For the Highland Messenger.

MR. EDITOR:—To be or not to be, that is the point; to be *fiddler*, or to be without the soft tones of the violin. Many good people are conscientiously opposed to the use of this sweet toned instrument, not will they give it quiet repose under their roof. But at the same time they will listen with intense delight to it when well played, and even recommend the use of other instruments as being a very innocent accomplishment. But if I may listen without contamination, then I can play, if I can and wish to, do so. For he who listens give the player encouragement, and evidently sustains the same relation to the fiddler; that the concealer of stolen goods does to the thief. And we have never yet seen that person who was not delighted with the sound of a well played fiddle; and even the most sainted mother in Israel will sometimes pronounce it "mighty good." But how is it that the fiddle is not just as innocent as the piano forte or any other instrument. If I may play the one why not the other? If the Rev. gentleman may have the latter, why may not the poor parishioner enjoy his lute and fiddle?

The passion for music is the only one belonging to humanity which may be indulged to excess without vitiation. And why did our divine Creator so wonderfully construct us as to be pleasantly affected with the harmony of sounds? Would he endow us with appetites and passions which are not to be gratified with impunity? May we eat and drink, inhale the balmy fragrance of the rose, admire the variegated hues of the rainbow, and not enjoy the sound of the rippling brook, the hum and music of the bee?

Music was much enjoyed by Martin Luther. Before he took the cowl of the monk, his young friends were called together, and "music once more enlivens their social meeting." It was his farewell to the world. See him again after this in his cell, stretched and apparently lifeless on the floor. His friends are all alarmed for him, and every effort to restore consciousness proves abortive—but now the young choristers begin to sing a sweet hymn. "Their clear voices act like a charm on the poor monk, and, by slow degrees his strength and consciousness return." What was it acted like a charm to drive the evil spirit from Saul?—Why, when the evil spirit from the Lord was upon Saul, David took an harp and played with his hand: so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him." And is it more criminal to exorcise the "little blue spirits" from one now by means of the lute and fiddle, than it was to drive the full grown monster hypochondriasis from Saul with the soothing sounds of the harp! And how many evile spirits might be banished from the family circle under the influence of good music!

"The holiest emblem of heaven that I know on earth," says the pious Baxter, "is when the people of God in the deep sense of his excellency and bounty from heart, abounding with love and joy, join together both in heart and voice in the cheerful and melodious singing of his praise."

"He that hath no music in his soul,
Is only fit for treason stratagem and death."

"Let all learn to sing, and if possible to play," says a modern physiologist; not merely as a means of pleasure, but for its *purifying and moral influence*. If time is scarce, take *time*, and rely upon it, you will regain that time both in increased mental and physical efficiency through life, so as to make up the time, and especially *in prolonging life itself*.

But how ridiculous and degrading for a minister of the gospel, elder or deacon to play on the fiddle or the lute? Indeed why not? The boss violin is played in some churches of undoubted piety and intelligence, and what is it but a big fiddle!—But it is so strange and ridiculous!! Very well! The time was when good people would have been shocked if a minister had gone into the pulpit with *pantaloons on!!* Some years ago in New England a certain elderly clergyman was so opposed to the new measures of ministers wearing pantaloons, that he would on no account allow them in his pulpit. A young man was going to preach for him who had no small clothes on, and the old minister would not let him officiate in pantaloons. Why, said he, my people would think I had brought a fop into the pulpit to see a man there with pantaloons on." But in the days of this ignorance God winked at, but now it is proper for every man not to strain at a gnat and swallow a camel.

DEMOCRITUS.

Samuel Weir, Esq., the *only* Whig editor in South Carolina, has enrolled his name as a private in the Columbia volunteers. The Washington Union remembers this fact, and taunts the Whigs with sympathy for Mexico!

Rev. Mr. Slicer of the Methodist Church has been elected Chaplain of the Senate.

For the Highland Messenger.

