

A wide belt, commencing on the southern slopes of the mountainous country in Virginia, and running thence through North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia into the highlands of Alabama, inhabited by the Creeks and Cherokees, has been discovered within a few years to be rich in ores of gold. It is found, too, in lumps of native gold. Some of the largest masses of native gold that have ever been discovered, have been found here. This extensive belt is covered with thousands of miners and adventurers. Great amounts of gold are already furnished to the national mint, and this region may hereafter vie in productiveness with the mines of Mexico and Peru. Whether these mines will be a national resource and advantage, is an experiment that remains to be tested. In Missouri, Illinois, and the new Territory of Huron are as rich lead mines as the world can offer. The northern parts of the latter territory abound, also, in copper. The great proportion of the American people are farmers, comparing with the total of those engaged in all other pursuits, as five to one. The number of merchants at present engaged in commerce is about 80,000. Of these, in proportion to the whole population, Michigan Territory furnishes the largest proportion, from the number of persons engaged in the fur trade, the trade on the lakes, and as trapping woodsmen. Massachusetts has the greatest proportion of any one of the states, and Louisiana the next largest relative proportion. The number of manufacturers amounts to nearly 500,000. The number of farmers exceed 2,000,000.

The means of information possessed by the people of the United States may be inferred from the fact, that more than 1,500 periodicals, chiefly newspapers, are circulated in every town and village, from Maine to the Sabine, being a greater number of periodicals than circulates in any other country. Of the character of these periodicals it is unnecessary to speak. In a perfectly free country, it is a misfortune inseparable from freedom, that ignorance and deception, and the passions will speak along with truth. But where truth is left perfectly free to combat error, the balance must always incline to the aid of the diffusion of useful information and truth. From this immense number of papers and periodicals, it follows, that every body is, or assumes to be, a politician and legislator. The dispatch of the mails over more than 100,000 miles of post roads is rapid; and the best proof of the security of mail conveyance is, that the conveyance of money is safe. The official catalogue of the post offices is a considerable volume, showing some thousands of post offices. The people of the United States ought to be a nation of orators. From the session of congress to that of each state legislature, every constituent assembly, every one of the almost innumerable meetings of the people furnishes a call for public speaking. More voice and breath are expended