



### FACTS ABOUT EAST TENNESSEE.

#### Our Minerals—Iron.

NO. XVII.

We propose with this number to begin a series of articles on the mineral resources of East Tennessee. Beginning with Iron, we do not know that we can give facts concerning it in a more condensed or intelligible form than we find them in a letter written some time ago by one of the editors of the CHRONICLE, then a correspondent of the New York Times, from this city. His letter was written after an interview with Gen. John T. Wilder, of the Roane Iron Company, one of the most successful and practical iron men of the South. The letter gives a description of the Rockwood blast furnace, built and operated by his Company. We give the letter as published, beginning with the description referred to:

His works are situated four miles from the Tennessee river, in the midst of one of the finest agricultural sections of the State. He uses red fossiliferous ore, yielding 50 per cent. of iron in the blast furnace, and making iron of a very superior quality. His ore lies one-half mile from his furnace. He has three and one-half miles of iron ore, two veins side by side, four and six feet thick. He digs his ore at a cost of 50 cents a ton, and carries it to the mouth of the furnace by a small railway running down the hillside at a gentle decline. His coal is about one-half mile off, in great abundance—veins over five feet thick, splendidly drained. It is semi-bituminous, free from sulphur, and makes charcoal iron. He uses it in his furnace raw from the mine. Not one pound of it is coked, and thus far he has made an excellent quality of iron. Some of the largest and most successful iron dealers in Pennsylvania have made examinations here and declared it impossible to use our coal without coking. Experience is the best test, and I am glad to say that General Wilder assures me that his experiment is highly successful. This is a very important item of news, for it makes a great difference in the cost of producing iron. There are but few parts of the country where coal is found that can be used raw in the furnace. His ore he can and does use without roasting. The iron made from the above coal and ore is softer than Scotch and stronger. Near by, within a few rods of his furnace, is a hill of fine red clay 100 feet high. Within 500 yards he has a brown hematite iron ore, such as is used in making the Rodman gun, which yields 68 per cent. of iron. Here, in the midst of this mineral wealth, he has built his furnace. All about him are rich farming lands. Produce of every kind is delivered to his hands at the lowest rates; corn, 50 cents per bushel; wheat, 12 cents per bushel; flour, \$4 00 per hundred. On that property, purchased for a few thousand dollars, the company have erected a large furnace at the cost of \$100,000. They have iron, coal and limestone enough to run half a dozen furnaces for hundreds of years. But this is not the only spot favored by Providence for such great enterprises. The Cumberland Mountains, from Cumberland Gap to Alabama, are filled with iron and coal of every kind. This range skirts the northern side of the great Tennessee Valley. In it are six veins of coal running horizontally, varying in thickness from one to six feet—usually five feet. Every vein of it is within sixty miles of iron ore, and most of it lying side by side with it. The coal is bituminous, and all of it of good quality, but varying in quantity. The Coal Creek coal, which is mined thirty-six miles north of this city, on the Knoxville and Kentucky Railroad, is five pounds to the bushel heavier than the Youghiogheny coal, which is about the best iron coal of Pittsburg. The coal found in Roane county is equal to the great Briar Hill coal of Ohio. General Wilder says it takes one ton less of the Roane county coal to make a ton of pig iron than of the Briar Hill coal. Of the former it takes but 1,000 bushels to make fourteen tons of iron. They use of the Briar Hill three and a half tons to one of iron.

On the Cumberland Mountains, mixed with the coal beds referred to, running the whole length, is found the clay iron stone, of which the cheap Welsh iron is made. Beds of it are found one hundred feet high, and could be dug out at ten cents per ton. Along the base of the mountains, running from the Virginia to the Alabama line, are two veins of a fossiliferous ore, from two to fifteen feet thick. This is a fine ore for all kinds of castings. Running parallel with the mountains, we have ridges extending nearly the length of the valley. The same ore is found at various points in these ridges, interspersed with the black and brown hematite, gathered in little hills and knobs.

On the south side of the great Tennessee Valley, in the Smoky mountains, which run about parallel with the Cumberland, we have the finest varieties of the magnetic iron ore. Near this range is also found a superior quality of hematite and manganese ores. The New York and East Tennessee Iron Company in Greene county, make from the hematite and manganese ores a fine quality of spiegel Eisen, such as is used as a re-carbonizer in the Bessemer steel process. The Greene County Iron Company make a fine iron from the hematite ore. Both furnaces are doing well. Up the different branches of the Tennessee river, above Knoxville, is to be found hillocks of limonite ore, and extensive beds and hills of all grades of the different oxide ores. These ores are not associated with any beds of coal. All the coal lies on the north side of the Valley. But even these ores on the south side are nearer coal than the Champlain and Superior ores. The latter ores at Pittsburg cost the furnaces \$9 to \$20 per ton.

