

be called "sesbania-cutting," for they set the Hibernians to cut down a dense crop of tall reeds (*Sesbania vesicaria*), which covers the canal and the swamps round the city, growing to the height of fifteen feet, and, like the city functionaries, renewed every year. Some members of the medical college, constituting a board of health, have just come out with a pamphlet, declaring, that by giving to the sun's rays, in summer, free access to the mud in the bogs, and thus promoting the decay of vegetable matter, the cutting down of these reeds has caused malaria.

In the course of all my travels, I had never seen one opossum in the woods, nor a single racoon, their habits being nocturnal, yet we saw an abundant supply of both of them for sale in the market here. The negroes relish them much, though their flesh is said to be too coarse and greasy for the palate of a white man. The number of pine-apples and bananas in the market, reminded us of the proximity of the West Indies. We observed several negroes there, whose health had been impaired by dirt-eating, or the practice of devouring aluminous earth—a diseased appetite, which, as I afterward found, prevails in several parts of Alabama, where they eat clay. I heard various speculations on the origin of this singular propensity, called "geophagy" in some medical books. One author ascribes it to the feeding of slaves too exclusively on Indian corn, which is too nourishing, and has not a sufficiency in it of inorganic matter, so that when they give it to cattle, they find it best to grind up the cob and part of the stalk with the grain. But this notion seems untenable, for a white person was pointed out to me, who was quite as sickly, and had a green complexion, derived from this same habit; and I was told of a young lady in good circumstances, who had never been stinted of her food, yet who could not be broken of eating clay.

Jan. 13.—From Savannah we went by railway to Macon in Georgia, a distance of 191 miles, my wife going direct in a train which carried her in about twelve hours to her destination, accompanied by one of the directors of the railway company, who politely offered to escort her. The same gentleman supplied me with a hand-car and three negroes, so that I was able to perform the journey at my leisure, stopping at all the recent