the fall is fifty feet.

Extraordinary Inland City.

About the time Col. Doniphan made his treaty with the Navijos, a division of his command was entirely out of provisions, and the Navijos supplied his wants with liberality. A portion of the command, together with Col Doniphan, went to the city of the Sumai Indians, living on the Rio Piscow, which is supposed to be a branch of the Gayla, made a treaty of peace between the Sumai and Navijo, and then returned to the Rio Del Norte. These Sumais, unlike the Navijos, live in a city, containing probably 6000 inhabitants, who support themselves entirely by agriculture. This city is one of the most extraordinary in the world. It is divided into four solid squares, having but two streets crossing its centre at right angles. All the buildings are two stories high, composed of sunburnt brick. The first story presents a solid wall to the street, and is so constructed that each house joins, until one fourth of the city may be said to be one building. The second stories rise from this vast solid structure, so as to designate each house, leaving room to walk upon the roof of the first story between each building. The inhabitants of Sumai enter the second story of their buildings by ladders, which they draw up at night as a defence against any enemy that may be prowling about. In this city was seen some Albino Indians, who have no doubt given rise to the story that there is living in the Rocky Mountains a tribe of white aborigines. The discovery of this city of the Sumai will afford the most curious speculations among those who have so long searched in vain for a city of the Indians who possessed the manners and habits of the Aztecs. No doubt we have a race here living as did the people when Cortez entered Mexico. It is a remarkable fact that the Sumaians have, since the Spaniards left the country, refused to have any intercourse with the modern Mexicans, looking upon them as an inferior people. They have also driven from among them the priests and other dignitaries, who formerly had power over them, and resumed habits and manners of their own, their Great Chief or Governor being the civil and religious head. The country round the city of Sumai, is cultivated with a great deal of care, and affords food not only for the inhabitants, but for large flocks of cattle and sheep.

Wealth of the Bay State.

In 1790, the whole real and personal property of the State of Massachusetts, was estimated at \$44,024,347. In 1809 it had increased to 97,949,616. In 1830, it was \$205,856,422, and in 1840, it amounted to \$398,880,338. The average in 1840, was \$406.50 to each resident of the state, the number of inhabitants being more than 700,000, and in 1847, it will amount to about \$3,784,000. From these facts it appears that wealth increases in Massachusetts, three times faster than the population. Were the whole property of the State equally divided, every family consisting of five persons, would have an estate worth \$2,032. But the cost of living has kept pace with the increase, for the average surplus over consumption is only about ten dollars per head.

Carmen.

The Court of Common Pleas at Boston, has given judgment against the owners of a truck, for \$450, in favor of the parents of a little girl 6 or 7 years of age. The truckman, left his truck with the shafts propped up by a stick of wood, and the child, while playing around it, knocked down the support and the shaft fell upon her, breaking one of her limbs.

New Telegraph Lines.

Two new telegraph lines diverging from Rochester, are in contemplation. One is to run to Medina, 40 miles, touching at Brockport and Albion; the other to Danville, 52 miles, with stations at Scottsville, Genesee, Avon and Mount Morris.

Cobre Copper Mines.

These mines, in the Island of Cuba, are worked by British capitalists, and the ore smelted in England; In 1842 to 1846, five years, these mines produced, 35,444 tons of copper ore, which, was sold for \$5,363,250.