



**THE "FREE PRESS,"**

By George Howard,

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To the Members of the  
**METHODIST CHURCH,**  
In Roanoke District.

DEAR BRETHREN:

Your attention is respectfully invited to a momentous question, which is at present, and has been for several years greatly agitated and freely discussed among politicians in church and state both in the old and new world.

This question involves at once the very principles of civil and religious right, of religious liberty and equality. In an early period of our history, such a thing as free discussion was not agitated till the dawn of the American Revolution; and even at that period, we find that this discussion was peculiarly confined to political matters. But in times of more recent date, light has gone forth, a spirit of free enquiry has been promoted to great and important lengths, which, in the estimation of hundreds, and perhaps of thousands, has resulted in the conviction, that our church polity is not of the most equitable and judicious cast; and an ardent solicitation is now felt and displayed in different sections of the country, for the modification of our system of church government, so far as to admit amongst us a general equality on the representative principle.

On this subject the General Conference has been addressed in vain. The only alternative is an appeal to you, to unite firmly and piously in an examination of this subject. To this end your brethren have met, have formed a society, and have appointed proper officers and committees for the management of the society, and for general correspondence. A Constitution for said society will be drafted forthwith, and be ratified at a meeting appointed to be held at Bradford's meeting-house, on the fourth Saturday in this month.

It becomes our duty, dear brethren, thus to apprise you; and to urge you, by all the endearing ties of social concord to meet us there. We ardently wish you to take the subject into serious consideration. The great design is the promotion of truth in the accomplishment of the noble object above stated. Should there, however, be with any, a sentiment and feeling opposed to these measures, the subject is open for free and charitable discussion. This may lead to a fair understanding, and to a union of soul that will promote Zion's prosperity. You will understand distinctly, that no intention exists to split or divide the church, but to form a union society for the purpose of communicating freely with one another, and thereby to diffuse light and knowledge rela-

tive to the nature and general bearing of our church polity.

We are aware, that many say, that the societies are not dissatisfied. This can only be known fairly, by acquainting ourselves with the subject. Many, who have examined the matter, are convinced, that great and important alterations can be made for the better, and it is confidently believed, that the sooner these can be effected, the better it will be. We are sure, that the time has arrived when the attempt ought to be made. We, therefore, firmly rely on your co-operation, and remain—

Yours, in the bonds of fellowship.

JAMES HUNTER.  
C. H. HINES.  
L. H. M'LEAN.

Sampson's Chapel,  
Nov. 6, 1824.

**Methodists.**—It is in contemplation to erect in London, a monument to the memory of the late *Rev. John Wesley*, to consist of a spacious building for missionary purposes, and in which the great public religious anniversaries may be held. The measure was originated some months ago by several of the admirers of the founder of Methodism.

**Blacks.**—The town council of Providence, R. I. is preparing to send away all of the idle and dissolute colored people, that are found in that place.

**Banks.**—The Georgia Advertiser states that the bank at Hamburg, S. C. has stopped payment.

**African Legitimate.**—“This Monarch (king of Ashantee) was seated on a massive gold throne, under the shade of an artificial tree with golden leaves. His body, extremely lean and inordinarily tall, was smeared over with tallow mixed up with gold dust. A European hat, bound with broad gold lace, covered his head; his loins were encircled with a sash of golden cloth. From his neck down to his feet, cornelians, agates and lazulites, were crowded in the form of bracelets and chains, and his feet rested on a golden basin. The Grandees of the realm lay prostrate on the ground, with their heads covered with dust. A hundred complainers and accused persons were in a similar posture; behind them twenty executioners, with drawn sabres in their hands, waiting the royal signal, which generally terminated each cause by the decapitation of one or other of the parties. The Danish Envoy, passing a number of bloody heads, recently separated from the body, approached the throne. The magnificent flaming Prince addressed him with the following most gracious questions:—“I would willingly detain thee for some months in my dominions, to give you an idea of my greatness. Hast thou ever seen any thing to be compared with it?”—“No! lord and king, thou hast no equal in the world!”—“Thou art right, God in heaven does not much surpass me!”—*M. Male Brun.*

**A Dwarf.**—The English papers of late have had many in-

teresting articles respecting the Sicilian Dwarf, but we have something now that may compete with it. There is, in Washington-hall, a most perfect and agreeable dwarf. His name is Stevens; he is in his 21st year, and measures *thirty-seven* inches in height, and weighs *thirty-four* pounds. He is as perfect a model of the human species as nature ever formed. His features, form, actions and conversation, are manliness in miniature. He was born in the town of Lyman, state of Maine.

*New-York Adv.*

**Ireland.**—A public dinner has been given in Dublin, to the celebrated Irish barrister, *Donnel O'Connell*, as a tribute of respect for his public and private virtues, and particularly for his ceaseless, splendid and eloquent exertions in the cause of his fellow Catholics. Three hundred gentlemen sat down to dinner, and when Mr. O'Connell's health was given from the chair, he returned thanks in his usual style of eloquence, and in the course of his speech, the following bold language fell from him:

“The freedom of my native country has been my first object through life; and no matter how I may be calumniated, I will, while I have breath, struggle to make Ireland what she ought to be—

“Great, glorious and free,  
The first flow'r of the earth—the first gem of the sea.”

