

MINERS' & FARMERS' JOURNAL.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY, BY THOMAS J. 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 GIVE STRENGTH TO OUR HANDS AND SUBJECT ALL NATURE TO OUR USE AND PLEASURE.—DR. JOHNSON.

VOL. IV.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30, 1834.

NO. 204.

Serpents in a Pile in South America.—In the savannas of Izacubo, in Guiana, I saw the most wonderful, the most terrible spectacle that can be seen; and although it is not uncommon to the inhabitants, no travellers have ever mentioned it. We were ten men on horseback; two of whom took the lead, in order to sound the passages; while I preferred to skirt the great forest. One of the blacks who formed the vanguard, returned full gallop, and called to me. "Here, sir, come and see serpents in a pile." He pointed out something elevated in the middle of the savanna or swamp, which appeared like a bundle of arms. One of my company then said, "this is certainly one of the assemblages of serpents which beset themselves on each other, after a violent Tempest; I have heard of these but have never seen any; let us proceed cautiously, and not go too near." When we were within 20 paces of it, the terror of our horses prevented our nearer approach, to which however, none of us were inclined.

On a sudden, the pyramidal mass became agitated; horrible hissing issuing from it, thousands of serpents rolled spirally on each other, shot forth out of the circle their hideous heads, presenting their envenomed darts and fiery eyes to us. I own I was one of the first to draw back; but when I saw this formidable phalanx remained at its post, and appeared to be more disposed to defend itself than to attack us, I rode round it, to view its order of battle, which faced the enemy on every side. I then sought to find what could be the design of this numerous assemblage; and I concluded that this species of serpents, dreaded some colossal enemy, which might be the great serpent, or the cayman, and that they reunite themselves after having seen this enemy, in order to attack or resist him in a mass.

Interesting Incident.—Yesterday afternoon, just as the steam boat De Witt Clu was on the point of leaving the wharf, some person handed an infant to a gentleman on board, who supposing the mother to be near, very readily accepted the charge. In a minute the boat was under way for Albany. The gentleman having very patiently waited for the mother to relieve him from his little burthen, began to feel some alarm at the delay. He ran from stem to stern, offering to every person his unlooked for legacy, but could find no one disposed to accept it. As a last resort he applied to the Captain for relief. Orders were instantly given to put the vessel about, and in a few moments she was on her return to the city. In passing the steam boat New London, they were hailed from that vessel, and asked if there was a strange infant on board. On replying in the affirmative, they were informed that a lady was in great distress for the loss of her child, which, to the infinite relief of its temporary guardian, was soon restored to the arms of its delighted mother.—N. Y. Courier.

A brave Woman.—Extract from an address delivered at Newport, N. H. Feb. 25, 1834, by the Rev. Orren Tracy.

An amiable lady, the wife of a sea captain, accompanied her husband several times across the Atlantic. On one of these voyages, the captain became dangerously ill. At the same crisis, the vessel was overtaken in a gale, which blew for several days with tremendous violence. For a while the brave sailors endured the greatest hardships and privations without complaining. At length, however, they became discouraged, and refused to obey orders. The alarmed mate immediately made the captain's wife acquainted with the affairs; and begged that the captain might if possible, come on deck; for added he, the sailors will break open the spirit room and if they do all—all is lost, and not a soul on board can be saved. Ordering the mate on deck, the lady seized her husband's pistols, and placed herself before the door of the spirit room. Soon the desperate tars came rushing down together; but before they reached the bottom of the stairs, their attention was arrested by the sight of this female, and they came suddenly to a stand. Pointing her pistols at the foremost, and raising her voice, she assured them that the first man who dared take another step, should be laid dead on the floor! And then, in a mild and winning tone, she said: "Come, my lads, you have done bravely, the blow is almost over, run to your duty, the ship shall be saved and you shall not lose your reward." Filled with admiration at the conduct of the female, rather than with the fear of death, the sailors bowed respectfully, gave three cheers, and returned on deck. The gale soon abated, and the ship was saved. Ladies, shall the ship be saved or shall she sink? If saved at all, you must guard the spirit room.

