Nor let it be supposed that there was any thing peurile in this, for in him, every thing, even to the major part of his most trifling actions, tended to a great purpose. For this reason, on his return to Moscow, he went to the master of the forge, and inquired what he paid his workmen. 'Well, then,' said he, 'I, at that rate, have earned eight alkins, (about thirteen pence) and I am come for the money." Having received it, he added, that, 'with that sum he would buy for himself a pair of shoes,' of which he was in great want. This was very true; and he then hastened to the market to make his purchase, which he afterwards felt a pleasure in wearing. 'See what I have earned by the sweat of my brow,' said he to his courtiers—thus priding himself on the fruits of his labor, in the eyes of a nobility whom he wished to cure of the Oriental and haughty indolence with which they were imbued."

A great man, who thus exposed the weak points of his character, should be content to be thought vain of his greatness, since he considered it able to afford such concessions to his puerilities. Count de Segur, whose capacity for estimating the qualities of a civil and military governor is not very largely developed, sums up the merits and defects of his idol in these words—

"Historians of the nineteenth century, while we detest the violent acts of this prince, why should we be astonished at his despotism? Who was there who could then teach him, that to be truly liberal or moral is the same thing. But of what consequence is it that he was ignorant that morality calls for the establishment of liberty, as being the best possible means of securing the general welfare? All that he did for that welfare, or in other words, for the glory, the instruction, and the prosperity of his empire, was it not beneficial to that liberty, of which neither himself nor his people were yet worthy? Thus, without being aware of it, Peter the Great did more for liberty than all the dreams of liberalism have since fancied that he ought to have done. His people are indebted to him for their great and most difficult step towards emancipation. What matters, then, his abhorrence of the word, when he labored so much for the thing? Since despotism was necessary there, how could he better employ it?

"If he carried matters too far—if he often deemed it just to inflict on his enemies all the evil which they wished to him, and to treat his country like a conquest in order to conquer it to civilization—in a word, if he overcame in his Russians their barbarous manners, by dint of the barbarism which still remained in himself—the fault must be attributed to his education, to the age in which he lived, and to the circumstance of a degree of power being requisite there, which has never been found to exist in man without being pushed to excess.

"It was in this hyperborean land, where a freezing temperature is adverse to social intercourse, by confining each individual within his own limits; in these humid and cold regions, where every kind of strength and superiority seems as though it ought to exert itself only to escape from them, to conquer a milder climate, under a distant sky, it was here that this citizen despot, so familiar, so accessible, so enamored of truth, full of the pride of noble actions—and endowed with admirable sagacity, with boundless zeal, and with sleepless activity, devoted himself in order to transform this barbarous and desolating nature into an enlightened and productive nature."

If one sentiment in this estimate be true—that he contributed to liberty without being aware of it, or worthy of participating its results—then the eulogist of Peter the Great has taken a great deal of trouble to no purpose.

English Publication.

From the Georgia Statesman, May 23.

METEORIC EXPLOSION.

That atmospheric concretions of stony and metalline substances of a frightful bulk have frequently dashed upon the earth's surface from some superior region is a fact which rests upon as good authority as human testimony and the evidence of our senses can afford. These phenomena happen as well when the atmosphere is apparently serene as when it is cloudy. There is first seen, usually a black floating mass, coming with immense velocity through the air, as if a winged messenger, palled in the dunnest smoke of Hades, had issued through some volcano's crater, black with uncommon wrath, and was flying astride a thunderbolt, on some errand of desolation, when an explosion, sometimes in successive peals, like that of distant artillery, astounds the ear, and long belching radiations of fire are seen issuing in every direction from the dense volume that marks its way. The explosion precipitates to the earth—sometimes upon buildings, ships at sea, and the heads of individuals, a red hot *material* thunderbolt, hissing with molten fervor, and destroying whatever it falls upon, or penetrating the surface of the earth, according to its momentum from two to six feet!

The arenaceous, feruginous, and metalline compoponents of these *ærolites*, or burning masses, sometimes fall unaccreted, in the manner of hail or snow, but more frequently in conglomerated masses, weighing from thirty to two hundred and fifty pounds.—These bodies have a peculiar aspect, and a peculiar combination of properties, differing from all the solid substances on the face of the globe. They have fallen from various points of the heavens, at all periods, in all seasons of the year, at all hours, both of the day and the night, also in all countries of the world, on mountains and in plains, and without any particular relation to volcanos, and without any chemical identity with the matter which they disembogue. They are composod chiefly of silecia, magnesia, iron and nickel, with their oxides and sulphurets; giving to the whole mass the appearance of a pale ash-grey argillaceous stone, with granulated metallic points, and is to common marble in weight about 4 to 3.

