

MINERS' & FARMERS' JOURNAL.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY, BY NOBLE & HOLTON...CHARLOTTE, MECKLENBURG COUNTY, NORTH-CAROLINA.

I WILL TEACH YOU TO PIERCE THE BOWELS OF THE EARTH AND BRING OUT FROM THE CAVERNS OF THE MOUNTAINS, METALS WHICH WILL OVERSTRENGTH TO OUR HANDS AND SUBJECT ALL NATURE TO OUR USE AND PLEASURE.—DR. JOHNSON.

VOL. I.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, 1831.

NO. 43.

THE MINERS' & FARMERS' JOURNAL

Is printed and published every Wednesday morning at Two Dollars and Fifty Cents per annum, if paid in advance; Three Dollars a year, if not paid until after the expiration of six months.

ADVERTISEMENTS will be inserted at Fifty cents per square (not exceeding 20 lines,) for the first insertion, and 25 cents for each succeeding week—or \$1 for three weeks, for one square.—A liberal discount will be made to those who advertise by the year. On all advertisements communicated for publication, the number of insertions must be noted on the margin of the manuscript, or they will be continued until forbid, and charged accordingly.

All communications to the Editors must come free of postage, or they may not be attended to.

From the Hillsboro' Recorder.

NORTH-CAROLINA INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION.

It will be remembered that an advertisement appeared in several of the newspapers in this State, requesting the attendance of teachers and the friends of education at Chapel Hill on the 22d inst. the day preceding commencement, with a view to organize a society having for its object the diffusion of knowledge on the subject of education, & the improvement of common schools and other literary institutions in our State.

At the time and place appointed, there was a numerous and highly respectable meeting. Dr. Simmons J. Baker was called to the chair. The objects of the meeting were explained by Mr. Benjamin M. Smith, of Milton, in an appropriate and highly interesting address. On motion the following persons were appointed a committee to draft a constitution, to wit: Professors Mitchell and Hooper of the University, Rev. Wm. M. Green, Benj. M. Smith, and W. J. Bingham. The meeting then adjourned to Thursday morning at 6 o'clock.

Thursday morning—Met according to adjournment. The committee appointed for that purpose submitted the following constitution, which was adopted.

CONSTITUTION.

PREAMBLE.—We, whose names are subscribed, pledging our zealous efforts to promote the cause of popular education, agree to adopt the following constitution, and to obey the bye-laws made in conformity with it.

Article 1. This society shall be called the North-Carolina Institute of Education. Its object shall be, to diffuse knowledge on the subject of education, and by every proper means to improve the condition of common schools and other literary institutions in our State.

Art. 2. Members.—Any person of good moral character, interested in the subject of education, may become a member of this institute, by signing the constitution and making an annual contribution of one dollar; or by paying the sum of ten dollars may become a member for life, and be exempted from the annual contribution.

Art. 3. Meetings.—The annual meetings of this institute shall be held at Chapel Hill, on the afternoon preceding Commencement, at such hour as the directors shall appoint. Special meetings may be called by the directors, of which due notice shall be given in the public journals.

Art. 4. Officers.—The officers of this institute shall be a president, three vice-presidents, a corresponding and recording secretary, (the last of whom shall act as treasurer,) and an executive committee of three, who shall constitute a board of directors.

A majority of the board shall constitute a quorum to transact business.

The officers shall be elected by ballot, at the annual meeting of the Institute.

Art. 5. Duties of Officers.—The recording secretary shall give notice of each meeting of the Institute, and of the board of directors, and also keep a record of their transactions. He shall receive all the moneys, and disburse the same, by order of the board of directors.

The corresponding secretary shall be the organ of communication with other societies and individuals.

To the board of directors shall be entrusted the general interests of the Institute, with authority to devise and execute such measures as may promote its objects. It shall be their duty to appoint some suitable person to deliver an address before the society, at each annual meeting; to select competent persons to deliver lectures on such subjects connected with education, as they may deem expedient and useful; to collect such facts as may promote the general objects of the Institute, and to provide suitable accommodations for the meetings. They shall report annually to the Institute, and shall have power to fill all vacancies in their own body from among the members, and make bye-laws for their own government.

