



TARBOROUGH:

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1843

We invite attention to the suggestions of "Anti Humbug." They were written by a veteran politician, for many years a close observer of men and things, and admirably calculated to detect and expose humbugs, however specious or plausible they may appear.

FOR THE TARBORO' PRESS.

To the People of Edgecombe County, and to all others who may feel interested in the subject.

We have lately heard much upon the subject of Free Schools, or Common schools. And Edgecombe has been criticised and taunted, because she did not choose to be humbugged by the legislative school system proposed in N. Carolina. When this subject was first spoken of, if I recollect rightly, the term free schools was used. And whether intended or not, did to some extent carry with it the idea, that the plan would enable the people to educate their children free of expense. If intentionally so used, the term was equivocal and deceptive. According to one of the ablest writers in the English language, "Words without meaning, or of equivocal meaning, are the everlasting engines of fraud and corruption." And a celebrated French diplomatist has expressed the idea, that human language was given to conceal, instead of expressing our meaning and purposes. No doubt in many, too many instances both remarks may be true. The term free schools, if intended to convey the idea of the proposed plan's being free of expense was improper, and comes within the category of equivocal and deceptive terms. Let me say to the people, that they can commit no greater error for their own interest, than calling on the Legislature to interfere in their private concerns, and do for them, what they can do much better and cheaper themselves. Does not experience prove beyond all doubt, that he who appeals to the law inevitably appeals to the pocket? The true and only purpose of government in a free Republican country like ours, should be to protect the people in their rights of person and of property, as well as their civil and religious liberty, leaving them free to do every thing except to infringe the rights of others, or injure one another. And beyond this let every man work out his own salvation, "quisque sua fortuna fiter"—each the artificer of his own fortune. Or if you will have a free though homely translation, "every man mind his own business." The very best way to make a fortune. This is the grand desideratum.—the ne plus ultra,—the very beau ideal of all good government—of free, Republican, Democratic government, such as we who call ourselves Democrats seem to be striving for, but which we have not certainly yet attained. Nor shall we, so long as the Legislature, State and Federal, are invoked or permitted to intermeddle with subjects they had better let alone.

Is not all government a restriction upon the natural liberty of man? And though a certain portion is necessary on account of our imperfect nature, to prevent our injuring one another, should it not be as little as possible? Should it go beyond that point? Would man be worse for only being restrained from wronging his fellow man, being left the utmost latitude of freedom in the pursuit of his own happiness, under the universal desire to better his condition? Under this all pervading incentive, left untrammelled by legislation, aye! and untaxed by legislation, is it to be supposed that the people, the parents, the fathers and mothers of the children who are to form the rising generation, would not be quite as good guardians and supervisors of the interest of their children in regard to their primary education as the Legislature, in any provision it could make?

Upon examining a little into the proposed plan, which is a compound of taxation and distribution, it would at once be seen that the first elements of education could be acquired probably at much less than one half the expense that would be entailed by the proposed system; which has too much machinery, and too many hands to manage it, not to incur great expense. And for these reasons would probably either have to be abandoned as inadequate after much expense, or be used as an entering wedge to still greater expenditure and taxation. I say this, because providing as the act does, for further aid by taxation, is an acknowledgment that the means on hand are insufficient. It is also the opinion of many, that the expense necessary to organize and carry the system into effect, would be greater than the resources now looked to. Buildings, teachers, superintendents, committee men, the two latter in the proportion proposed to each county and district would in the State, amount to a vast number and no doubt must all be paid. Would not the thin population of N. Carolina ren-

der this method less applicable than it would be in a densely populated country, or a city? Let the people examine well into the subject; and then ask themselves if they could not establish a school in every neighborhood of 3 or 4 miles square, when required or necessary, at which their children could be taught reading, writing, and arithmetic, preparatory to further education if thought expedient, more easily and cheaply, and quite as well as it would be done by the legislative plan eventually? Let them consider this. They have many examples in the county, and can multiply them at will, and from past experience know pretty well what the tax would be. A voluntary tax, which each could assume according to his ability and the time he could spare to his children. It is well known many who would be glad to send their children, are obliged to have them labor such portion of the time as would make it unequal between them and the more able, who could send theirs all the time. But there would be no remission or limitation of the tax to make up for the difference. It may be said, that the more wealthy would pay the most of the tax. But it should be recollected, that the poor man's little is as much to him as the rich man's much, to him. And without a discrimination or remission in his favor it would be unequal, where he could send only a part or perhaps no part of the time. To say the least, it is always doubtful legislation which takes from one to give to another.

