



THE NORTH CAROLINA MYSTERY.

Exciting Facts About the Volcanic Indications.

The People Sing, Pray and Tremble.
NEAR THE VOLCANIC REGIONS,
McDOWELL CO., MARCH 12, 1874.

For the last twenty days the greatest excitement has prevailed, to a distance of ten miles around the vicinity of Bald Mountain.

As your readers have been informed, this mountain is situated between Crooked Creek, in McDowell county, and Broad River—the mountain also extending into Rutherford county—that portion of the range within McDowell is more generally called Stone Mountain. The first signs of alarm in this locality were witnessed on the 10th day of February, about 1 o'clock in the evening. This consisted in what the people call a "terrible lumbering," the earth seeming to "quiver" to a frightful extent. Some parties describe it as a terrible thunder, gradually dying away in the distance; others describe the noise as the roaring of heavy artillery in the distance.

And on the 12th of February two gentlemen were on the highest point of Bald Mountain, at what is known as Harris' View—which is said to be next to Mt. Mitchell in height. On that day these gentlemen heard this strange noise. One of the gentlemen says it first reminded him of the falling of heavy timber, and presented a strange combination of sounds and impressions. Parties living on the mountain sides, and at the foot, heard the same—all think that the noise was in the mountain. One man says when he was on one side of the mountain the terrible noise was in the direction of the mountain—and when on the opposite side, the same indications were observed. All feel satisfied that the noise proceeds alone from this mountain.

But on the 22d of February the noise had reached such a point as to become perfectly terrible. Among the persons living on this mountain are Mr. Camp, Johnston Elliot, Noah Elliott, Widow Nanny, George Morgan, James Gilbert and others. From a statement of all these parties, and perhaps fifty others, the mountain was actually "shaking," the moving was like the entire mountain was giving away, the table-ware in the houses, the furniture all rocked and jolted with frightful force. One man riding on horse-back, his horse became fearfully frightened. It is said that the cattle have become alarmed and wandered from their usual range.

Such was the alarm, that about 12 o'clock on the night of the 22nd, the people for miles around began to assemble at a man's house by the name of Camp. And Camp having gone to the wood pile for wood, became so alarmed, that he fell upon his knees, and began to pray aloud. Very soon the terrible "quaking" of the mountain was such that the great crowd now assembled engaged in prayer. At daybreak on Monday morning of the 25th ult., George Logan, a colored Baptist preacher, was sent for in great haste. And so impatient were they of his arrival, that a portion of the crowd met him on the road, beseeching him to come and pray and preach. The people thus assembled remained in these devotions for three days, when they moved a short distance to a vacant house, the property of Harris Elliott. About the third day Billy Logan, a white man, and Baptist preacher, was sent for, who came immediately. On the third day of March, Rev. J. M. Lumley, the Methodist minister in charge of the Broad River Mission, was imprompted to attend and preach, who promptly complied with the request.

From an eye witness, the scenes are described as most strange and extraordinary. The people came flocking in crowds of fifteen and twenty, including men, women and children, all presenting the most terrible state of fear, despair and penitence. On the day Mr. Lumley preached, the house was literally packed, the preacher scarcely having room to stand, so great was the rush to hear, that many rushed up the side of the walls and crowded on the joists above—only a portion of the upper story having a floor.

The portion having the floor was filled, thus forming a sort of gallery. And many not being able to enter the house, crowded their heads in the door and all around the house, manifesting the most intense interest. When the call was made for mourners, the people rushed from all parts of the house, and from outside of the house with almost frantic yells, and fell upon the floor and upon each other, all praying and supplicating in the most heartfelt and agonizing manner ever witnessed on earth.

These exercises continued incessantly for 10 days and nights with but little intermission.

During this time the people all lived in common—no attention was given to labor or property—cattle, horses and hogs were turned to the woods, and the entire people within the range of this awful excitement were concluded that they have but a few more days to live. About one hundred have made profession of religion. The doing scenes of this strange meeting are represented as most peculiar and wonderful.

During most of this period of 16 days the mountain had continued at intervals to present the same alarming impressions. But having prayed, shouted, sung and agonized for this long period, they separated with the promise that all would remain and die if necessary. It is said that the awestricken countenances, the melancholy demeanor of this vast crowd on the breaking up of the devotions are beyond all description.

In these excited devotions it seems that all became perfectly resigned to what seemed an inevitable fate. All past differences were forgotten, and mutual amnesty seemed to be the universal feeling. One old woman, a strong Baptist in her religious opinions, cried out to Bro. Lumley, the Methodist minister, "Now is the time to unite, as we are all soon to go to the Judgment!"