Matrimony is like masonry; no one knows the secret until they are initiated,—it is like an eel-trap very easy to get in, but very hard to get out—it is in its first stage, like a wind that fans the flame of love—but unfortunately, too much fanning blows it out. In short it is every thing that is contradictory, sweet or bitter, just as it is taken.

I CANNOT TELL A LIE.
In the war of the revolution, while General Lafayette commanded in the American army, a part of the troops were encamped at a certain place near the water's edge. One summer evening a soldier, who was an excellent swimmer as well as fisher, took his wife with him to the water and engaged in fishing and swimming at the same time. The music reached the ear of Lafayette. Early next morning he sent an officer in pursuit of the man who had thus disobeyed the orders of the camp.

The soldier was a native of Connecticut and a man of truth. When arrested by the officer he considered that, perhaps, he might escape a severe punishment by denying the deed. On a moment's reflection, however, he said to himself, "I have always spoken the truth—I cannot tell a lie."

With this principle in his mind, he came into the presence of the general, who asked if he were the individual who played upon the water the evening previous; to which he replied "I am."

"To-morrow evening then at such an hour, I wish you to repair to my tent."

He came at the appointed time. The general then informed him, that the tune which he had heard the evening before affected him very much—that on a former occasion it had been played at the funeral of a dear friend of his, who died in his native country.—Since then, until now, he had never met with an individual who could play it. "For the purpose of indulging in the melancholy pleasure of hearing it once more, I have," said he, "sent for you."

The general after being agreeably entertained with the conversation and music of his guest, dismissed him with his thanks and some money from his purse, as an expression of his satisfaction in the performance.

"I cannot tell a lie," is a good rule to follow.—N. Y. Mirror.

Sully the Painter.—The following characteristic anecdote was related to us the other day as occurring recently at the Virginia Springs. A party of gentlemen, and amongst them Mr. Sully, of Richmond, well known to the public as a painter of great merit, wandering amongst the mountains to while away the time while at the springs, came suddenly and unexpectedly upon a little cabin in the midst of the woods. There was a good deal of interest somehow about the singularity of its situation and its loneliness; and Sully determined the next day, to come and take a sketch of the cabin, and as far as he could get sight of them, its inmates, and the surrounding scenery.

Early the next morning, he accordingly fixed himself in a favorable situation, with his pencil and paper, and went to work. But he was narrowly watched through the chinks, at the corners of the cabin, by the numberless little rag muffs thereabout. At length one, bolder than the others, ventured, by many circumlocutions, to get up to where Sully was at work, and to peep over his shoulders; and after gazing a moment with utter surprise, bawled out with great glee, "La! Mamma, this here man done got us all down here in his book, and little Ball in his skirt-tail." Now this proves two things—a keen natural perception in the child, and great merit in the painter. The sketch must indeed have been striking, to have caught the attention of the child in a moment. Mr. Sully, we believe, is a native of Virginia, and we hope he will give us, in a portable form, many of our native scenes, which are not surpassed by any in the world.

Farmville, Va. Chron.

Printing Office Beer.—For a number of years past, in very hot weather, we have provided our typographical squadron with a beverage prepared after this manner: 1st. Procure a stone pitcher, holding at least a gallon. 2d. Pour into the bottom thereof 3 cents worth of molasses. 3d. Deposit therein 1 cent's worth of ground ginger. 4th. Pump into the jar as much water as it will hold, from the north side of the best well in the neighborhood. 5th. Drink as much and as often as you please. The beverage is alike healthy, palatable and refreshing; and those who drink nothing stronger will never have the gout from that cause—and, what is more, they will never die from drinking cold water, unless in the act of drowning.—N. Y. Com. Ad.