Perhaps the best way would be to make the wants and expenses of the government as little as possible, leaving the money with the people to educate their children themselves. The idea of taking money from the people by taxation and returning it to them by any plan of distribution so as to be an advantageous operation, seems to be getting rather obsolete. It is fully illustrated in the case of the surplus revenue. And in a few months thereafter to be both increasing the taxes and rearing up a public debt to the tune of some 28 or 30 millions, by loans direct and indirect. Let it not be supposed that the people of Edgecombe do not properly estimate the utility and importance of education. It is not probable that any individual in the county, having children, would not be glad to have all the more useful branches of education taught them. But is the proposed plan the best, easiest, cheapest and most practicable? If the people are desirous of having themselves taxed and directed by the Legislature, in this matter of educating their children; perhaps the more practicable and efficient method might be to give them the first rudiments in primary neighborhood schools as already suggested, and for the Legislature with the means in hand to pay the expense of tuition, or such part as might be proper. And if the quota of each county should be sufficient, establish a central school in each county, at which, such of the higher branches could be taught as might be deemed expedient either to finish the education or to prepare for a more easy and shorter collegiate course at the University, by such as might think proper to avail themselves of its advantages at their own expense. That institution being already established, would add no further expense except as matter of choice to such as might think proper to apply it. In this way strong inducements would be held out to the parents, friends, and guardians of children at very little cost, to give them the first elements, as well as some, of the higher branches of education. The tuition at the primary, and secondary schools being paid for out of such public funds as are now, or may be, in the hands of public functionaries, by appropriations in proportion to population. And let the County Court direct in such manner and by such officer as may be proper, the application and payment of the money. If the funds already accumulated, should not be sufficient to pay for tuition in the primary and secondary schools, then such moderate taxation as might be thought proper could be resorted to. In the plan here proposed, if established, all might participate to such extent as they might think proper,—take as much or as little as they pleased. The secondary or intermediate schools are proposed upon the supposition that the money provided would be sufficient, beside paying teachers in the primary schools, to establish one central school, or in large counties such number as the money and convenience would authorize. Instead then of the complicated and unquestionably expensive system proposed by the Legislature, you would have a regular system of education complete in itself, at an expense not greater,—no doubt much less—because more simple. If upon due consideration this plan might be thought worthy of adoption, and in organizing and effecting its details to render it practically efficient, the action of the Legislature should be found indispensable, it could be resorted to without materially increasing its burthens.

Now let us look at funds in the hands of public functionaries. This can be done by turning to the Revised Statutes and subsequent acts of the Legislature in relation to this subject. The proximate or immediate means set apart applicable to the subject of education, are the annual proceeds of what is styled the Literary Fund. Which Fund consists of various items, which as they are pretty numerous (if not very valuable) it may not be necessary more than to refer to the Revised Statutes and subsequent acts of the Legislature, where they can be seen under the heads, Literary Fund and Common Schools. What is the amount of money produced from this source I am not prepared to say, or what part of that produced will be at the immediate disposal of the Legislature. I should however suppose a portion of the items thrown into this fund are unproductive. Being various old exuviae of our humbug system of internal improvements, a system for which there has also been established a fund, consisting of various items of public property. And though this system and fund may have been productive of great advantage to the public, I have not been made acquainted with the fact. If these funds, taking into consideration the property and resources engulphed in them, have been and are now productive, the combined amounts should be something handsome. And upon the supposition that they have been well managed and kept in their integrity, they ought now to be valuable, and by consolidating them and applying the proceeds to the establishment of the proposed system, they ought to be quite sufficient to complete it or go far towards its completion, without any additional burthen upon the people by taxation.

Some one of the public journals of this country, has adopted as its motto, the aphorism, "this world is too much governed." This is most unquestionably true, and tho' to some extent government, and legislation as a material part of it, are indispensable, it behooves the people to take care, that there be not too much. All ought to be and no doubt every friend to his country will be, willing to advance that which is shown to be necessary to the maintenance of good government—too much legislation is a curse instead of a useful instrument. We have only to look at the history of the world both past and present, or recent, to be entirely satisfied upon this point. Look at the condition of the people of the world generally under the dominion of old despotic governments, and more particularly at that people from whom we descended, and see what are their sufferings and privations. The greater part of which is entirely the result of excessive taxation, taking from them the produce of their labor, pressing them down to a necessitous pauperism, worse than any slavery in this country, about which their government keeps up such hypocritical cant. And how much wisdom in legislation have we in this, our comparatively free and happy country, to boast of for the few past years. Have any people been more bamboozled by humbug legislation? This is indeed the very age of humbug, and all humbugs are pickpockets. They all more or less under some pretence or other are after your money. Keep their fingers out of your pockets, and they will cease to trouble you.