MR. EDITOR:—I, in common with the mass of your readers, have been much edified and benefitted by perusing your soul melting, soul stirring and stomach reviving effusions of "Parva Poeta," "Pic Nic" and last, though not least "Miss Janc." What a pity, Mr. Editor, that talents so brilliant—thoughts so sublime and poetical genius so lofty and refined should have been permitted so long to slumber! O that some fortuitous circumstance had sooner called into play the mighty powers of those illustrious children of the muses! How much greater progress had we already made in intellectual refinement! Yet better late than never. I trust the ball is now fairly in motion, we shall have many and vast improvements added to our stock of poetic literature. I think all will agree with me, Mr. Editor, that you have made no unreasonable calculation, when you say mighty things which are yet to be spoken by our new fledged poets. If the undertaking is so grandly sublime, what, what, what, what task, is to be the winding up! A task, is to be the winding up! A task, is to be the winding up! A limited faculty of man can never attain to a great conception! Time alone can tell the story, and generations yet unborn will be ringing the praises of "Parva Poeta, Pic Nic Columini," *and* Miss "Nanty Janc." Remember it be.

SIMON GOFFRY.

For the Highland Messenger.

What is the Past?

A LYRIC.

BY J. LAWRENCE BADGER.

What is the past? 'tis a wreath interwoven
With loveliest foliage bespangled with gems,
Where every sweet emblem recalls to the heaven
The enraptured remembrance of bygone hours.
But sadly the muse has to own, that hence
The roses and lilies lies many a thorn
Which protrude when we handle too roughly the wreath,
That the flowers *alone*, should seem to adorn.

What is the past? Go ask of the wise,
Their happy reply: "A privilege given,
To have prepared a home beyond the skies,
A home of rest, eternal in Heaven."

Old Fort, N. C., Sept. 17, 1846.

For the Highland Messenger.

Geographical Enigma.

I am composed of 17 letters.

My 1 6 8 8 6 9, is a town in Connecticut.
My 2 7 8 2 6 14, is a territory in the United States.
My 3 2 5 6, is a river in Mexico.
My 4 2 9 9 5 10 1, is a chain of mountains in Asia.
My 5 6 17 2 11 12 6, is a town in Turkey.
My 6 7 8 10 11, is a long chain of mountains in South America.
My 7 15 6 3 4, is a lake in Ireland.
My 8 5 3 6 8, is a sea in Asia.
My 9 6 8 10 2 17 6, is a cluster of islands in the Atlantic ocean.
My 10 17 2 13, is a lake in the United States.
My 11 10 2 7 13, is a river in France.
My 12 2 6 9, is a gulf on the southern coast of Asia.

[illegible] of South Carolina has adjourned. [illegible] petition to transfer the [illegible] People the [illegible] Electors of President and Vice [illegible] definitely postponed by a consid[illegible] the Senate. We wish satisfactorily so, as soon as Mr. Calhoun [illegible] democratic o trust the people [illegible] at right—*Rich. Whig.*

For the Highland Messenger.

PICCOLOMINI.

"Oh! waft the glad tidings, ye winds as ye blow,
"Oh! bear it, ye waves as ye roll!"

We have the proud satisfaction of announcing that the Wings of our glorious old State, unawed by threats or unallienated by sinister appeals, have proved true to themselves, true to their party, true to their constituents, true to their country. The great political measure of the Session—the Bill reorganizing the Congressional Districts, with a view of securing to the People of the State, their just weight in the National Councils—has became a law. Hereafter, North Carolina will be represented in Congress, as she ought to be, by a majority of Whig Representatives, good men and true.

We believe that the passage of this law will do more to unite and strengthen the Whigs, and perpetuate their success, than any thing that could have been done. With the heel of tyranny upon their necks imposed by the *Overmaster*, they could not fight with that confidence (though engaged in the glorious cause of Constitutional Liberty), which is always a chief element of success. But now, Loco Focoism is dead in North Carolina, as our future Elections will testify.

