

THE
AMERICAN
JOURNAL OF SCIENCE,
AND ARTS.

CONDUCTED BY

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VOL. VIII....1824.

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NEW-HAVEN:

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY S. CONVERSE, FOR THE EDITOR.

SOLD BY THE PUBLISHER; BY E. LITTELL,

PHILADELPHIA, AND TRENTON, N. J.; AND

By Howe & Spalding, New-Haven; Davis & Force, Washington, (D. C.); Huntington & Hopkins, Hartford; Cummings & Hilliard, Boston; Goodale Glazier & Co. Hallowel, Maine; A. T. Goodrich & Co. New-York; Caleb Atwater, Circleville, Ohio; Thomas J. Ray, Augusta, Ga.; Whipple & Lawrence, Salem, Mass.; Edward J. Coale, Baltimore; B. D. Plant, Columbia, S. C.; Miller & Hutchins, Providence, R. I.; Thomas R. Williams, Newport, (R. I.); William T. Williams, Savannah, Geo.; Luke Loomis, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Daniel Stone, Brunswick, Me.; Professor D. Ozsted, Chapel Hill College, N. C.; John Miller, No. 69, Fleet-street, London.

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New Localities of Tourmalines and Talc.—Extract from a letter to the Editor.

The tourmalines are from Paxton, Mass. where they occur in a granitic rock, particularly amongst the quartz, and are so thickly imbedded in it, as to alter considerably the appearance of the rock. They are regularly formed double acuminated crystals, of a jet black colour. The largest perfect ones that were brought, are about three fourths of an inch in length; from this they are of all sizes downwards to that of nearly the smallest grain, but still are regular well defined crystals, as may be easily ascertained by the aid of a magnifying glass.

The talc differs from any that I have ever heard mentioned or seen described. This singular variety is from near Worcester, Mass. The mass has a brownish cast and is composed of two parts. The one is compact, of a dirty white and yellowish colour, constituting the base; the other is in thin plates of a yellowish and blackish cast, and resembles mica very much in appearance. It exhales an argillaceous odour upon being moistened. When pulverized it seems to consist of a yellowish powder interspersed with small shining laminae. If subjected to the flame of a blowpipe, or that of a common lamp, it expands and shoots out into a variety of fanciful forms, resembling most generally small *worms* having the *vermicular motion exact*. It sometimes expands with such force as to be thrown some distance. These vermiform remnants are composed of small irregular scales, loosely adhering to each other, having a silvery white appearance and metallic lustre.

If this proves to be a new variety, would it not be better in giving it a distinctive appellation to select one that will indicate the peculiar property it possesses, than to make use of an arbitrary name. I term it Vermiculite (worm breeder) from Vermicular, to breed or produce worms.

THOMAS H. WEBB."