One word more. Our adversaries are waking up. The long slumbers which succeeded the debaucheries of 1840 have been broken by the efforts of the leaders; and although the cider has died out, and coon skins seem to have vanished to the land of humbug, yet the new cry is already quivering on lips that shout willingly for any leader that promises to reward them with offices and spoils. They are forming Clay Clubs; they are plotting, they are preparing to sap, to mine, to out work us. And shall we be idle? No! Let us up then, and be ready for them; and let their onsets not be hurried back in stern defiance. We observe, from the Richmond Enquirer, that the democrats of Richmond are about to throw themselves into a Club. Why not organize one in Raleigh? Why not have one in every village—aye, in every neighborhood in the State? Depend upon it, we must organize, and the sooner the better.

Hon. Abraham Rencher.—We learn from a correspondent of Hill's New Hampshire Patriot, writing from Washington under date of October 8th, that the Hon. Abraham Rencher had been appointed by President Tyler Charge d' Affaires to Portugal, in place of Mr. Burrow, who has received permission to return.

Cotton.—The holders of this article would do well, it is thought, to be cautious in making sales at present. The large quantity lately on hand at Liverpool is going off with great rapidity; the crops have failed in many sections in the South; and under these circumstances of an increased demand on the one hand and a diminished source of supply on the other, the article is expected to advance still higher in price. It should never be forgotten by the planters, that it is the object of buyers and speculators in the article, to raise a cry about a full market and thus make purchases at low prices.—ib.

From the Washington Republican

HEALTH OF WASHINGTON.

The cool weather, for the last few days, we are gratified to state, has had a very material effect upon the health of the town, for the better. Since our last publication there have been but three deaths, and these were supposed to be of yellow fever. We hope sincerely, to be able to state in our next, that the dreadful scourge with which we have been visited has entirely disappeared, and that we shall have it in our power to give quite a favorable account of the return of our unhappy and ill-fated town to its original health.

Many of our citizens who left town previous to our last publication have returned, and it is probable that they will all return in a few days. But let us caution them, not to return until a hard frost. It would afford us much pleasure to see our town restored to its usual healthy and business-like appearance, but at the same time, we would say to the absent ones, remain where you are until every vestige of the disease has left the town.

DIED.

At the residence of Mr. Jas R Grist, near this town, on the 4th inst., Sarah Smith, daughter of Benj. F. Havens, Esq., aged 2 years and 8 months.

In this town, on the 7th inst., Dr. Jesse C. Pugh, associate physician with Dr. S. P. Allen.

In this town, on the 10th inst.; Mrs. Allen, formerly a resident of the Head of Pungo River, Beaufort County.

In this town, on the 12th instant, Mr. William C. Copeland, Saddle & Harness manufacturer, aged about 40 years.

Interior of Alabama.—The Mobile Register of the 5th inst. says,—

The present summer is considered in the interior as one of the most unhealthy and fatal which has occurred for a great many years. In Lowndes, Montgomery, Clarke and Moore counties, more or less sickness is to be found in every settlement, and numbers of old settlers have been carried off. In the towns of Hayneville and Claiborne the disease has been more than usually malignant. In the latter, a village of not exceeding 1000 or 1200 inhabitants, it was reported about a week since that over sixty persons were down at one time with the fever, and the names of several old citizens were mentioned who had fallen victims to its ravages. The city of Montgomery has, however, been favored with uninterrupted good health, although in the vicinity it is very unhealthy. The disease most common is the fever of the country—but where attended with unusual fatality, contagious, fever is found in its most virulent character.

Washington Market, Sept. 28.—Corn—wholesale, \$2 75 per barrel. Bacon—8 cents. Lard, 8 to 9 cents. Naval stores. New dip, \$1 85; Old, \$1 70. Scrap, 75 cents.—Rep.

DIED.

In this county, on Thursday last, Mrs. Mildred Jenkins, wife of Mr. James F. Jenkins.

In Nash county, on Saturday, the 7th inst. in the 8th year of her age, Alice Ann, daughter of Mr. William Dicken.

Prices Current, At Tarborough and New York.