The executive committee of three, shall take charge of whatever books, pamphlets, or other property, may belong to the Institute. They shall examine the annual address, reports, and all other communications made to the Institute, and publish such as, in their estimation, will tend to throw light on the subject of education, and aid the faithful instructor in the discharge of his duty.

The board of directors, as soon as convenient after each annual meeting, shall select subjects for lectures at the next annual meeting, and assign them to proper persons.

Art. 6. The meetings of this Institute shall be opened by prayer.

Art. 7. Bye-laws not repugnant to this constitution, may be adopted at any regular meeting.

Art. 8. This constitution may be altered or amended by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at the annual meeting, provided such proposed amendment or alteration be made known to the board of directors at their stated meeting, next preceding the annual meeting of the Institute, and receive their concurrence.

The following gentlemen were elected officers, and constitute the board of directors:

Simmons J. Baker, President.
Wm. M'Pheters, D. D.,
Rev. Wm. M. Green, { Vice-Presidents.
Hon. Frederick Nash, {
Dr. Walter A. Norwood, Recording Sec'y.
W. J. Bingham, Corresponding Sec'y.
Professor Mitchell, { Executive Committee.
Professor Hooper, {
Professor Phillips, {

The meeting then adjourned.

The Board of Directors met in the afternoon, and made the following appointments:

To deliver an address before the annual meeting, on the day preceding the next commencement—Alfred Moore, Esq. of Orange.

Lecture on the imperfections of the present mode of teaching in our primary schools, and the best method of correcting them, assigned to the Rev. Wm. Hooper of the University.

Lecture on education, with a particular reference to the teaching of reading, assigned to H. S. Ellenswood, Esq. of Hillsborough.

On Lycæums and Societies for the diffusion of useful knowledge—to James D. Johnston, Esq. of Oxford.

The corresponding secretary was directed to procure for the use of the Institute, the "Annals of Education," and five copies of the "Education Reporter."

Resolved, That the Secretary prepare an account of the proceedings of the meeting and of the Board of Directors for publication in the Hillsborough Recorder, and that all the newspapers in the state be requested to publish them.

By order of the Board.

W. J. BINGHAM, Secretary.

From Niles' Weekly Register, of April 23.

RAIL ROADS.

At a time when the desire to make rail roads much interests the mind of enlightened individuals in every State of the Union, and some thirty or forty roads are being made, or about to be begun—we have thought that a few desultory facts and remarks on this invention, (among the most important of modern times,) may not be unacceptable to our readers, though so much has been said on the subject—for railroads, we think, associated with steam power, are about to accomplish a much greater revolution in the future affairs of men and nations, than steam, itself, has yet brought about in the present condition of things.

The making of rail roads, in their now improved state, is the result of the experience of scientific and practical men, chiefly acquired within the last five years: and economy, safety, power, speed, and usefulness, in making and fitting them, and suiting the carriages to them, have all mightily advanced even within two years. The idea of locomotive steam wagons seems to be long to our late countryman, Oliver Evans, deceased. As early as the year 1781, he declared the power of steam, and suggested its use for propelling wagons. In 1786, he petitioned the legislature of Pennsylvania for an exclusive right to use steam wagons in that State; and, as steam, itself, was then very little understood, he was regarded as pretty nearly insane. In 1804 he had practically shown the correctness of his opinions, in the building of a large flat, or scow, having a steam engine of five horse power on board, to clean the docks at Philadelphia—and, placing temporary axletrees and wheels under it, he propelled it, by the engine, from his works to the Schuylkill, (between one and two miles, we believe,) over the ordinary roads—then launched it, and, with a paddle wheel at the stern, drove it down the Schuylkill and up the Delaware to Philadelphia—the weight of the scow, with its engine, &c. he estimated as equal to 200 barrels of flour, or 20 tons. It was objected that the motion of the scow was weak, and the fixtures, being rough and temporary, caused much friction; but Mr. Evans offered a bet of \$3,000 to run a steam wagon, on a [common] level road, against the swiftest horse that would be produced; and at about this time he suggested the use of steam wagons to the Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike Road Company, shewing that one such wagon would do the work of 10 common wagons and 50 horses, on that road. In 1805 he published a book describing his steam engines, and shewing how they might be applied against the current of the Mississippi. In 1812 he offered to make a steam wagon to travel over rail ways 15 miles an hour, on the "condition, that he should have double price if running with that velocity, and nothing for it, if it should not come up to that velocity." And