It will be proper to remark that many

of these people were not heretofore in the habit of attending church—they lived in the utmost disregard of the Sabbath, and have given but little attention to education.

Whatever may be the nature of this terrible "quaking mountain" it is certain that the effect upon the people has been the most wonderful on record. Your readers might imagine the alarm and terror which would seize the frightened hundreds upon a ship about to go down with the storm in mid ocean, or the rushing from a falling house, or from a building in flames, but these alarms are but little more than what has been witnessed on Bald Mountain and vicinity.

Your reporter has only proposed at this time to give the effect upon the people of this wonderful phenomenon; reserving for another time a description of this mountain. It might, however, be well to remark, that this mountain is within a few miles of the celebrated Chimney Rock. And near this mountain is the famous Bat Cave, the Blue Rock, Sugar Loaf, Bellows Crack, the Whirlpools, each of which constitutes a wonderful curiosity and reserved for future descriptions.

"Harris' View" is the highest point upon the Bald Mountain, from which you have the most magnificent mountain views. One mile below Harris' View gushes forth a very large spring called Laurel Spring. The distance from the foot to the top of Bald Mountain, is about four miles. Quite a number agree in the statement that the recent snow would not stay upon a portion of the mountain.

As I write, the excitement is not so great, but all are fearfully apprehensive of some calamity. REPORTER.

A FURTHER ACCOUNT.

Nothing new from the scene of action since our last, save the rumbling, shaking sensations and noises continue. In conversation with a gentleman of our town this week, who once visited Vesuvius, we learn that the sensations and noises now felt about the Bald Mountain are peculiar to mountains about to break out in volcanic eruptions. We are making arrangements for a scientific examination and exposition of this very strange and wonderful phenomenon.—*Asheville Citizen.*

CONGRESSIONAL.

First Session Forty-third Congress.

WASHINGTON, March 24.

HOUSE.

The House passed by more than a two-thirds majority a bill reported from the Committee on Ways and Means, fixing the limit of legal tender notes at \$400,000,000. Amendments offered by two members of the committee to fix the amount at \$350,000,000, the present legal limit, and at \$382,000,000, the amount actually in circulation, was defeated by majorities considerably over two-thirds. The representatives from the New England States and New York voted for the most part against the bill. Those from Pennsylvania, the West and South were generally for it.

WASHINGTON.

Appropriations.

The fortification bill gives the following appropriations: Fortress Monroe, \$30,000; Fort Moultrie, \$20,000; Fort Pulaski, \$20,000; Fort Jackson, \$20,000; Fort St. Philip, \$20,000; Fort Taylor, \$20,000. Following this is an explicit statement of the present situation of Southern Claims as passed the Senate.

The army appropriation bill as it came from the House did not effect, in any respect, claims for property in rebellious States, but it proposed to augment the Claims Commission by two new members who were to have jurisdiction of all claims for property taken in loyal States. This proposition was rejected by the Senate; and that body further amended the House bill by requiring special appropriations by Congress, to pay the awards of the Quartermaster and Commissary-General for loyal States' property.

HOME NEWS.

Trouble for the Crusaders.

CLEVELAND, O., March 21.—The Mayor has issued a proclamation against disorderly assemblages. It will be at their own peril if they attempt to molest citizens in orderly exercise of lawful rights, whether in the street or elsewhere. It is impossible to say what course the ladies will now pursue, as the proclamation appeals to them equally as much as to the crusaders who followed them in their rounds.

POTTSVILLE, March 21.—A mine rope broke which was descending the slope, and three were killed and seven wounded.

A Nashville dispatch of the 18th says: A fire occurred last evening in the warehouse of the Tennessee Chair Manufacturing Company, which was filled with furniture, all of which was totally destroyed. The fire spread to the adjoining buildings of Greenfield, Ashwell & Sneed, furniture dealers, which were also totally destroyed, and the mattress manufactory of E. H. Miller, which was partially crushed by falling walls, and the rear portion burned. All the buildings burned were owned by Mrs. W. T. Allison. The loss is about \$35,000. The Chair Manufacturing Company loss about \$40,000; insured for \$20,000. Greenfield, Ashwell & Sneed loss \$18,000; insured for \$14,000. E. H. Miller loses \$8,000; insured for \$1,000. The buildings were insured for about \$15,000.