These are the coal and iron beds of East Tennessee. General Wilder says our ores are superior in quality and quantity to the

beds of Pennsylvania and Missouri. The bulk of the Missouri iron is near the Iron Hills. It is harder, and not so accessible as the East Tennessee mines.

#### Jefferson County Board of Education.

NEW MARKET, April 28, 1871.

The District School Commissioners of Jefferson County met, March 30th, in Dandridge, at the court house, and organized the County Board of Education. The county was largely represented, much interest manifested and important action taken. Under the operations of the previous State Law a large number of schools had been put in operation. Gen. Eaton reported for 1869 seventy-three schools, employing seventy-eight teachers, and enrolling five thousand two hundred scholars in the county. This was the largest number enrolled in any county in East Tennessee except Knox. The county was taking an advanced position in educational matters. The change of the school law, however, disbanded all these schools. It was the work of the County Board to reorganize them.

Capt. Hall, the County Clerk, called the meeting to order, and stated in brief its object.

Mr. C. H. Houghton, of New Market, was made permanent chairman. In accepting the office, he stated his views of the greatness and importance of the work committed to them, and asked their support and aid in entering upon so vast an undertaking.

The New Market Board of Education were then admitted as members of the County Board, in accordance with the law. Prof. H. Pierce was appointed Secretary. The Board, being organized, ordered the appointment of a committee of seven to nominate standing committees on the following subjects, viz.:

1. On Finance.
2. Mode of examining teachers and the qualifications required.
3. Plan of schools, rules, course of study and books.
4. School houses and apparatus.
5. Improved modes of teaching.

The committees nominated were confirmed by the meeting. The question, "How can an interest be awakened in the county?" was discussed and the following important resolution passed, namely that the School Commissioners be appointed a committee of the whole, with the recommendation that they call an educational meeting in their respective districts and get such persons as they can to address the same. This series of meetings, it is hoped, may result in great good.

In discussing the subject of finance, the sentiment was expressed, that the people would pay taxes more cheerfully for schools than for any other purpose. This view was confirmed by the subsequent action of the Board, who recommended unanimously, that the County Court be requested to raise the school tax to thirty cents on the hundred dollars. It was found when the Finance Committee went before the County Court, that the tax could not prudently be raised this year. It is anticipated that the wishes of the Board, which, no doubt, represent the sentiment of the county, will be not another year. Last year a tax of twenty cents on the hundred dollars was levied, this year only ten cents. The school tax for 1870 amounted to over six thousand dollars; only a small part of this has been used. The people have been waiting to learn what they could depend upon. Meantime many subscription schools have been in operation. With the funds on hand and the tax for the present year, schools will probably be established in most of the districts in the county, next fall. The county has been re-districted and divided into fifty districts. As soon as commissioners are appointed and the scholastic population reported to the County Clerk, the judge will have the data for making an exact apportionment of school funds now in hand. The District Commissioners will then be in search of good teachers. There will, no doubt, be a demand for well-qualified teachers in Jefferson county, from September to August, 1871. Let such turn their attention here and will get their money when the work is done.

After transacting their legitimate business the Board adjourned to meet on the last Thursday in June, in New Market, at 10 A. M.

The meeting, as a whole, was decided success. The friends of the cause were happily disappointed at the large representation, the interest manifested and at the business-like and earnest manner in which the Board took hold of the work. It all is ominous of better days for the lovers of popular education in Jefferson county. A large and interesting meeting is anticipated in New Market, in June. You shall hear from us again.

R. PIERCE, Secretary.

A local refutation of Mr. Darwin's theory—Jack (who has been reading passages from the "Descent of Man") to the wife whom he adores, but loves to tease—"So you see, Mary, baby is descended from a hairy quadruped, with pointed ears and a tail. We all are." Mary—"Speak for yourself, Jack! I'm not descended from anything of the kind, I beg to say; and baby takes after me. So, there!"—Punch.

"Well, Tom," said a blacksmith to his apprentice, "you have been with me now three months, and have seen all the different points of our trade. I wish to give you your choice of work for a while." "Thank'ee, sir." "Well, now, what part of the business do you like best?" "Shuttin' up shop and goin' to dinner, sir."

A New Hampshire pater familias was recently asked by an ambitious young man to bestow upon him the honor of his daughter's hand. The old gentleman responded graciously. "Why of course you may have her, and don't you know some likely young man that will take the other?"

