



TARBOROUGH

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1838.

We regret to learn, that the damage sustained by the late freshet is much greater than was at first anticipated. It will be seen by the following article, that the Rev. Joshua Lawrence, whose knowledge and experience in these matters we believe to be unsurpassed, estimates the loss at three millions of dollars.

On Neuse river, we understand, the loss is equally extensive as that on Tar river. On the Roanoke, we are happy to learn, the damage sustained is but trifling.

FOR THE TARBORO' PRESS. THE FRESHET.

Well, George, sometimes you, like other printers, are hard run for hot and fresh news, and have to ransack some old mouldy records for something that may be interesting to your readers; and in such case your friends should help you a little, so then, when you find a spare column, you may insert the following.

In the year 1796, at 16 years old, I settled in the fork of Fishing Creek and Tar River, cut down some pine logs with my own hands and built me a hut; and not far from that spot I have reared many buildings and lived ever since. The freshet in 1798 is marked down; four others I have seen, but none since '98 as large as the present. The one in August '95 done a great deal of damage on Tar River and Fishing Creek; but no comparison with this. The freshet in 1778, was marked down on the door post of Mr. Josiah Sessums. I paddled my canoe into his door in '98, and the freshet in '98 lacked about 15 inches of being as high as that of '78; the present lacks with me about 31 feet being up to that of '98.

The cause of the freshet with me is, first, the junction of the waters of Tar River, Fishing Creek, and Deep Creek; all which come together within four hundred yards of each other. The second cause is, the high banks of the river from the Parry place to Penny Hill; this makes the water back on us, not having vent below the mouth of the creeks. Also the high banks from Sessums' Bridge and above there, makes a freshet in Fishing Creek, above those high banks about Dicken's, Lyon's, &c. It has swept off for me 32 head of sheep, hogs I know not how many as yet, and at least 150 barrels of corn I call ruined, 15 stacks of fodder, and much damage done to 9 stacks of wheat; all my cotton to perhaps 1500 pounds, peas, potatoes, &c. saying nothing about the damage done to fences, &c. I should say from what I know of the farms on Tar River, Fishing Creek, Swift Creek, and Deep Creek, and I partially know them from near head to foot on both sides, that three millions of dollars would not recompense the farmers on those streams for their losses.

And I would further say to the farmers on those streams, that so far as I have tried heretofore, they had better let their corn alone on the stalk and not shuck it, nor touch it until it gets dry in the field; for I have often swummed over the tops of the corn tassels in my low lands on the creek and river, when it has been in its silk, and then made as good corn as ever I made; but the nearer dry the worse it hurts it, this I have proved, but the best way is not to touch it, only that on the ground, so far as I have tried it.

The drought has hurt its thousands, but the wet its fifty thousands. I write as I think, and am 60 years old, and have ranged the banks of the above streams for 40 odd years, and ought to know when the sun shines, be sure, or the moon, or the day-star, since I will say, that the sun has never risen on me before out of bed unless sick in 28 years, at home or abroad, in tavern or private house, on Sabbath or work days. I have been forthcoming from two hours to day-break—and at all times between then and before sun rise.

and quick over. For my affections are on higher and more durable objects, yet at all times I consider that industry, prudence and care, and strict attention to business or a man's calling, is the duty of all men and a safe guard to virtue, wealth and respectability; idleness of men a curse to man, society, and the nation.

This year '38 is, I think, marked with the judgments of God throughout the land, and perhaps the beginning of curses to the nation; for go to the house of God to worship, and there your ears will be stunned with rail roads, banks, and cotton, the curse of the poor and the nation.—Newspapers must be read in every group, and politics holds her court in the meeting house yards, (Tarborough excepted,) with all her train of laughing and contention between individuals and parties. The church of God divided, contending, backbiting, whi-pering, reproaching each other; and professors scarce show a green leaf any where I know of; all are going to heaven by their knowledge or creed of faith, unaccompanied by good works, the true test of a living faith or a Christian man; while others mock, and jest, and sport at the preaching of the gospel and the ministers thereof, and treat it with contempt; while hundreds judge it not worth hearing, or think themselves too great to hear it, or that at least they have no need of the blessings the gospel contains. Now add to this the pride, dress, pomp, show, and parade, equipage of man and horses, &c. &c., when I can remember when there were but two stick gigs and one old top gig in Edgecombe county.