With regard to the threats of Loco Focoism, of holding the Whigs to a strict responsibility for this measure, we repeat but the sentiment of every true hearted Whig, when we say, that we defy its ingenuity and its malice. We have done our duty; we have put our banner "on the outward wall," and are ready to go before the People on the issue which have been tendered. The day of raw head and bloody bones has gone by. The people—the sovereigns of the land—have learned to investigate questions for themselves, and hence, the fading fortunes of Loco Focoism, in all parts of the Union.—*Raleigh Reg. etc.*

Supreme Court.—The Supreme Court of North Carolina, will commence its Winter Term in this City, on to-morrow, the 30th of December.—*Ibid.*

The Re-Districting Bill.

Passed its third, and last reading in the Senate, and was ordered to be enrolled about 8 o'clock, P. M. on Thursday last. It was the principal theme of discussion during the day. That body took a recess in the middle of the day at the request of Mr. Graves, who wished to give his reasons in opposition to the Bill, and did not like to commence on an empty stomach. Before temporary adjournment, Mr. Graves was asked whether there was not a design on the part of his friends, to delay the passage of the Bill, to take an advantage of any accident that might happen to defeat the Bill. Mr. G. said he would scorn to take any such advantage himself, and he believed he might say as much for each member of his party in the Hall. Whereupon an adjournment was readily voted.

In the afternoon Session, Mr. Graves opened the debate, by a Speech of considerable power—His manner is solemn, earnest and forcible; his deportment towards his opponents dignified and courteous. On this occasion, however it was evidently an up hill business. His main argument was based upon some numerical calculations, which he may have satisfied his friends Ingress, Whigs have no right to a majority of [illegible] merely because many happen to [illegible] State. The majority of the [illegible] and need.

Whigs were evidently not [illegible] tions, which would Mr. Graves took [illegible] seem to be rather against this Bill would secure [illegible] the chair to the Whigs beyond doubt, [illegible] ly six.

Mr. Graves [illegible] Whigs that the passage of [illegible] would throw them high, high, and reduce [illegible] a circumstance. A query might very [illegible] pose, how a *united* party could be able [illegible] those 88 Districts—or even the five.

Mr. Graves was replied to by Messrs. Wan[illegible] Gilliam, Francis, and other Senators, in handsome style. Mr. Graves was unalterably and unmistakably, the Gerrymander of the Session, for having given the Democrats six members of Congress and the Whigs only two, when [illegible] was interrogated and asked by Mr. Graves, if it was not a well known and acknowledged fact, that the Democrats gave them [illegible] only five Districts, which were considered certain, and four to the Whigs. There was an accidental success of Democrats in the 9th District, now represented by Mr. [illegible], which was not dreamed of by his friends in 1842. Well, said Mr. Graves, admitting it to be so as the Senator says, that they gave them [illegible] five, and the Whigs four Districts, 4 to 5, Senator, 4, while the Whigs had a majority of many thousands in the State, *that was right!* Ans. Mr. G. "I pause for a reply."

Mr. Graves answered, that the Governor's Election in that year showed that the people desired a Whig Executive, but the election of Members to the Legislature, showed that they desired a Democratic influence to prevail in the law-making power.

"That does not answer my question," said Mr. G. "I ask you *is it right*, and I pause for a reply."

Mr. Graves said nothing. "Sir," said Mr. Gilliam, "I knew he would not answer my question. I know his candor and truth. He would sooner pluck out his tongue, than wilfully to utter a falsehood. And I knew he would not answer. No! a man on this floor has just called that Act of 1842, by which a clear majority of several thousands was manufactured. The Senator from Edgecomb has, indeed, told us, and read from the Journals to prove, that several Whigs voted in its favor. Does that Senator mock us? Does he suppose that we have forgotten the particulars of that black act? Why even he tells us with this, when nobody knows better than that Senator, that there was another still more objectionable, which many Democrats present, by which [illegible] would be sure but of two Districts—the Whigs [illegible] Wake votes were given to [illegible] and still greater wrong. It [illegible] spoke them [illegible] was a choice [illegible] Mr. [illegible] asked the Council, now represented by the Hon. Thomas Craig, Caswell, if he does the Ninth District