Our attention is called to this subject by a most startling phenomenon of this sort which is said to have been witnessed on the eighth instant, near Forsyth, in Monroe county of this State. The evening was serene, and a more than ordinary stillness prevailed in the air. There was no appearance of storm or of clouds that could produce even a momentary shower, when the fire-ball which we are going to describe was discovered. It was moving with immense velocity, involved in a mass of smoke that marked its flight, like an enormous shell from a mortar, emitting an audible hissing sound, resembling the ignition of rosin, and, in a few seconds, exploded, like a shock of thunder, and fell to the earth, about one mile from Forsyth, in Mr Uriah Dunn's field, where his overseer and servants were at work. Though considerably alarmed at first, they ventured to the spot denoted by the breach it had made through the surface, and, after turning up the earth about two feet in depth, they came upon the stone that had fallen, about the size of a child's head, and weighing thirty-six pounds! The exterior of the stone was covered with a black and feruginous incrustation, run so equally over the whole as showed that it must have been in a state of fusion. On breaking the mass, its internal structure closely resembled almost every other meteoric stone that we have seen; having the usual characteristics of color and grain, except that it was slightly speckled with a yellowish substance, with a larger proportion of nickel perhaps in the composition than is usual. The fragment which we have examined (now in our office,) abounds with brilliant metallic points, and is about 20 per cent. heavier than the celebrated Meteorite which fell in Weston, Conn. in 1807, and now in the cabinet of Minerals at Yale College. Its specific gravity is 4.14, allowing that of water to be 1. The medium specific gravity of meteorites that have fallen in the last century is about 3.60.

The concussion produced in the atmosphere by the great explosion which preceded the descent of this stone was felt for some distance round, insomuch that the crockery and windows were sensibly affected. It is quite probable that several other portions of this stone fell in the same neighborhood, for there were several successive and lesser explosions before the mass reached the earth. We learn that a fragment struck on a rock at a mill there, and was dashed into a thousand atoms.

There are doubtless many of our readers who have regarded as fabulous the idea of *cast iron thunderbolts*, and "hailstones of iron globes," or the more harmless irrigation of stony showers and metallic snows; yet we assure them that all these things are strictly real. But how these meteoric concretions are formed in the atmosphere, by what laws they are sustained in motion, or how they came there at all, are unsettled questions even among the best theories of the terrestrial phenomena. The French Academicians of the last century maintained that the stones in question resulted from a stroke of lightning on the spot in which they were found; others that they were belched from some terrestrial, and some from lunar volcanoes. The latter notion derived some countenance from the speculations of those celebrated mathematicians, La Place, Poisson, Hutton, and others, who have demonstrated the abstract proposition, that a heavy body, projected with a velocity of about 6,000 feet in a second, may be driven beyond the sphere of the moon's attraction into that of the earth. But we are apt to think that an emetic to produce this effect would burst the sides of the old lady. Others again think, or profess to think, that these stones are merely the *chips* of the universe, that *got a going* when he "who put these wheeling globes in motion wound up the vast machine," and that they have continued since that time to float through the infinity of space, but being drawn out of their proper course by some force of attraction, they at last impinged upon this planet, as they have upon others. One of the more modern and prevailing theories connects itself with the origin of the four small new planets, viz: Ceres, Pallas, Juno, and Vesta, that were first seen coursing around the sun between Mars and Jupiter, since 1801. The theory is, that these four little planets are the "fragments of another world," occupying a similar distance from the sun, but which has been riven into quarters by some great convulsion, and that, out of this convulsion, by its explosive force, there were projected, with very great velocity, a number of little fragments, and, being thrown beyond the attraction of the larger fragments, thus might fall towards the earth when Mars happened to be in the remote part of his orbit. The central parts of the original planet being kept in a state of high compression by the superincumbent weight, and this compressing force being removed by the destruction of the body, a number of lesser fragments might be detached from the larger masses by a force similar to the first. The fragments will evidently be thrown off with the greatest velocity, and will always be separated from those parts which formed the central portions of the primitive planet. When the portions which are thus detatched arrive within the sphere of the earth's attraction, they may revolve round that body at different distances, and may fall upon its surface in consequence of a diminution of their centrifugal force; or, being struck by the electric fluid, they may be precipitated on the earth, and exhibit all those phenomena which usually accompany the descent of meteoric stones.

These theories, which are, indeed, but problematical, comprise about all that is known as to the origin of meteoric stones; and we should have been more readily excused for *not saying any thing* than for having omitted to account, in some manner, for their phenomena.

From the New England Farmer.

BOTTS IN HORSES.

Mr Editor: Among the many good and useful things that are discovered and by you published, it would be strange if there were not some barely worth publishing, and some worse than nothing. Among the last, I think may be numbered many of the recipes for killing botts in horses. Having from my youth been fond of a good horse, I have paid my attention to the animal; and have long since been fully convinced that it was folly to wage an open war with botts in a horse's stomach, believing that there has nothing yet been discovered that will kill them in the stomach without killing the horse.—I should almost as soon think of setting fire to my barn to kill the rats and mice. Many things, which you have heretofore published, I think good, such as bleeding to prevent inflammation. Yet, I think the most sure way is to keep the horse free from nits.

Some years since I had a very valuable mare that was attacked with bots, and to appearance, very far gone. I set the following trap for them, which more than answered my expectation. I took of bees-wax, mutton tallow and loaf sugar, each eight ounces, put it into one quart of warm milk, and warmed until it was melted. Then put it into a bottle, and gave it just before the wax &c. began to harden. About two hours after gave physic. The effect was that the botts were discharged in large numbers, each piece of wax having from one to six or eight of them sticking to it, some by the head, but most by their legs or hooks.

The Criminal Law of England is so severe, that court and jury are very often glad to let the prisoner escape upon technicalities, niceties, or quibbles. An instance of this is given in a London paper now before us, where it is stated that Henry Hepburne was indicted for stealing a penknife. The article, when produced, appeared to be an instrument containing a pair of nail-scissors and a knife-blade. Mr Sergeant Arabin left it to the jury to say if it was a knife or not. The Jury said they did not know which to call it, a knife or a pair of scissors; and, therefore, giving the prisoner the benefit of the doubt, returned a verdict of Not Guilty.