When I see such an assemblage as that present this day, I will not dare to despair. From this moment I cherish hope, and will make a vow to my country not to despair. There is not a physical force in Great Britain to prevent Ireland's obtaining her rights. \* \* \* \* Our object is the establishing religious equality in Ireland, to see the Protestant and Catholic carry their prejudices together and lay them as an offering upon the altar of their country. The means of freedom are in our hands. Seven millions of people cannot be kept much longer without their claims being harkened to. Every field is a redoubt, and every mountain a tower of strength. Ireland could shake her oppressors from her, like “dew drops from the lion's mane.” Every man's first thought, on his awaking in the morning, and his last on retiring to bed at night, should be, how he could best perform his duty to his country.

**Melancholy accident.**—On Wednesday last, (says the Elizabeth-City Star, of the 6th inst.) a quarrel commenced in this town, between two men, named Spratt and Lowe, on some slight occasion; a fight ensued. Spratt being an athletic, active man, knocked Lowe down, and it is said kicked him severely; after getting up and walking a few steps, he sat down and soon afterwards fell. Notwithstanding medical aid was at hand, he died in about an hour. An inquest has been held over him. The perpetrator Spratt, made his escape immediately, eluding the officer who pursued him. He is said to be a native of Virginia, and lives at or near Deep Creek, north end of the Canal.

**Tennessee Lands.**—The petition of the University of No. Carolina, praying that certain escheated military land warrants might be adjudicated and passed for her benefit, was, on the 6th ultimo, *rejected* in the House of Representatives of Tennessee, by a vote of 23 to 16, one gentleman, said to be favorable to the claim, being absent.

The Nashville Whig gives the following account of a singular transaction, which occurred while this subject was before the House:

On Thursday evening, the resolution submitted by Mr. Maury on the Saturday preceding, was taken up. This resolution provides, in substance, that the Commissioner of West Tennessee proceed to adjudicate the warrants belonging to the University of North Carolina, so soon as it shall be certified to him by the Secretary of State of North-Carolina, under the authority of the General Assembly of that state, that they have ceased issuing military warrants for the services of their officers and soldiers of their continental line, and that the muster rolls are forever closed; provided the agents of the University, or of the Colleges of this state, (as the case may be,) shall assign one half of said warrants to the Commissioners of the Common Schools that may be established in the different counties in this state.

Before the question was taken on this resolution, Mr. Balch offered an amendment, providing that said warrants should be adjudicated so soon as the Trustees of the University of N. Carolina should assign, to *each member of the General Assembly one thousand acres of said warrants.*

After this proposition had been read by the clerk, Mr. Grundy, Mr. Brady and several other gentlemen mildly and persuasively requested Mr. Balch to withdraw it; stating that they had no doubt the gentleman intended it as a jest. Mr. B. positively refused to do so, and proceeded to make a speech, not in favor of resolution, but against the claim of the Trustees of the University, of which he spoke in very harsh terms. It was then intimated to him by Mr. Polk, Mr. Grundy, and others, that the House knew what was due to its dignity, and had the power to punish any contempt which might be offered to it. Mr. Balch still declining to withdraw his resolution, Mr. McClellan moved that he be expelled from the house for a contempt. On this motion some conversation took place in which was urged by Mr. Brady, that the house were at that time too much excited to decide on a proposition of so much importance.—The whole subject was then postponed until the succeeding day. On Friday morning, an apologetic letter was received from Mr. Balch, which was accepted by the house.

**New Department.**—It is asserted that the President will, at the next session of congress, recommend the establishment of another Department in our Government to be called “the

Department of Domestic Affairs.” President Madison strongly recommended the establishment of such a Department in his day, and the necessity has greatly increased. The measure will create a new Member of the Cabinet. Here, we believe, the European System is reversed, and the President is responsible, and not the Cabinet. *Bost. Pat.*

**Duelling.**—Two men having a dispute in Ohio, one of them said to the other, “I am not able to fight you; but I will meet you with a musket any day you dare meet me.” This being deemed to be a challenge, he was indicted at the late term of Bellmont county court, found guilty, and sentenced to imprisonment and hard labor in the Penitentiary, for three years—that being the shortest time prescribed by the law of the state, for sending a challenge to fight a duel.

**Bellows Falls, (Vt.) November 1.**—A few evenings since, an inhabitant of a neighbouring village, returning from an excursion to this town, and happening to be *vino ciboque gravatus*, (in English, with his skin full of gin,) fell fast asleep in the chaise. While enjoying nature's sweet balm, his horse attempting to turn, backed the wheels off one side of a bridge twenty feet high. But mark how fortune favours the sleepy!—The chaise lodged in the top of a young hemlock that stood by the bridge; the faithful steed maintained his ground; and our hero's slumbers were not disturbed till morning, when he clambered carefully out of his leafy couch, and called the nearest neighbours to help him get his chaise out of the tree top. *Gaz.*

**La Fayette.**—We have been informed that suitable preparations are making in Camden to receive General La Fayette, the nation's guest. The Governor of this State, and through him the masonic fraternity have been invited to attend and officiate at the laying of the corner stone of a monument to be erected to the memory of Baron De Kalb, whose remains it is understood are to be re-interred.—The laying of the stone to be, by General La Fayette, the fellow-soldier and companion in arms of the deceased. It is also expected that His Excellency, who is also master of the Grand Lodge of this State, will deliver a suitable address upon the occasion. We this day insert the invitation of the Grand Master to the masonic fraternity to attend this interesting ceremony. *Georgetown (S. C.) Gaz.*

**New-York Canal.**—Seventeen thousand four hundred and thirty-nine dollars were received by the Collector at Albany, for Canal Toll during the month of October; and four hundred and forty boats cleared by him in the same month, laden with three thousand and sixteen tons of merchandize, besides iron castings, household furniture and sundry articles not enumerated on the rates of toll. *New-York paper.*