VERONA, April 9, 1873.

LETTER FROM VERONA.

Memphis. Extract from the Appeal.

Editor of Standard:

VERONA

Like old Rome, sits enthroned upon seven hills. A male academy crowns one of the loftiest, and a female college a more lowly hill, perhaps a mile distant. Every hill-op is surrounded by a white cottage, and everywhere there are neatly patched houses of unprefacing plainness and simplicity, telling of a population careful of its gains yet content with the substantial comforts of life. There are twelve merchants in the place, and not one is avoided by drummers that throng villages along all southern railroad lines. Solvency, frugality, and good morals distinguish the population of the place, which proudly boasts of at least "gentlemen" enough for some Shakespeare to imagine it the scene of another immortal story. A share of public spirit distinguishes the people of the village. It not only boasts of two excellent schools and of high hills and excellent water and confessed moral and physical healthfulness, but the schools are enjoyed by children from distant towns and villages. There is talk of a narrow-gauge railway across the country to the coal fields and iron mines of Alabama that manufactories may be established and the village become a city.

The above is an extract from a letter by L. J. D., editor of the Appeal, written to his paper, while on a tour through Mississippi. He spent a day with his brother, Hans, and this part of his letter will interest our people, as it exhibits the impressions produced upon a stranger by a brief visit to Verona. The suggestion of a narrow-gauge railway to the coal-fields of Alabama has awakened the interests of the Veronese. In course of time, the half-defined desire will ripen into a full determination and another decade will see the vast mines of Alabama's coal and iron rendered accessible to us and to the whole State of Mississippi.

The Negro school, though not mentioned by L. J. D., is one of the institutions of Verona, under the judicious discipline and instruction of Prof. Penny, it seems to be accomplishing great good. The young Ethiops are taught to spell and cipher with amazing rapidity. Prof. Penny, though of African extraction, is of Southern birth, and deserves credit for his advance in knowledge as well as his exemplary deportment. He is no poltroon, but seems desirous, yet anxious to ameliorate the condition of his people by contributing all his time and energies to the education of the boys and girls. He is right. If they are to be citizens in the future, they need all the wisdom, that can be imparted in the schools.

Big-foot Bill was asked the other day, why he went to school. He replied that he wanted an education that he might be fitted to fill an office in future, if his fellow countrymen should request him to do so. That is a laudable ambition. If the negro is to have an office, as many will have for the next twenty years, he should be qualified by a liberal education. All efforts at self improvement by the negro should be encouraged. If properly taught by teachers of good principle they will be better citizens than heretofore. But if instructed by designing men from the North, their knowledge will not augment their powers of mischief and prove an eternal curse to the country. When men of Southern birth and true principles can be secured to teach our colored schools, it should be done and our people should encourage such men to take the schools. It is no disgrace to instruct the descendants of Ham and fit them for the duties of free citizenship. Let our own people do this work and it will redound to the happiness of our posterity. Let strangers and enemies do it, and the South becomes a future hell.

Yours &c.,

HANS.