

SCIENCE IN THE NATURALIST, 1850

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INTRODUCTION

This report is part of a survey of Science in little known 19th Century journals that were published in Tennessee. Earlier reports are cited by Corgan (1976). *The Naturalist* was published at Franklin College in Nashville. Monthly issues appeared from January 1850 through December 1850. None of the scientific articles in *The Naturalist* bears the name of an author but all unsigned articles were apparently the work of the editor, Rev. Tolbert Fanning. A bibliography of scientific articles is given below:

- Fanning, Tolbert. 1850a. Geology for practical men. *Naturalist* 1:13-14.
Everyone should understand commonly used things like soil, water, and minerals.
- . 1850b. Notes on South Carolina. *Naturalist* 1:15-17.
Personal observations on the geology of the state.
- . 1850c. Geology for the people. *Naturalist* 1:26-30; 73-78.
Interprets the earth as a few thousand years old. Outlines processes of soil formation.
- . 1850d. The present state of geological knowledge. *Naturalist* 1:54-57.
Synopsis of the classification of rocks into Primary, Secondary, and Tertiary with examples from Tennessee and adjacent states.
- . 1850e. Natural Science in Mississippi. *Naturalist* 1:58-59.
Outlines characters that Mississippi should seek in a State Geologist.

- . 1850f. Do the phenomena of nature contravene the facts of revelation? *Naturalist* 1:87-103.
There is no conflict.
- . 1850g. Natural Science for the people. *Naturalist* 1:145-147.
Synopsis of zoological classification.
- . 1850h. The manner in which animals and plants become distributed over the earth. *Naturalist* 1:169-170.
To explain biogeographic patterns, it is not necessary to assume that the earth is more than a few thousand years old.
- . 1850i. Analysis of soil as practiced at Franklin College. *Naturalist* 1:193-196.
Techniques for determining lime, magnesia, etc.

The Naturalist should not be confused with *The Naturalist and Journal of Natural History, Agriculture, Education and Literature* which was published at Franklin College during 1846. Each issue of the 1850 journal bears the label "Volume 1" and there is no reference to the earlier journal. In the final issue of *The Naturalist*, Rev. Fanning announced the termination of the journal due to the failing health of the editor. He recommended that subscribers shift to *The Southern Agriculturist*, a Nashville journal that was to begin publication in 1851. This new publication was to be edited by Dr. Richard O. Currey, one of Tennessee's leading geologists. Apparently the new journal never materialized for no modern library has a copy.

LITERATURE CITED

- Corgan, J. X. 1976. Tennessee's early technical and scientific journals, 1825-1861. *Jour. Tennessee Acad. Sci.*, In Press.