

CHAPTER XVI.

Journey through North Carolina.—Wilmington.—Recent Fire and Passports for Slaves.—Cape Fear River and Smithfield.—Spanish Moss, and Uses of.—Charleston.—Anti-Negro Feeling.—Passage from Mulattoes to Whites.—Law against importing free Blacks.—Dispute with Massachusetts.—Society in Charleston.—Governesses.—War Panic.—Anti-English Feeling caused by Newspaper Press.—National Arbitration of the Americans.—Dr. Bachman's Zoology.—Geographical Representation of Species.—Rattle-Snakes.—Turkey Buzzards.

Dec. 23, 1845.—THE monotony of the scenery in the principal route from the northern to the southern states is easily understood by a geologist, for the line of railroad happens to run for hundreds of miles on the tertiary strata, near their junction with the granitic rocks. Take any road in a transverse direction from the sea coast to the Alleghanies, and the traveler will meet with the greatest variety in the scenery.* In passing over the tertiary sands and clays, we see Pine Barrens where the soil is sandy, and a swamp, or cane-brake, where the argillaceous beds come to the surface. The entire absence of all boulders and stones, such as are observable almost every where in the New England States and New York, is a marked geological peculiarity of these southern lowlands. Such erratic blocks and boulders are by no means confined in the north to the granitic or secondary formations, for some of the largest of them, huge fragments of granite, for example, twenty feet in diameter, rest on the newer tertiary deposits of the island of Martha's Vineyard, off the coast of Massachusetts.

After leaving Richmond, I remarked that the railway from Weldon to Wilmington, through North Carolina, had not improved in the last three years, nor the stations or inns where we stopped. I was told, in explanation, that this line would soon

* See my "Travels in North America," vol. i. p. 93; and the colored geological map, vol. ii.