Is this change which has taken place in fifty years for the better, or for the worse of the nation? I shall leave you to determine, with only saying, that that which ruins an individual when carried to excess, in the same way ruins a nation when carried to excess by her. Then we will just say this, that pride and luxury, combined with idleness, has sunk the proudest empires that ever were reared by man. Our nation is beginning fast to tread in the footsteps of former nations, and will sooner or later meet the judgments and scourges of God, and sink into the same whirlpool of the vengeance of God against wicked nations, of famine, pestilence and sword, and oppression of tyrants. For whenever nations lose their virtue they lose their patriotism, both of which are the life-blood of all national and individual strength: for righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people. And by it they ripen themselves for God's judgments, as did the Amalekians, Sodomites, Jews, Greeks, Romans, &c. And the best collective proof that I have been able to make from the history of former nations of their degeneracy, is to make a jest of virtue, boldness in sin, and mockery of things sacred, and cast off all the restraints of morality and religion, and give over to do as they list to satisfy sensual passions without shame. One word—shall not God visit a nation for these things?

JOSHUA LAWRENCE.

N. B. I have written this George, to give information to others of this section of country, and I should be gratified to hear in return from other sections, to know how things are going on elsewhere.

Small Pox in Warrenton.—We regret to see it stated in the Reporter, that three new cases of Small Pox have occurred in Warrenton. The first was a negro woman on the lot of Mr. Geo. M. Allen, to whom it is supposed it was communicated by a stage passenger; the 2nd and 3rd cases are her children; and the 4th, another negro woman on the same lot. Means have been adopted to prevent its spread.

Sporting Intelligence.—The New Market fall Races, near Petersburg, commenced on Tuesday, the 2d inst. First day, the Sweepstake, mile heats, \$100 entrance, 6 subscribers, was won by S. W. Morgan's b. f. by Luzborough, beating three others. A beautiful race, and closely contested. Second day, the Proprietor's purse, \$300, two mile heats, \$300, was won by W. R. Johnson's b. m. Mary Lyle, beating three others. Third day, Jockey Club Purse, \$700, four mile heats, two entries—won at two heats by W. R. Johnson's c. h. Boston, beating Polly Green with ease, who was withdrawn after the first heat. Fourth day, purse taken by Henry Maclin's c. c. beating three others.

We are indebted to the attention of Mr. Wm. F. Dancy, for a pamphlet copy of "An Address delivered before the two Literary Societies of the University of North Carolina, by Hon. WILLIAM B. SHEPARD, June 27, 1838." This Address fully sustains the character given to it, by several of the most distinguished literary gentlemen of our State on Commencement day, who pronounced it to be inferior to none ever delivered at our University. It

also has excited the commendation of distant writers, as will be seen by the following article from the Alexandria Gazette:—

"Mr. Wm. B. Shepard's address before the Literary Societies of the University of North Carolina is a very excellent production. It conveys the best sentiments, in a natural style, and is redolent of classical literature. We welcome Mr. S. back again from the boisterous contention of parties in the House of Representatives to the quiet halls of learning and the calm retreats of private life. He shows in his address that he turns with delight in the dusty high road of politics, into the flowery paths of science and learning."

Commercial Convention.—The following Circular, relating to the proposed Convention to be held at Norfolk, has recently been issued:—

Norfolk Borough, Sept. 17, 1838. Sir:—The Commercial Convention which recently assembled in Richmond having recommended that another Convention should be held at Norfolk, on the second Wednesday in November next, the citizens of this Borough have appointed a delegation to the proposed Convention, and have constituted a Committee to invite their fellow citizens of Virginia and North Carolina, to meet them on the occasion of the assembling of that body. Believing that you feel a deep interest in the success of every measure that may tend to relieve the commerce of the Southern States from the burthens to which it has so long been subjected, we address this communication to you requesting, that you will use such means as you may be enabled to command, to induce the people of your district to appoint a delegation to the proposed Convention.

The restoration of the direct intercourse between foreign nations and the Southern portion of the United States, we feel to be a subject of the most vital importance. We are not unmindful of the difficulties which oppose the accomplishment of this desirable result; but we cannot permit ourselves to doubt, that they are only such as may be overcome by united and persevering exertion. By the operation of causes not inherent in our natural condition, but which may be plainly traced to human agency, we have been deprived of that commerce which once shed its kindly influences over every department of industry. What we have once enjoyed, there surely can be no natural incapacity to possess, and have we so declined in spirit and resources, that we may not recover that which has been wrested from us by no physical necessity, but by the efforts of commercial rivalry, stimulated and assisted by partial legislation? Are we less fitted now than formerly, to conduct the operations of an extensive commerce? Are the products of our soil less abundant—our harbors less capacious—our merchants less intelligent?—May not the simple wants of our people be supplied, without paying tribute to those whose agency is superfluous; and may not the productions of our agriculturists be speed to the place of their consumption, without undergoing the expensive ceremony of an introduction to the ports of a distant section of the Union?