France pays her ambassadors fairly. Her new minister to London, the Duc de la Rochefoucauld-Bisaecia, gets \$40,000 a year, the highest sum paid to any diplomatist except the ambassador to St. Petersburg, who receives \$50,000. The ambassador at Vienna receives \$34,000; the one at Berlin \$28,000.

THE COUNTERFEITING CASES.

The Submission and Sentence for Seven Years of Nick Sharp.

Judge Emmons' Remarks to the Prisoner.

The United States Circuit Court room, Monday, was crowded to excess in anticipation of hearing the evidence in one of the counterfeiting cases. The court met at 2 P. M., Hon. H. H. Emmons, Circuit Judge, on the bench.

The first case called was that against Nick Sharp. The case had been originally called last week, but on special affidavit had been postponed until Monday.

Another effort was made Monday to continue. The special cause assigned last week for continuance was the absence of a witness, Eli Miller, who, it was alleged by Sharp, would swear that he had overheard two detectives, Bauer and an associate, say that they wanted to get defendant (Sharp) to temporarily take some counterfeit money, and upon such a temporary possession of it, secure a conviction. Last week Judge Emmons postponed the case, to allow Sharp time to secure the attendance of Miller.

But Monday, Sharp returned with a certificate from Dr. Harrison, to the effect that Miller was suffering from consumption and two "risings" and could not attend. Judge Emmons held that the affidavit was not sufficient, as it did not disclose any merits. He called attention of counsel to his rulings at last term of the court, when he decided formally and put his decision in print, that he would not grant a continuance in a criminal case under the circumstances of the present case unless the defendant would swear that he had been advised by his counsel, and upon that advice believed that he had good grounds of defence against the charges preferred.

THE DEFENDANT SUBMITS TO THE MERCY OF THE COURT.

Judge Emmons having refused the motion for continuance, the defendant and his counsel after consultation decided to submit his case, which was done through Mr. Henderson. This announcement produced a decided sensation in the crowded court room.

JUDGE EMMONS' SENTENCE.

The prisoner was asked to step forward by the Judge, which he did. Judge Emmons, amid the breathless silence of the assembled company then delivered the following sentence which we give as near as we can from our notes in the language of the Judge:

It is always a painful duty, Mr. Sharp, for a court to sentence a fellow citizen to punishment for committing an infamous crime. The court has been informed that you have been what is termed a "dealer" in counterfeit money. You became a tempter to young men to commit this crime of passing counterfeit money. It is a great temptation to young men to offer them for a trifle the similitude of money. It is a peculiar temptation to young men. If you were to locate in a community and make it your business to beckon the young sons of your neighbors into liquor saloons, those dens of infamy that destroy so many of our young, and there ask them to commit burglary they would fly from you. But you show them the similitude of money, and offer it to them, and many a bright promising boy, that could never be tempted to any other crime, will yield. It is a mysterious infatuation that comes over them. The same mysterious power seems to draw on the dealer who sells it out to them. He is not satisfied with one transaction but he keeps on. You have not been so happy since your criminal business has been carried on as the toiling farmers about you. There is nothing in crime that ought to draw men on, but it seems to do it.

Criminals ought to be punished in proportion as they have power to allure others on to crime. Your offence merits a longer punishment than I am about to give you, but I have been induced by reasons stated by the District Attorney and your counsel, and because you have submitted your cause without subjecting the Government to the delay and expense of a trial, to modify your sentence.

My Bro. Judge Ballard, of the Kentucky district, sentenced two of your associates in this crime for ten and twelve years. He mentioned your name in connection with these cases. You are known over in his court. You will be sentenced to seven years' confinement in the penitentiary at hard labor.

The impressive, earnest manner of Judge Emmons in this sentence and accompanying remarks, produced a profound impression upon all present.

Sharp and the Judge were alternately the center towards which all eyes were turned. The prisoner was immovable. He gazed steadily at the court through the terrible ordeal, but save a tear that forced itself from one eye, he failed to show a single emotion.

SOMETHING ABOUT THE PRISONER.

Nick Sharp, as he is popularly called, is a man of about 45 years of age; gray hair and beard. He is about five feet eight inches high, and a stout, vigorous-looking man. He was born and raised in Union county. He has one son of age, who was present in court when his father was sentenced. He has two daughters married. Mr. Sharp, if his general reputation and character is not grossly misrepresented, has been more or less a dealer in counterfeit money for years. He has been frequently indicted for the offence in the State Courts, but has never been convicted. He has accumulated some property, but has it now in the shape of money and mostly beyond the process of the law. Through the vigilance and firmness of District Attorney Judge Andrews, and his associate Maj. Petribone, this man and his associates have

at last been cornered, convicted and sentenced. We hope it is the last of this infamous crime, which has demoralized parts of our section and poisoned and corrupted the channels of justice so long.