	OCT. 21.	per	Tarboro',	New York
Bacon,	lb	7	8	4 5
Brandy, apple,	gallon	40	50	40 50
Coffee,	lb	13	15	9 13
Corn,	bushel	55	60	47 52
Cotton,	lb	6	7	6 8
Cotton bagging,	yard	20	25	15 16
Flour,	barrel	\$5 50	\$5 50	
Iron,	lb	5 1/2	6	3 4
Lard,	lb	7	8	7 10
Molasses,	gallon	27	35	18 20
Sugar, brown,	lb	8	10	6 9 1/2
Salt, T. I.,	bushel	45	50	32 32
Turpentine,	barrel	160	170	225 234
wheat,	bushel	65	75	100 110
whiskey,	gallon	35	40	20 25

GROCERY And Commission Business: THE Subscribers continue the Commission and Grocery Business in this place. They will as heretofore give particular attention to the sale of Country Produce, And promptly render an account sales of the same. N. M. MARTIN & DONNANS, Petersburg, Virginia, } 39 4 Oct. 3d. 1843.

Copartnership. WARREN HARRIS & CO., of Norfolk, Va., will on the first October next, establish a branch of their House in Petersburg, Va., under the firm of W. & H. Harris, For the transaction of a General Commission Business, and respectfully solicit consignments of Cotton, Tobacco, &c. We will also pay strict attention to receiving and forwarding Goods, Merchandise, &c. WARREN HARRIS, HENRY HARRIS, Sept. 20th. 1843. 38 3m

Notice. HAVING taken letters of administration from the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of Edgecombe county, according to law, on the estate of Benj. Sharpe, dec'd, and having obtained an order of Court to that effect, I shall expose to PUBLIC SALE, on Thursday, 26th Oct. next, the perishable property belonging to said estate, viz: Horses, Mules, Cattle, Sheep, and Hogs—all the Farming utensils, 1 Barouche and Harness, 1 cotton Gin, 1 wheat Fan, Blacksmith's tools, some Carpenter's tools— 1 yoke of Oxen, two barrels of Brandy, 1 Apple Mill and Press, 1 lot of Wheat and Peas, together with his Household Furniture— 10 shares of R. & W. R Road Stock, 8 bales of Cotton, 1 Piano Forte, with many other articles too tedious to mention. Sale to be opened at 11 o'clock, A. M. when and where the terms will be made known. JOHN P. SHARPE, Adm'r. Sept. 26 h, 1843 39

Notice. THE subscriber is desirous to sell his House and Lot at Rocky Mount. The situation is well calculated for a Store or a mechanical business of any description. Those who wish to purchase will do well to call, speedily and examine for themselves. Terms will be made accommodati g. A. J. SKINNER. Sept. 1, 1843. 35 5

List of Letters, Remaining in the Post Office at Tarborough, the 1st of Oct. 1843, which if not taken out before the 1st of Jan next, will be sent to the General Post Office as dead letters.

Adkins William 2	Lawrence John
Armstrong M E	Lodge William
Alford Edmond	Loeust Wright
Anderson Benj	Lee William C
Allsbrook David	Lee H
Braddy S E Miss	Magee Wm 5
Bynum Robt	Mc Don Jesse
Bradley Benberry	Mills Averat
Bibby Nancy Mrs	Mooring Wm L
Brown Don-on	Morgan John
Barron James	Neal David
Brown Jacob	Pender Joshua Col 2
Bradley John	Perrin Lewis
Cherry Jane Mrs	Pitman Reddin
Cromwell Elsha	Pender James
Cromwell Epinetos	Peel Wm Capt
Croy John A	Peel Peniah Miss
Dickson B A	Parker Theo 2
Denton Campbell	Parker John H
Ducken Louisa Miss	Parker Arthur
Drake Wm H	Rountree Emily Mrs
Dew Lurry M	Shiff of Edgecombe
Daniel John H	Staton Susan Mrs
Defford John B	Taylor Allen 2
Dunn May	Thomas Jesse 2
Ellisor James	Thoma Howell
Edmondson Joseph	Thorn Wm D
Ellis C field or James Cobb	Tyson Olivia Miss
Fryer James	Taylor Dawson
Garrett Joseph J 3	Tyler William
Gibbs Thomas B	Windom Laiah
Harvey Joseph	Wilson John
Jones Moses	Williams Philip
Johnson Henry	Wiggins Ann Miss
Knight Martha Mrs	Whitehead Mathew
Knight John	

84 JAS. M. REDMOND, P. M.