### TELEGRAPHIC MISCELLANY.

#### ADVANTAGE TO THE COMMUNISTS. Outbreak at Versailles—Reinforcements for the Versaillesists.

PARIS, April 23.—Official reports to the Commune state that the nationals silenced several of the enemy's batteries on Saturday and repulsed the attacks on Issy and Vanvres on Thursday night. Toulouse has been declared in a state of siege.

There has been another emeute at Versailles. Reinforcements for the Versailles army are arriving daily, and are immediately forwarded to the front.

The evacuation of Charenton by the Prussians is officially contradicted. It is reported that the Prussians at St. Denis, have stopped the ingress of supplies to Paris from the north.

Immense preparations are in progress. Torpedoes have been planted at the St. Germain and Versailles railway station and batteries erected in the Rue Castellan. The churches St. Treche and St. Sulpice have been re-opened and their cures have been released from imprisonment.

VERSAILLES, April 24.—Thiers received the deputation of the Masonic Lodges of Paris, who asked, in behalf of the people of Paris, an armistice. Thiers, replying, said that Gen. Lemaître had power to grant a truce whenever necessary, but the Commune could never be recognized by the Government.

Changes in the French ministry are reported.

Herr Dollinger, a distinguished Bavarian theologian, has been excommunicated by the Pope.

### WASHINGTON.

#### New Conference Committee on Deficiency Bill.

WASHINGTON, April 19.—The Senate adopted the Conference klulux report, but asked for a new committee on the deficiency bill.

The House failed to concur in the conference report on the klulux bill, and a new committee of conference was appointed.

The Senate adopted the new conference report on the deficiency appropriation.

The new deficiency appropriation conference reduces the appropriation made to the Sisters of Mercy, of Charleston, S. C., to \$12,000, and strikes out the clause appointing an attorney to represent the Government before the Southern Claims Commission; also, strikes out the clause increasing compensations to General Sherman.

Sherman's amendment is the chief point under consideration between the Houses on the klulux bill. Thirty Republicans voted with the Democrats, thus defeating the conference klulux bill. There were fifty absentees.

It is understood the Senate will recede from Sherman's amendment.

The following is the substitute for Sherman's amendment as passed:

"That any person or persons having knowledge that any of the wrongs conspired to be done, and mentioned in the second section of this act, are about to be committed, and having power to prevent or aid in preventing the same, shall neglect or refuse to do it, and such wrongful act shall be committed, such person or persons shall be liable to the person injured, or his legal representatives, for all damages caused by any such wrongful acts, which such first-named person or persons, by reasonable diligence, could have prevented; and such damages may be recovered in an action on the case in the proper Circuit Court of the United States, and any number of persons guilty of such wrongful neglect or refusal may be joined as defendants in such action. Provided, that such action shall be commenced within one year after such cause of action shall have accrued, and if the death of any person shall be caused by any such wrongful acts and neglect the legal representatives of such deceased person shall have such action therefor, and may recover not exceeding five thousand dollars damages therein for the benefit of the widow of each deceased person, if any there be, or if there be no widow for the benefit of the next of kin of such deceased person." The case of Klien against the United States, and another case from the Court of Claims, argued before the Supreme Court, presents for decision the question of the constitutionality of the proviso relating to amnesty and pardon in the appropriation act of July 1870. That act provided that no pardon or amnesty granted by the President should not be considered by the courts in deciding upon any claim against the United States.

Southern claimants desiring to have their testimony taken by the Commission at different points in the South, must reduce their wishes to writing and designate suitable persons for Commissioners. Parties desiring to have cases set for a certain day must make application to the clerk in writing, stating when they themselves would be ready. The Secretary of war has ordered the transfer of a soldier, who was convicted for murder by court martial, in Alaska, to civil authorities, on the ground that murder being a capital offense was not cognizable by the court martial, which sentenced the murderer to 15 years imprisonment.

Neither the empire of the Mexican Commission, has declared against motions to dismiss certain causes. The dismissal is claimed on the following grounds: The claimant had not exhausted the remedies of the Mexican courts; the claimant obtained permanent residence in Mexico; had acquired citizenship in Mexico, and because the damage was caused by the hazard of war, the motion to dismiss was overruled on all these points; because the arrests and imprisonment complained of were for violation of law, the Commission decides that foreigners domiciled here, who have declared their intention to become citizens, are entitled to a hearing before the Commission.