in the same year, 1812, he said—"One step in a generation is all that we can hope for. If the present shall adopt canals, the next will try rail ways with horses, and the third generation use the steam carriages." But adding, "why may not the present generation, who have already good turnpikes, make the experiment of using steam carriages on them?" And further, "I do verily believe that the time will come, when carriages propelled by steam will be in general use, as well for the transportation of passengers as goods, travelling at the rate of fifteen miles an hour, or three hundred miles per day." These facts are derived from a publication made by Oliver Evans, dated "Ellicott's Mills, on the Patuxent, November 13, 1812, and printed, (at Mr. E's expense,) very soon after, by the present editor of the "Register," as an addendum to the 3d vol. of this work. But the copies fell short, and all of the 3d vol. have not this now interesting article added. And the editor well remembers to have heard the same Oliver Evans, in his (the editor's) father's house, sometime in 1787 or 1788, declare, that "the man was then living who would see the Ohio and Mississippi covered with steam boats, and the child born who would travel from Philadelphia to Boston in one day," by steam boats or wagons. The remembrance is perfect, because, being a child, he long regarded Mr. Evans, (who was a friend and frequent visitor of his father,) as "cracked" because of such opinions. This remark of Mr. Evans was made in a conversation concerning Fitch and Rumsey's steam boat, which had just then arrived at Wilmington (40 miles,) from Philadelphia, in which the editor had made an excursion of 14 miles, up and down the Christiana. This was the first steam boat in America, if not the first boat that ever was regularly fitted for the application of steam. She had three paddles at her stern—the largest being in the middle: they were dipped into the water and forced outward, by a crank—the two small paddles dipping as the large one rose.

We have among our extensive collection of fugitive pieces, a short sketch of Mr. Rumsey, who died at London in 1795, while explaining one of his mechanical inventions before a public body—but know not whence it is derived. It asserts, that in 1784, he projected the idea of a steamboat, commenced its execution in 1785, and carried it into effect (at Philadelphia) in 1780. In 1792 he put a steam boat in motion against the tide of the Thames, at London, and the people were filled with the idea of steam vessels of war! But his own poverty and the want of patronage kept him back—he was indeed much pressed to obtain a subsistence, and dragged out a weary life, too often the fate of men of genius; and on the evening of the 20th Dec. 1795, being in the committee room of the society of arts, in the Adelphi, and explaining a model to the company, he was attacked with a violent pain in the head, which almost immediately caused his death. To this account is attached a deposition of Nicholas Orrick, taken before William Little, a justice of the peace, for Berkeley county, Virginia, and dated 24th Nov. 1787, saying that James Rumsey informed said Orrick, in the year 1784, that he was "projecting a boat to work by steam." The subsequent progress of steam is well known—or, at least, it is unnecessary to give a detailed account of it here.

These brief remarks, we hope, though familiar, perhaps, to a few persons, will interest many; and the opportunity was well suited to offer them.

(To be continued.)

From the Mass. Journal of Tribune.

FARMERS MAKE THE BEST PUBLIC MEN.

