

College at the age of 16, and at 20 stood at the head of his class. In 1820, his first volume of poetry was published. In the same year he was admitted to the practice of medicine, and removed to Charleston, S. C., for the pursuit of his profession. He there commenced the publication of a periodical to which he gave the name of *Clio*, but it never reached the third number.

In 1824, he was appointed assistant surgeon in the army, and Professor of Chemistry at West Point—a place which he resigned after a few months, solely because his excessive timidity rendered the discharge of his duties exceedingly painful. In the same year he published a collection of his poems, which was afterwards re-printed in London. For a few following years he was engaged in assisting Noah Webster in the compilation of his great Dictionary. He then translated from the French, Malte Brun's Geography. He traveled abroad, throughout the South of Europe, and under the inspiration of its sunny skies and summer glories, produced some of the most delightful forms of verse. In 1835 he was appointed to make a geological survey of Connecticut, which occupied him till 1842, when his report was published.\*

From this time he lived in the closest retirement and privacy, and sank, we are led to think, in profound poverty, till 1853, when his high scientific acquirements were remembered, and he was employed by the *American Mining Company* to visit and explore their lead mines in the western part of this State. Gov. Barstow, learning that he was residing in the State, tendered him the appointment of State Geologist of Wisconsin, with a salary of \$2500 a year, which he accepted, and to the duties of which he devoted unwearied industry,

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\*Dr. Percival remarked to me in conversation, that his love for geology commenced as early as 1815, and that it never abated. After his geological survey of Connecticut, he made surveys of mines or countries in some of the British Provinces; and was employed by an Eastern Company to make a mineral examination in South Western Missouri, and went upon the Ozark Mountains, but the journey was fruitless.