### A FURIOUS, DESTRUCTIVE STORM IN SWEETWATER VALLEY.

#### Churches, Mills, Houses and Barns Torn in Shreds.

#### Freaks and Incidents of the Storm.

##### THE STORM GATHERING.

We have received from L. M. Pickle, one of the victims, a graphic detailed account of one of the most destructive, terrific and wonderful hurricanes that has ever visited any section of East Tennessee.

Between the hours of nine and ten o'clock on Wednesday night, (the 19th inst.) while the thrifty farmers and their contented neighbors along the valley of Fork Creek, in Monroe county, were peacefully sleeping in their well built houses, a most fearful storm was gathering to suddenly sweep over them, leaving utter ruin and desolation to mark its path. A heavy dark grey cloud, swept by a cold wind, traveling from the west, met another, larger, more rapid in its movements and charged with greater fury, moving from the southeast, at a point in the narrow, rich, highly cultivated valley of Fork Creek, about five miles from Sweetwater. The two storms, riding the heavens, accompanied with roll and peal upon peal of terrific thunder, their pathway, vividly illuminated with the most brilliant and dazzling chain of lightning, met at full speed just over the farm of Mr. Henry McCroskey.

Passing neither to the right nor to the left, but firmly bent on the terrible work, the two furies here linked in a fearful embrace their awful power, and turning aside from their original course, swept with their combined fury northeast, following in all its bends the little creek above named, and for eight miles carrying the most perfect annihilation and destruction along both its banks, where lived some of the most energetic, wealthy, and successful farmers in the beautiful Sweetwater Valley.

##### LIST AND DETAILS OF DAMAGES.

Henry McCroskey, over whose place the storm started on its career of destruction, was the first victim, though he did not suffer as much as others. A large new hay shed and barn were unroofed. A fine new threshing machine, worth \$700, under the hay shed was badly injured, the separator torn off and the axle of the wagon broken. His house being just outside the path of the storm was not touched.

##### J. M. BURTON, ESQ.

Was the next victim in the track of desolation and suffered largely. His house was a large, substantial frame building, two stories high. The wind tearing the gable end of it, under the roof, struck the joists and carrying away the entire upper story. The family were all asleep, but of course terrified and soon aroused by the terrible racket, which "Squire Burton" compares to the firing of ten thousand cannon. The large chimney was wrenched off and the foundation stone, very large and firmly cemented, torn from its bed and driven out six inches. The whole family were uninjured, but their escape was a perfect miracle. Two of the boys found themselves landed some distance from the house, their clothes riding on the whirlwind, but a brilliant flash of lightning lighted up the surroundings enough so that they caught some clothing dropped near them. A large corn crib near the house was torn to atoms and corn scattered far and wide. No two logs of his out-buildings were left as laid down in building. A fence on posts two feet deep was swept away and not a trace left. A valuable horse was badly injured and a cow killed outright. Mr. Burton was a Justice of the Peace and all the books and papers of his office were scattered far and wide.

##### MR. — MOSIER.

The next sufferer in order, had a double log house framed, which was torn down to the fourth log. A mill, two stories high, not used lately, was blown off to the rock foundation. A fence rail was blown against a horse, striking him endwise in the breast, and so far driven in as to seriously endanger its life. The horse was living at last accounts. All of Mr. Mosier's fences were blown away but none of his family injured.

##### LEWIS JOHNSON.

Was the next sufferer. His was a large brick house which looked after the storm, as our informant says, as though it had been shelled by a battery of artillery. A large wheat garner and barn were entirely demolished, and all his fences blown away. Out of a thrifty young orchard of eight hundred apple trees not one was left. Next in the path of the terrible storm was,

##### MRS. JOHN SIMPSON.

Who was the possessor of a commodious two-story house, which was torn off above the first story and blown to pieces. The wing of the house was torn away. In her fright, and while running about in her bare feet, she tramped upon a sharp nail and received a very bad injury. Her barn and fences were all blown away. On the same farm with Mrs. Simpson was a comfortable frame house, filled in with brick and plastered—occupied by Wm. Thompson, which was blown down to the first story.

##### MR. JOHN PRATER.

Living near Mr. Burton, in a one story frame house suffered very much. His house was carried off down to the floor. Some of the heavy timbers fell on his wife and daughter and severely injured both of them. They lost everything in their house, and beds and bedding were found muddy and wet, half a mile off. His double barn blown down. A bureau, quarter of a mile or near a mile, and part of a reaper and mower that was kept in the upper part of his building was carried fully three quarters of a mile from the house. Mr. Prater lost nearly everything he had.

##### CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

A large brick building 32x45, was unroofed and blown down. Some of the

bricks were carried two hundred yards. An old log house not more than one hundred yards off, on top of a hill, was not touched, while a cabin in the track of the storm was lifted up from the valley and set safely on the hill side.