In a very clever little book for young people called *Louisa and her Cousins*, we find the following remark: "Good farmers have always been held in high estimation. I came across an anecdote, the other day, which proves that this was the case in very ancient times; it is related by Herodotus, who is called the Father of History. The inhabitants of the island of Miletus, in the Ionian Sea, having been for a long time afflicted with internal dissensions, at length solicited the interposition of the Parians, inhabitants of an adjoining island. When those, whom the Parians selected to perform the office of arbitrators, arrived at Miletus, finding the whole state involved in extreme confusion, they requested permission to examine the condition of the lands. Whenever, in their progress through the island, they found any lands under good cultivation, which, by the bye, did not happen in many instances, they wrote down the name of the owner. On their return to Miletus, they called an assembly of the people, and placed the direction of affairs in the hands of those, whose names they found on their list of good cultivators; because, as they said, those who took the best care of their own business, could be most safely intrusted with the public interest.—These officers were appointed, and tranquility restored."

This anecdote struck us particularly, because it exactly coincided with our ideas of the true principles on which the privileges

of citizenship should rest. In framing our own government, and under the new order of things in France, it was an important question what should give a man a right to vote. A certain, though small income, was decided on by our legislators, as the necessary qualification; and this test has much of reason and justice in it, because a comfortable income is the visible representative of industry and good character—for it is certainly true in this happy country, that all who have health, can obtain a decent maintenance, except the lazy and the dissipated.

So far therefore as this principle merely extends to excluding vagabonds, it is a good one; still it does not touch all cases; for wealth may be inherited by the lazy and dissipated, and thus the privilege denied to a vicious beggar, may be bestowed upon the equally vicious rich man.

It appears to us that the proper qualification for voting is to have some regular and constant employment—to perform a decided use as a citizen, in the way of some permanent trade, business or profession.

This shuts out both extremes—those who are idle because they are rich, and those who are poor because they are idle.

From the Genesee Farmer.

ON CHANGING SEEDS.

We do not know of a more common error than the practice of changing seeds, when farmers do not wish to change variety, or of changing animals, when the breed is of the same, believing that the transferring of seeds or stock often, from one farm to another, is of importance to the growth of individuals of the animal or vegetable kingdom. When we hear farmers say "I have had my corn and my potatoes so long that they are run out," or that "their flocks have been so long upon their farms that they are much degenerated," then we think they are proclaiming their own disgrace and are virtually saying that they are not fit to superintend their own flocks; that they neglect them so that they ruin them; that they are too lazy to gather their seed corn as they ought, and wish others to do it for them. To such men we think the proverb of Solomon will apply; "Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep, so shall their poverty come as one that travaileth, and they want as an armed man." The fact has been long established, that by a course of breeding denominated "in and in," that is, by breeding from the best animals, and rejecting the poorest, a flock may be greatly improved, and in this manner, some of the finest breeds of England have been produced—the same rule will apply to corn. Now if by careful attention to the rules of breeding from the best stock, a progressive improvement is made, and this improvement is denominated breeding "in and in," then when farmers sell off their best stock and breed from the poorest, the course with the same propriety, may be called breeding out & out.

Yet so it is, the butcher wishes to purchase some fat sheep, (and the best sheep are the most disposed to fatten) and the farmer allows him to go and select from his flock such as he chooses, leaving the refuse for him to breed from, upon the out and out system. His fields of corn ripen, is gathered, the best sold, and from the poorest he selects his seed, some of which fails, but it is all said to be owing to having been on the farm so long. His potatoes are dug up, and put in the cellar, the largest are picked up by the boys to feed the pigs; the women look for the largest and best kind to boil, and by planting time none remain but the refuse of the crop; these are planted, and because they do not produce a fine crop, as to kind and quantity, it is said they are run out, and the term is very proper, since they were raised upon the true out and out system. If the farmers will select such of their sheep at shearing time, as they find do not produce good wool, are getting old, or have other bad points about them, and put them by themselves for sale, and reserve those of good points only to breed from, they will soon find the advantage of the "in and in" system. So with the potatoes, let the choicest be selected for seed, keeping the several kinds separate; let these be planted in good soil and well tended, and we venture to say that the second crop will convince the man that the potatoes are not run out.

Simple means of purifying water.—It is not so generally known as it ought to be, that pounded alum possesses the property of purifying water. A large spoonful of pulverized alum, sprinkled into a hogshod of water, (the water stirred round at the time,) will after the lapse of a few hours by precipitating to the bottom the impure particles, so purify it, that it will be found to possess nearly all the freshness and clearness of the finest spring water. A pailful containing four gallons, may be purified with a single tea spoonful.