Judge Emmons' vigorous rebuke and prompt punishment of these men has won for him the good will and praise of all law-abiding men.

THE NEW YORK RING.

The Former Millionaires Now Homeless Vagabonds.

A New York correspondent writes: If ever the hand of the Almighty has been apparent in the affairs of the city such a manifestation is to be noticed in the breaking up of the ring. It had reached such a point of infamy that the community stood aghast. The taxes had been increased to an amount which was but another name for confiscation. The only way to obtain a reduction to fair terms was to bribe the assessors ply inside influence. As a direct result rents advanced, and the poor, who from the bulk of our population, were ground still more severely to meet the rapacity of their government robbers. The farce of liberality was exhibited when Tweed, to conciliate the masses, gave \$50,000 to the poor—taking at the same time ten times the amount by increased taxation. The humiliation of this great city had never been equaled; the extent of plunder will never be fully measured. Such were the crimes of the ring when it was thrown, in a manner so marked and complete that one could hardly avoid exclaiming, "This is the finger of God."

I shall not treat this revolution in which the press the *Times* and *Harpers Weekly* especially rendered such eminent service. The result is before the world. First, the efficient tool in the street widening frauds was killed by his gay-spirited team, which had been purchased with stolen money. Next to Watson went Jim Fisk by the bullet of the youth whom he had lured to ruin. The first was a great loss to his associates, but the second was still greater. Fisk's department was the manipulation of the courts. He owned McCunn, Cardozo, and Barnard, and the latter shared the orgies of the Mandfield residence. The rotten judiciary soon met their time of judgment. Cardozo escaped impeachment by resignation. McCunn, when expelled from his seat on the bench, felt the blow so severely that he died, while Barnard still drags out a shameful existence. With Tweed and Ingersoll in prison, with Conolly, Sweeney, and Genet homeless vagabonds, the next step was to punish the bank which assisted them in their fraud, and in this we may hope that our Mayor and Controller will be successful. In such a connection I am compelled to notice the death of Henry Smith, who was the best man of the entire band, and whose chief ill-fortune was that he ever became one of its number.

Tweed, personally speaking, is poor. He sold large amounts of real estate to meet the expenses of his trial, and on this the depreciation was immense. He was cheated by every one who acted in his service, and after his conviction he conveyed all that was left to his relatives—who will never recover it. If Tweed were released to-day he would be dependent on the bounty of his kindred, and they will take good care of what little is left. Henry Smith, who was estimated at a half million, was lured into Wall-street operations, by which he sunk almost his entire fortune. It is said that he was deceived by the plausible representations made by one of the ring, John McBride Davidson, who led him into the trap and shared the tremendous loss. The specialty which fascinated them was the Hannibal and St. Joseph railroad, which subsequently shrunk with astonishing depreciation. Smith at that time was said to have become irresponsible. What was left of his property was in other hands. Fortunately for himself he had, during the domination of the ring, obtained the office of police commissioner, with a salary of \$10,000 a year. When the ring was driven to exile, or subjected to punishment, he was the only one that was in a place of safety—except the witness Garvey. Having been the least guilty of the band of thieves his punishment was the lightest.

Call for a State Convention of the Colored Citizens of Tennessee.

FELLOW-COUNTRYMEN: By a unanimous expression of a number of the most considerate of our friends and well-wishers, as citizens of our State and country, it is decided that the circumstances which surround us, and the responsibilities which we have to sustain to each other, and the burdens as well as privileges of American liberty, all agree that now is an auspicious time for us to meet in one general State Convention, if possible, from every county in the State. Let there be a full delegation elected to meet in the city of Nashville, Tennessee, on Tuesday, April 28, 1874, at 12 o'clock, at Liberty Hall.

In view of the above call, we, the undersigned, deem it proper that Knox county should be represented. We therefore call upon our colored fellow-citizens to meet in the city of Knoxville, at the Court House, Friday night, April 3, 1874, at 7 o'clock, to elect delegates to said convention. Persons attending the county convention are requested to bring statistics of schools, churches, agriculture, mechanics, and the condition of the colored people in general.

Signed—Preston McNatt, Peter Epps, Ed. Maples, Robert Talver, Ed. Campbell, Samuel Alexander, Henderson Jones, Richard Payne, David Brown, Wm. Graham, Madison Scott, Geo. Russell, A. Gay, James Tipton, Wm. Porter, Allen Anderson, Geo. W. Ray, W. L. Brooks, Chas. Scott, Wiley Maby, Wm. Howell, W. F. Yardley, Allen McNatt.