##### WILLIAM FOWLER.

Was the next victim. He had a frame house one story, the top of the chimney was blown off and half way up the chimney seven bricks were forced out clear and clean. Trees were rooted up and blown from all directions about his house, making a strong barricade. His hay shed and large barn were blown down and some of the shed timbers 10 inches square, 18 feet long were carried one-fourth mile off. His frame mill, three stories high was blown off down to the first story, which was rock. His neighbor, Thomas Hargrave, in a log house, two stories high had his roof blown off, leaving his children uncovered and uninjured. Abijah Fowler and Robert Kittrell both lost their barns and out houses.

The Baptist Church, a good substantial building of frame was entirely destroyed.

##### FREAKS AND INCIDENTS.

Mr. John R. Gaines, who lived less than 300 yards from "Squire Burton's," the second victim in the order named, had a fine nursery and good buildings, but escaped, being just outside of the belt now a perfect track of desolation.

Wm. Kittrell, who lived within fifteen steps of the line of the storm, was uninjured.

Our informant saw a cedar tree, 30 feet long and 15 inches through, whipped clean of all branches, and blown, roots and all, a great distance.

The storm crossed the Little Tennessee river, at Jackson's Ferry, and blew down a fine new barn belonging to Mr. Jackson. This was the last trace of the storm our informant had. The belt the storm traveled was from one-fourth to three-fourths of a mile wide, and for that space, for eight miles, scarcely a fence or house is standing. Fences were blown on one side and fences from that side were blown to the other. The wind came from every direction and swept into this narrow belt, where the work of destruction was rapid and complete.

After the storm was over, friends from all directions gathered in to relieve the sufferers. Our informant was an eye witness of what we have described, and was one of about seventy-five who built about five miles of fencing on Thursday. To save the crops they ran one fence around about ten thousand acres of growing grain and grass.

The people of Philadelphia turned out on Friday to aid in the work of repairing the damage done.

The most remarkable feature connected with this terrific hurricane is that no lives were lost. It came up so rapidly and swept over the country so swiftly that the inhabitants were not aroused from their sleep. Had they been about falling trees, timbers, &c., would no doubt have killed many.

It is impossible to estimate the damage done, but from our account, which we are assured is reliable, our readers can see it was the most destructive storm that ever visited this section.

### The Bismarck Arms—A Legend of the Bismarck Family.

At the front entrance of Prince Bismarck's villa, in Pomerania, the eye is arrested by the inscription of the Bismarck arms. It consists of a clover leaf entwined by three nettle leaves, and concerning which the following story is chronicled:

Long ago Gertrude, of the Bismarcks, a beautiful Pomeranian princess, was sought in marriage by hundreds of suitors from all parts of the country, who admired her as much for her becoming manners as for her exquisite beauty. These attentions she respectfully declined, and was finally betrothed, by consent of her parents, to a first cousin, when from the German ocean there came a nobleman, a landlord, accompanied by a hundred horsemen, seeking her hand in marriage. She having refused, the Wendish prince became so enraged that he called his horsemen around him and thus spoke:

"I will break this clover leaf with my own hand. Yes, if there were a nettle to boot, however much pain it would give me, I would break it." He then and there took the castle by storm and slew Gertrude's father. He then breathed freely, and with malicious eye and exultant smile approached Gertrude's room and thus addressed her: "I came to break you, you golden cliver of my heart; you are no nettle, and do not sting; the clover leaf causes no pain;" and with a perfect surety of gaining his prize embraced the lovely Gertrude. But oh, horror! he sank to the floor weltering in his own blood with a cry for mercy on his lips, for the fair princess had stabbed him to the heart with a dagger she had concealed about her person.

"Sadly mistaken," said she; "I am a nettle when I wish, and can sting; and so do nettles ever sting the one who would break a clover leaf of the Bismarcks."—N. Y. Evening Mail.

In speaking of the German Peace Procession in New York the Cincinnati Commercial's Correspondent says: "Nothing could more strikingly show the exceeding value of the immigration to this country from Germany during the last twenty-five years. Germany has sent us hundreds of thousands of the most industrious and ingenious, the most intelligent and honest artisans and mechanics. They have been of immense advantage to us. Their influence in developing the resources of the country and our domestic industry has been incalculable. We have no class of workers better trained or better skilled, more economical or more faithful; and we have no class of people who make better American citizens. It is well for us to encourage German immigration."

Nothing has, as yet, been heard from Forrest Powell and Barney Whelan who broke jail a few days since, although a vigorous search has been instituted.—Memphis Avalanche.