

OGLETHORPE UNIVERSITY,

16467

FACULTY:

REV. DAVID WILKS, D. D., President and Professor of Belles Lettres and Sacred Literature.
GUSTAVUS J. ORR, Professor of Mathematics and Astronomy.
REV. DONALD FRASER, A. M., Professor of Latin and Greek Languages and Literature.
W. LECOTE STEPHENS, A. B., Professor of Physical Sciences.
REV. T. A. HOYT, Professor of Metaphysics and Logic.
..... (To be supplied), Professor of Modern Languages.
J. A. RICHARDSON, Professor of Natural Philosophy, and Principal of High School.

The first Term commences the First Monday in October, and closes the 25th February. The second begins on the First Monday in March, and ends July 6.

Tuition—\$15 per Annum—half in advance.

Atlanta, Ga., Feb 20th 1872

Prof Geo F. Barker:

Dear Sir:

I am informed by Dr M. F. Stephenson that parties at Yale College have written to the business manager of the "Atlanta Daily Sun" for an old copy of that paper, containing a short account of certain Hieroglyphics found upon Stone Mountain, ^{Ga.} and examined by Dr. S. and one or ^{two} others besides myself. I therefore enclose you the piece, written by Dr. S. on the evening after the days jaunt. I cannot think that the markings are by any means due wholly to human agency, but certain parts of them could hardly be explained otherwise; if due to the Aztecs (?) an astonishing amount of labor must have been undergone by them in chipping out so large a number of the "mystic circles" in the solid granite. The mountain, solitary and precipitous, might well have excited their awe and been chosen as a place of religious worship; but there seems little probability of our gleaving therefrom any considerable amount of really definite knowledge.

Very Truly Yours

W. LeConte Stevens.

P.S. The "more extended exploration" of Dr. S. has not yet been made.

M. S. C. S.

Hieroglyphics at Stone Mountain.

We mentioned in our last issue that Dr. Stephenson had gone to Stone Mountain to take observation of some antiquities there. The exact nature of the investigation intended, we did not know at the time. There are some inscriptions in the rock upon the top of this mountain which the Doctor wished to inspect, which he believes to be the work of the Mound Builders of this continent—a race totally extinct long before the North American Indian had his origin, but who were civilized to a considerable extent—having a Government and understanding the mechanic arts.

On Saturday Dr. Stephenson took with him Prof. W. J. Land, the celebrated chemist of the Atlanta Laboratory, and Prof. W. L. C. Stevens, of Oglethorpe University, and went to the top of the mountain. At our request, Dr. Stephenson has furnished us with the following highly interesting account of the visit of himself and the party, and of what they observed there:

We reached the summit of this sublime natural curiosity at one o'clock on Saturday, and remained till five, P. M.—feasting on the indescribable wonders and magnificent scenery which surrounded us.

On the North and Northeast, stretching far away till lost in distance, loomed up the Apalachian Mountains; and sweeping round Eastward and Southward, thence to the setting sun, was one interminable landscape, resembling the calm of old ocean; with the spires, and turrets, and steeples of Atlanta, like unto a fleet of ships, to break the monotony of the scene.

Further on, in the dim distance, could be seen the white clouds of vapor from the locomotive, as it rushed onward, past the Kennesaw Mountains, on its way westward; whilst nearer to us the same *weird spectre* shot through the forests of Gwinnett, on the Air-Line Road, towards the Carolinas. Quick as thought we were feasted with another train speeding at our feet on the Georgia Road—all filling up a brilliant, living picture, altogether lovely.

The object of our visit was to examine the sculptures of the extinct Mound Builders, who, countless years ago, lived in this country, and constituted a powerful and despotic nation, extending from the Savannah River and Gulf of Mexico, to the Great Lakes; and from the Apalachian Mountains to the Rocky Mountains, in all parts of which are the some relics of art, and hieroglyphics, which, on the Enchanted Mountain in Forsyth county, and those of Stone Mountain, comprise a series of great interest. These, with the Idol, or "Goddess of Etowah," the elegant quartz discs of Clark and Bibb counties and the sacrificial vessels, form part of an *alphabet* which will enable some Champollion to describe and read the history of this long lost people.

The preservation of these valuable relics should be secured by the Legislature before they are lost, for the benefit of our children, who claim the co-operative aid of the custodians of the people, so as to enable them to keep pace with the world in science and literature; otherwise, as a nation, we will soon become Carthaginians in selfishness.

The sculptures on the Stone Mountain, as far as yet explored, consist of a slightly circular line cut from two to three inches deep, and from one to two feet from the center. It is surrounded by a plainly marked circle—doubtless a symbol of Eternity—but what is strange, they vary from a foot to six feet in circumference, and number hundreds. From the action of the elements for ages the decomposition of the granite increases the depths of the central lines, so as to impress one strongly with the belief that they are the effect of *exfoliation*, from the heat and cold; but this thought is soon dissipated on further examination. At some future time we propose to make a more extended exploration.

Yours, M. F. S.