If the true answer to these inquiries be such as we suppose, it is not more the part of interest than of patriotism, to expose the causes which have produced the evils alluded to, and to ascertain the remedies by which their operation may be counteracted. We know no means more likely to ensure accurate information upon these interesting subjects, than an appeal to the matured reflection and varied experience of those who feel the ills, of which they complain; and we believe there is no mode, in which their counsels may be more freely imparted, or more extensively beneficial, than in the proposed convention, in which error may be exposed by friendly explanation, mutual suggestions may elicit truth.

We have the honor to be, With great respect, Your obed't Servants, JOHN S. MILSON, JAMES T. SOUTHER, JOHN H. BUTLER, HENRY B. REARDON, WM. E. CUNNINGHAM.

Wake Superior Court.—The Superior Court for this county, was held last week, His Honor, Judge Saunders, presiding. The only case of a Capital nature was an indictment against negro Shadrack, the property of Thos. Alston, Esq. of this County, for a Rape.—The victim of his brutality was a daughter of Mrs. Terrell, near Rolesville, a deaf and dumb and idiotic child of 13 years of age. The testimony in the case was positive and direct—the chief witnesses for the State being the wife and daughter of the Prisoner. The Jury remaining out but a short time, when they returned with a verdict of Guilty.—On application, however, of the Prisoner's Counsel, a new trial was granted by his Honor, the grounds of which we did not learn.—Raleigh Reg.

John B. Henderson, recently tried before the Criminal Court at Washington City, for forging Treasury Notes, was found guilty, and sentenced to pay a fine of fifty dollars and to suffer ten years imprisonment at hard labor in the Penitentiary.

Mr. Orr is elected from the county of Mecklenburg, to supply the vacancy occasioned by the death of Mr. Hutchison. Mr. Orr is a Democratic Republican.

Mexico and Texas.—Information has been received at New Orleans, which warrants the belief that Mexico will soon acknowledge the independence of Texas; and that the Indian difficulties on the frontier of Texas are entirely quelled.

Warlike.—The Mobile Register of the 29th ult. states that an order has been issued by the Governor of Mississippi to Brigadier Gen. Carter, of Columbus, to have the rifle corps of that place held in readiness, as there is a prospect of an Indian war in that quarter. It seems that a portion of the Muckabusha Indians, east of the Pearl river, in Leake county; are embodied, and threaten to take vengeance on the whites for having killed one of the tribe. They were to have held a council on the 10th. About twenty were said to be embodied.

The President returned yesterday, greatly invigorated by the visit to the Virginia Springs. His incessant occupation of mind since the inauguration, the arduous labor which two successive and very important sessions of Congress devolved upon him, had preyed considerably on his strength. The reviving waters of the Virginia Springs, the pure air, and the cheerful exercise enjoyed in traversing the mountains, have imparted a look of robust health, which we have not observed in him for years.

The most agreeable circumstance of the President's journey was the unaffected, familiar, hospitable kindness with which he was every where received by the people of Virginia. Parade, ostentation, and formality—which, however, kindly meant, are always oppressive to one of simple habits and Republican feelings—were most gracefully exchanged for unceremonious and friendly intercourse with the sensible, independent, and high-spirited people with whom he spent two months of partial relaxation from intense application to business.—Globe of 3d inst.

Cherokee Lands.—We learn from Chas. L. Hinton, Esq. one of the commissioners under whose superintendence and direction the sale of these lands took place last month, that the lands sold remarkably well, having averaged at least four times the State price. The amount of sales was about \$370,000; one-eighth of which was paid down, and the balance well secured by bonds, which will constitute a handsome unappropriated fund, subject to the future disposition of the Legislature.

The Democratic Dinner.—The dinner given at Yanceyville on Friday last, to the Senators and Delegation in Congress from this State, who have supported the important measures of the Administration, in their respective public stations, was numerously attended by the citizens of this country, and others; although the weather was extremely unfavorable for the occasion.

Speeches were delivered by Messrs. Brown and Bynum—and an eloquent and interesting letter from Mr. Calhoun, was read to the assemblage—all of which were received with marked satisfaction. Upon the whole it was an interesting time, and each one seemed to enjoy himself in a capital manner.

The proceedings in detail will be published in our paper next week; and after that the speeches of Messrs. Brown and Bynum will be given.—Milton Spec.