The Sailor and Juggler.—An English sailor went to see a juggler exhibit some of his tricks. There happened to be a quantity of gunpowder in the apartment underneath, which took fire, and blew up the house. The sailor was thrown into a garden behind, where he fell without hurt. He stretched his arms and legs, got up, shook himself, rubbed his eyes, and then cried out, (conceiving what had happened to be only a part of the performance and perfectly willing to go through the whole,) "I wonder what the strange fellow will do next?"

REVIEW OF THE NEW-HANOVER ADDRESS, By the writer of the Internal Improvement Central Committee.

From the Address of the Corresponding Committee of New-Hanover, re-published in this paper of the 21st of June, the public will have seen, (we think not without surprise,) that the Central Address has fallen under the displeasure of the Hanover Committee. As both Committees are agreed that a General System of improved transport should be undertaken by the State, it would have seemed that any differences between them as to the commencement and location of the works might have been discussed, with a very little exercise of forbearance and good humor, without loss of temper on either side. It has seemed good, however, to our Wilmington friends, to enter upon the examination of the Central Address in very ill humor. Not content with reprobating and condemning the Address with unmeasured indignation, they have, in their anger, taken upon themselves to reprehend the Central Committee with a plainness and even coarseness of speech, which, we presume to say, might have been spared, as not squaring with their own habits of civility and good breeding, if not in deference to the generally allowed respectability of the individuals on the Central Committee. We think it would be more than necessary to expiate the Central Committee from the charges cast upon their motives. We fear not to leave their integrity to the public without defence.

It may, however, be of some service to the cause of Internal Improvement to attempt the vindication of the Address of the Central Committee from the odium which the Hanover Committee labor to heap on it. As we do not accept the summary—"the sum and substance," made out from that paper by the Hanover Committee, as being the true one, we will endeavor to make an analysis of it for the reader. It will, we flatter ourselves, be useful in the further consideration of the subject. The Address after a short introduction, contrasts the natural, social, and political advantages, of North Carolina, with her want of political influence and public wealth. It affirms we are without works of art, without Foreign Commerce, without a mercantile marine, without manufactures, and that our system of agriculture is unskillful. It discovers the cause of these evils, in the unproductiveness of our labor. An inquiry is then made into the particular causes of the low profits of our labor, and deficiency of capital, and four are assigned.—The infertility (not sterility) of our lands—the low price of our staple, Cotton—the cost of our transport to market, and last and least, the want of one or more safe seaports; and occasion is taken, on the assignment of the fourth cause to admit the value of seaports in general, but to correct a common, and we think a dangerous error, by which our want of ports has been rated as our principal evil, and to reduce the want of ports to its proper degree in the scale of our disadvantages. The Address then inculcates, as the sovereign remedy for all our evils, the melioration of our agriculture, which it emphatically declares now is, and long will be, our principal employment; and points out the advancement of our Agriculture as the true road to manufactures and to foreign Commerce, or, what it deems more feasible, a lucrative coasting trade. It depreciates all premature attempts to make us foreign traders and manufacturers. It places the preference of Agriculture to foreign Commerce and Manufactures on our peculiar aptitude for it, and not upon any supposed intrinsic value proper to it, over those other two sources of national wealth. It obviates the objections to the improvement of our inland transport by the State. It shows the practicability of Internal Improvement by an estimate of the saving to be effected on the freight of produce, by the examples of England and New York, but chiefly from the great increase of travelling in the State during the present century; and it shows, from the experience of Rail-ways, that the law of their profits is, that the transportation of passengers is paid for at a higher rate, and yields a larger amount, than that of goods. The whole plan of improvement as devised by the Convention is recommended, with such alterations only as may obviate objections that have been made to its details. The Address further suggests that an experiment may be made on a road from Fayetteville on our Southern line, to the head of the Petersburg and Norfolk Railways, and it indicates, as an advantage peculiar to this road, that it will embrace a large amount of travelling, and will, without doubt, repay with profit. It enjoins that it be understood (in the Legislature of course,) that a general plan of improvement be adopted, to allay local jealousies, and advocates the gradual execution of it by the completing, in succession, the sections of the work that promise to be most profitable. The advantages of improved communication on the wealth, morals, and intellects, of our citizens, and on the political condition of the State, are then duly insisted