The native and foreign born population in Ohio stands as follows: Native, 2,192,753; foreign, 372,493. From this it will be seen that the natives are six to one of the foreign born population. There are, however, 844,885 of the population, one or both of whose parents are foreign born.

BROWNLOW ON THE CURRENCY.

The Tennessee Senator Lubooms Himself to a Reporter.

A New York Herald "Commissioner" interviewed every United States Senator on the currency question, in order to elicit their views. Here is what Senator Brownlow had to say:

I am firmly convinced that the good of the whole country requires an increase in the volume of our circulating medium. Of course I do not mean by this that it is to the interest of the few States having a monopoly of the currency, that we should have an increase. Nor do I mean that it is to the interest of a few thousand very rich men and a few thousand bloated officers and stockholders of national banks, having a monopoly of the money of the country, that we should have an increase of the circulating medium. But the great mass of the people need it and demand it. In all the Southern and Western States there is great suffering because of the want of an adequate supply of money. It is this suffering which has given potency to the organization known as grangers. And unless the present Congress shall, by an increase of the currency, give to the West and South what they regard as justice in this matter the next House of Representatives will, I fear, be inimical to the Republican party and the Administration. My solution of the difficulty is an increase in the volume of our circulating medium with free banking. With such legislation on the part of Congress the commercial needs of the country will have been met. The suffering now prevailing throughout two thirds of the country will have been alleviated. The Republican party will have regained its lost prestige and can—if Gen. Grant will accept the nomination—as triumphantly re-elect him for the third term as it did for the second. The idea of returning to specie payments is preposterous. It will bring wide-spread disaster and ruin to the great mass of our countrymen and kill any party that effects it. Wise and moderate expansion, to bring the volume of the currency to the measure of the country's needs, is what the people desire and will have.

NEWS SUMMARY.

The coming municipal election in Minneapolis is to be a temperance test.

A bill is before the Massachusetts Legislature to establish a separate State prison for females, with room for five hundred. The cost is not to exceed \$500,000.

The distress among the poorer classes in Paris is said to have assumed frightful proportions.

The Mississippi House of Representatives has fixed the salary of members at \$500 per annum.

The Young Men's Christian Association of Boston are going to erect a new building, and have raised \$34,310 towards that object.

The proposition to tax church property was defeated in the Constitutional Convention of Ohio on the 16th inst.

The manufacture of imitation butter from suet has become a considerable mercantile interest. In Albany a company has just begun operations with a capital of \$50,000.

The negro exodus from Alabama and Georgia continues. The Montgomery *Advertiser* learns that fifteen thousand tickets for negro emigrants have been taken up on the roads leading southward and westward from that city.

The prospect is that the telegraph wires will groan under the weight of base-ball game reports. Three tons of base-ball bats have been shipped by a single Vermont manufacturer to the Boston market this winter.

On the announcement of the death of ex-President Fillmore, in the United States Senate, Senator Sherman asked if there was a precedent for an adjournment. Senator Anthony replied that Congress adjourned upon the death of General Washington, and it was upon that occasion that the phrase, "First in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen" was uttered.

The New Hampshire legislature just elected will not choose a United States Senator, as no vacancy occurs until 1877, when Mr. Cragin's term expires. The coming election in Connecticut is given great importance by the election of a Senator to succeed Senator Buckingham, whose term closes next March.

SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

The *Avalanche* can not be turned aside either by the correspondents or editor of the *Union and American* from assailing the funding bill, the funding ring, and their advocates and defenders. We shall keep up the fight until the people in the November elections have passed judgment upon them and their policy. We may be in error in believing that the present system of taxation, assessment and administration of State and local governments, is unequal and unjust, oppressive and ruinous to the best interests of the labor and property of the State. It is not change that we advocate, but reform of abuses; not agitation for the sake of agitation, but for the cause of better government, and in this cause we are willing to submit to odious epithets from our opponents who have no argument to make.—*Memphis Avalanche.*

The net results of the Ashantee expedition appear to be the killing of a part of the Ashantee army and the promise of the King to pay a few thousand pounds of gold by way of indemnity, and to refrain from making war on any of the tribes allied with England. The English commander expresses doubts as to whether the indemnity will be paid, and is evidently satisfied with having beaten the savages in battle, and so humiliated for a time their presumptuous monarch.—*The Graphic.*