Murder.—The "Hillsborough Recorder" states that, on Monday last, a murder was committed at a grog-shop in Orange, by Marcus Armstrong. He had been drinking freely; on being refused more liquor by Joshua Berry, the owner of the shop, he became enraged, seized Berry and threw him over the railing of the piazza, which broke his neck and back. Armstrong immediately made his escape.

Murder.—A most awful murder was committed in this county on the night of the 3d instant. Mrs. Tempy Shaw, wife of Mr. James Shaw, shot her husband through the heart, and he expired instantly. We have not been able to learn the particulars; but we understand that they had lived disagreeable together for some time. This is the second murder we have had to record this year committed by Females in this county. We forbear comment, as the matter will no doubt, undergo Judicial investigation. Mrs. Shaw has not been committed to jail yet for the offence. It is supposed that she has "cut out."—Halifax Adv.

Mammoth Pea.—We saw a Pea a few days since raised by Mr. Weller, (Cultivator of the Morus Mutilcaulis Mulberry Tree) that measured 28 inches in length. Beat this—who can.—ib.

Servile Insurrection.—We learn from the Franklin (Tennessee) Review of Friday week, that a contemplated insurrec-

tion of the negroes in Marshall county, Mississippi, was detected and defeated a few days ago. The Review quotes the annexed account of it from the Pontiac Intelligencer of the 4th inst:

"The instigator of the movement we learn was a white man, as is usual in all occurrences of this kind, and the plot was disclosed through the fidelity of a slave. The negro in question could not resist the idea of his mistress falling in a general massacre, and divulged the plot to a negro appointed a night in which the friend who directed the plot for the purpose of hearing his plans in full accordance with instructions.

On the night appointed, several persons having secreted themselves close at hand for the purpose of overhearing the conversation, the negro met the conspirators, and so soon as he had opened his plans sufficiently to furnish conclusive evidence of his guilt against himself, the persons concealed rushed upon him and secured him. After his guilt was rendered certain, the indignation of the whole community around was so greatly excited that it was with much difficulty the friends of the laws could save the culprit from the vengeance of Judge Lynch. But we are rejoiced to say that in North Mississippi regard for the laws and the constitution prevailed over the Lynch code, in a better calculated than any which can possibly be conceived of, to arouse the passions and impel the citizen to administer justice with his own hand.

Alabama Banks.—We learn from a private letter, received by the Express of yesterday, that the recent Convention of the Alabama Banks had dissolved without fixing a day for resumption. The Mobile Banks were in favor of fixing the first of January, but they found no support in the Convention.—Pet. Int.

Petersburg Market, Oct. 5.—Cotton. The market is very quiet, with the exception of a few bales of the new Crop, received this week, which brought 12 cents; there is no change in prices since our publication. Flour, Superfine \$8 a \$8 1/2. Corn, Scarce at \$5, Bacon, (hog round, 16 to 18 cts.

Oct 9.—No change in prices since our last, with the exception of Wheat, which we now quote at \$1 50 to \$1 55.—Int.

Norfolk Market, Oct. 10.—Cotton, 12 to 12 cents; Corn, 85 to 85 cents; Bacon, (hog round,) 14 to 14 1/2; Lard, 13 to 14 cents.

Six bales of new Cotton reached town on Monday, and were immediately sold at 13 cents. The planters may send it here freely—they will find no want of purchasers in our market at fair prices.—Int.

Table with 4 columns: Item, Unit, Price, and Location. Includes items like Bacon, Brandy, Coffee, Corn, Cotton, Flour, Iron, Lard, Molasses, Sugar, Salt, Turpentine, Wheat, Whiskey.

TO THE Justices of the Peace OF EDGECOMBE COUNTY.

A MEETING of the Justices of the County of Edgecombe county, at the Court House in Tarboro',

On Thursday, the 18th inst. Is earnestly requested, for the purpose of taking into consideration the necessary steps to repair the Bridges in this county, damaged by the late freshet, as it is absolutely necessary that something should be done to facilitate travelling before the ensuing winter.

Several of the Bridges will be let out on that day, and those disposed to contract for the same, will do well to attend. By order of some of

THE MAGISTRATES. Oct. 12, 1838.

Andrew Kewan & Brother, COMMISSION MERCHANTS. PETERSBURG, VA.

REFER TO Mr. James Weddell, Mr. Jesse C. Knight, Messrs. D. Knight & Co. of Tarboro', N. Ca. Oct. 4, 1838. 40 9

Caution.

LOST, or mislaid, a Due Bill signed by Joshua Lawrence for \$6 25, payable to the subscriber, and dated about 16th April, 1838, for work done by negro Will. The public are cautioned against receiving said Due Bill, as it has been paid. JOSIAH ELLINOR. Sept. 29, 1838.