The spirits of camphor is a perfect protection from the bite of mosquitoes. One application of this wash will free a person for several hours from their attacks.

From the Greensboro' [N. C.] Patriot.

OUR STUMP SPEECH.—This number commences our third volume—or the first volume after the termination of our second year's labor. Two years ago, we were almost entire strangers; but our acquaintance has become much more extensive since that time, and promises to cement the bonds of friendship so inveterately that time herself shall not be able to sever them.

Beloved Patrons; If you were not scattered over the United States, and we chained here to this beautiful spot of creation, we would send to our brother of the Newbern Spectator for a score of his best turtles; we would order them worked into soup of the "very best" kind; and we would then invite you all in, shake you individually and heartily by the hand, and then set down to a long table and spend three long—long hours in drinking wine and soup! We must, however, forego this pleasure, and treat you as well as we can with puffa and politics.

Though it has been confidently predicted that two short years would terminate our editorial existence, yet we commence the third year with a well grounded prospect of living—not only one whole year longer, but forever! It is true, these mortal vestments which now chain us to earth, may mingle with all perishing things, before two years more shall have stamped their impress on our brow of care; but if life and luck linger twelve months longer around us, we intend to work such wonders in the morals of the people and the politics of the country, as shall render our name immortal!

It is now well nigh reduced to a certainty that our patrons and the public cannot do without us; and we are prepared to acknowledge at any time that we cannot very conveniently do without them. Each new subscriber we receive stands good for at least half a dozen well written articles on the subject of the election, the postoffice department, the cabinet, or some other absorbing subject. What effect then do you suppose would grow out of the reception of five hundred new patrons all at a clip? Why, it would "inject more of the centering spirit of fire" into our quill than ever gave immortality to Bucephalus! Our Pegasus should smite the earth with his hoof, from whence would issue a fountain of waters to wash the sins of the government, and restore its fundamental maxims to a purity not inferior to that vestal deity which burns to redness the checks of virginity!

This being the case then, our patrons will make the discovery for themselves, that the importance of our paper depends upon the resources of the pocket as well as of the brain! The remark was made by some wit or wag of the thirteenth century, whose name we have now forgotten, that the effect of an empty pocket upon youthful genius, is similar to that produced by the falling of the "poisonous dew of autumn upon the dying vegetation of the world!"

If our delinquent subscribers wish to be dunned in a more modest manner than this, they must employ somebody else to dun them; for we make no pretensions to greater refinement in this necessary and highly important science, than we have displayed in the above paragraph. But seriously—our press runs most prodigiously dull for want of grease; and a small portion of the "wherewith" from each patron in arrears would add much to the comfort and convenience of our situation.

We have many subscribers who always prefer to save a dollar each year by paying in advance; if they still wish to pursue the same course, they are admonished to feel about their pockets before the expiration of the three months, or the publication of the thirteenth number of the third volume. We are thus particular, that we may prevent any misunderstanding, as we are determined to settle with every subscriber according to the strict letter of our terms.

In conclusion, we must bid you farewell until Saturday next, when we shall return "clad in all the needful habiliments," to travel the world over for you; and "tell you whether the earthquake of war will tumble Europe into desolation—whether a torrid sun will burn up Africa—whether the islands of the sea shall rejoice or be drowned—whether the southern republics can live or die"—whether Jackson returns to the Hermitage or runs for the next presidency—whether the next Congress shall assume a lofty tone, or dabble in filth, in imitation of its predecessors—whether the next legislature of our own state, is better or worse than those which have gone before it—whether nullification shall be nullified by public opinion, or die a natural death,—in short we will tell you "what is right and what is wrong." The former may praise itself, and the latter shall be ground in our flint-mill, free of toll.

Flies are a great annoyance to families in the warm season. The best method to keep rid of them is to darken your room by closing the blinds and to allow nothing which will attract them to stand exposed after meals. This is a sure preventative, and is worth a hundred receipts for destroying them.