ed on; and, finally, it is advised that pledges be taken of the members of the Assembly, to support improvement. This is meant for a correct outline of the Address. It is something more, we dare to conjecture, than what was expected by a reader who had no other knowledge of the Address than what was to be had from "the sum and substance," as given by the Hanover Committee. It will be perceived that the Address unhesitatingly advocates Internal Improvement with us as auxiliary to Agriculture—and considers both foreign commerce and manufactures as subordinate interests, and to proceed from the accumulation of farming capital. The whole of our argument is—make Rail-roads and Canals, and that will improve your lands; and Commerce and Manufactures will necessarily follow—and with these three, will come public and private wealth, and political power, and individual refinement and happiness.

The Hanover Committee have manifested no disposition to take from the importance of Agriculture, and we do them the justice to believe they have none. They have however a very natural leaning to Commerce, and are very much inclined to magnify our resources for it; and, not finding the Central Address favorable to this, their pre-conceived and indulged notion, they desire its total condemnation. To effect this, they have not thought it advisable manfully to grapple with the argument of the Address for improving our inland transport as assistant to agriculture, but have hunted up sundry small matters without and within the Address, even down to figurative expressions, (expressions sometimes detached from the context) and have sought, through these, to bring odium on the whole Address. This species of sharp shooting is common enough in a very respectable profession, in which in our day, we have had some small share. The artifice is not in good repute there, and for the love we bear the profession, we hope that it will soon be thence expelled. How that will be, we know not, but we are greatly mistaken if it be successfully applied to a printed controversy.

The first attempt at exciting prejudice against the Address is made by holding it up as a paper of lofty pretensions, as ushered to the public after great deliberation, and with a professed purpose of giving correct information. Now we have no desire to disarm any criticism, either on the matter or style of the Address. If these are unworthy of the subject and the occasion—if it is an ignorant or weak performance—why, let it be condemned. It is no excuse for any of these faults that it was written in haste.—However written, the public desire not, and have no right to be troubled with, a mean and dull performance. We surrender the Address, without apology, to the most unsparring animadversion for real faults, but we protest against its condemnation for faults that have no foundation in fact. It is not just that it should be charged on the Address, that it is a paper written after great deliberation, or that it claims to teach as having authority. Whatever are its demerits, there is, we can safely say, nothing assuming or arrogant in it. And it was not ushered in with any "pomp and circumstance." The Hanover Committee are altogether misinformed as to the facts under which it was written, and we are willing to believe have inadvertently fallen into error as to them. A closer attention to the Resolution of the Convention, on the part of the Hanover Committee, would have showed that two duties were imposed on the Committee: "to disseminate information" and "to prepare and publish an Address." We need not to remark to persons as well acquainted with the force of language as the Hanover Committee, that the latter duty does not necessarily include the former. Whether there be any thing new in the Address, is not to the point. It does not profess to impart information, and therefore is not subject to condemnation, if a great deal of instruction be not found in it. The preparation of it was known to all of the Committee present and to the publisher; it is therefore safe, and it may not be foreign to the subject, to say that it was written at intervals of time in three or four days before its publication, by one in ill health, without the means, time, or bodily ability to submit to research, and that one half of it was written over from the rough draft whilst the other half was in the Press. It was not proposed to us to write it until it had been very properly offered to able men, who with one consent had made excuse. It was declined by us on the first application, on account of ill health, and because, as we suggested, it should come before the public with a name of greater note than we could give it, and another application was recommended to several persons of ability, whom we named. The second application having failed, and with it all hope of a more respectable paternity for the Address, we reluctantly consented, and being absent until within a few days of the meeting of the Committee, we redeemed our promise under the disadvantages before mentioned. It is cheerfully

submitted to the judgment of the Hanover Committee, now the facts are known to them, to pronounce whether the demerits of the Address are aggravated by the circumstances under which it was prepared.

