A METEORIC STONE.

For my first knowledge of this remarkable stone, I am indebted to Prof. O. Root, of Hamilton College, from whose letter dated Clinton, N. Y., Jan. 26, 1850, the following abstracts are made. "On receiving your note, I wrote to my friends in Geneva, for the meteorite mentioned in my letter to President Hitchcock. Judge Watkins very willingly gave the specimen, and it is now in my possession, subject to your order. The piece is not large (it weighs about 1000 grs.,) as the original mass had been divided two or three times. Not being familiar with such productions, my opinion concerning its genuineness is of no value. Judge Watkins, however, is a gentleman of high respectability, and I have confidence in what he relates of the history of this stone. My attention was directed to the subject in the following manner;—A year or two ago, while showing some gentlemen a fragment of the Otsego meteoric iron, one of them observed that he remembered a report many years back of a stone falling through a roof in Waterloo, or in that vicinity. After many inquiries, I at last found the stone, or a fragment of it, with Judge Watkins. He relates that a hole was discovered in the roof of his mill directly over a bin of wheat,—that the opening was made through the shingles where the roof-boards were about five inches apart (although a piece was split ftom the roof-board on one side), and that under the hole there appeared a depression in the grain, which led to an examination that resulted in the discovery of the stones. The Judge inferred that the stone had fallen through the roof, as its size was too great to have allowed its admission into the bin along with the grain, which was raised by means of elevators. He also supposed it to have been of atmospheric origin, as the mill was four stories high, and as the nature of the stone was unlike any of the mineral productions of the region, the rock in place at Waterloo, being the Seneca limestone. He was not positive whether it was found in 1826 or 1827. The stone was divided for Dr. Hale, President of Geneva College."*

The specimen presented me by Prof. Root, had been left for upwards of twenty years in the garret of Judge Watkins, where it appears to have been mistaken for something edible by the rats, who have left numerous markings of their incisor teeth upon its surface. Indeed, in color and texture, it nearly resembles common rhubarb. Its color is light buff or yellow. It is slightly coherent, and may easily be crushed between the fingers. Its sp. gr. =2·30. But a small portion of the original crust remains, which is reddish brown. The stone contains in small quantity, blackish particles attracted by the magnet. A surface produced by being cut with a saw, shows waved parallel lines of greater hardness than the rest of the stone. It consists of

Silica, ...	78·80
Peroxyd of iron, . . .	8·72
Alumina, ...	6·28
Moisture, ...	4·75
	98·55
Lime and magnesia (in equal quantities) and loss, . .	1·45
	100·00

6. *Specific gravities of two meteoric irons.*

Meteoric iron of Pittsburg, Pa., 7·380
Meteoric iron of Salt River, Ky., 6·835
—*C. N. Shephard, Silliman's Journal.*

The selection of iodine is not unimportant in daguerreotype use. Reject, at once, that which has anything like a dull, black, greasy appearance, and select which is in beautiful large crystalline scales, of a purple color and brilliant steel lustre.

* I addressed a letter of inquiry to Dr. H., who informs me that the specimens have been for some time lost sight of in the college collection.