The second charge against the Address, is, that it represents North Carolina to be in a deplorable condition, (it being still the cue of the Hanover Committee to render the Address odious.) We do indeed confess our astonishment at the recklessness of this charge. Is the Address cold on the subject of what is laudable in the State? Is it niggard of praise to whatever is good or great or lovely amongst us? Does it not commend, in terms of the most hearty admiration, the extent of our noble domain, our benignant climate, our wise constitution, our just laws, our love of freedom, our numerous, intelligent, moral, and industrious people, and our military and Revolutionary glory, and our national rank? These, our physical, moral, legal and political, blessings are described in the Address with a fervor of feeling and language (may we be pardoned for saying) not altogether unworthy of the theme. The North Carolinian whom this does not satisfy is somewhat insatiate of praise, and he who shall say more, will give reason to believe that "he is not one of those sturdy moralists with whom the love of country is postponed to the love of truth."

In the same tone, the Hanover Committee prefer, as a charge against the Central Address, that in it the natural advantages of North Carolina are disparaged; and, having forgotten to make proof of the charge when it was made, they very necessarily, as we think, add a schedule of testimony at the end of their publication. A reference to the refutation of the preceding charge, will show that this same schedule is a little one-sided. Nor is the testimony to the purpose for which it is adduced. It is indeed said, in the Address, but in guarded and conciliatory terms, that with tracts of surpassing fertility over our territory, and especially our rivers, the general character of our soil is churlish and ungrateful, making scanty returns for the labor expended on it. Is there a mortal man hardy enough to deny the exact and literal truth of the description, or thin-skinned enough to be offended with it? How is it on the Roanoke, Tar, Neuse, Trent, New River, and the Cape Fear, in the lower country? Are not the fertile acres on their banks counterbalanced by the square miles of pinewoods that lie in the intervals between them? We do not so well know the localities of the middle and mountain counties, but does not all observation and report prove that the description is applicable to them? Is it any disgrace, that our lands, in their virgin state, do not yield their increase except upon the sweat of our brows? Why, if that be a reproach, we share it with all countries. It is a part of the original curse on the disobedience of our first parents. We cannot forbear to say, in proof of this termagant anxiety for the honor of our soil, affected by the Hanover Committee, that their faith in its general fertility is very much against the evidence of their senses—for if we forget not, the curse is graven at their very doors, in characters so deep and indelible, that they will not be effaced by the industry of centuries.

We pass over the item in the schedule as to the production of Cotton, with the inquiry whether it is disputed that it is our principle staple, and whether it would be scandalous to affirm that Cotton is not produced in our State as on the Red River, the Yazoo, the Mississippi, the Bend of the Tennessee, and in the State of Alabama and Georgia and South Carolina?

We come to the charge against the Address, so much labored by the Hanover Committee, namely, that it describes us as having no marine, and as having our foreign commerce and our coasting trade carried on in a great measure by vessels owned in other States; And elsewhere as "with a total absence of commerce," and for assigning as the fourth and least efficient cause for the depression of our industry, the want of one or more safe ports. That is, to sum it up in words as strong as the Hanover Committee can desire, we acknowledge that the Central Address, in substance, but without the least desire to make it a reproach, considered that we are without foreign commerce, without a mercantile marine, and it implies, very strongly, that we have no good ports. Before we proceed to the justification of the view thus taken of our foreign commerce, shipping, and ports, we must notice a mistake of the Hanover Committee, that we know not how to account

* The American Almanack of 1833, on the authority of the New York Shipping and Commercial Register, puts the Cotton crop of North Carolina, in 1830, at 36,862 bales; and that of 1831, at 36,540. In this estimate, no allowance is made for that part of our crop which finds its way to market through the ports of Virginia and South Carolina. We have the authority of the Hanover Committee, that 20,000 bales go from the port of Wilmington alone; and, as there is some increase of cultivation every year, we shall not, we are sure, be in error in estimating our Cotton crop at 50,000 bales, and over not worth less than \$2,000,000 at the present prices: this, we think, will entitle it to the first rank, at least in the array of our staples.