



THE "FREE PRESS,"

By George Howard,

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Communications.

For the Free Press.

NO. IV.

It is not Halifax or North Carolina alone that would be benefitted by locking into the river at Weldon; the interest of the Virginia individuals of that Company and of the southern and western parts of that state, and indeed of the whole state, would be so too, in an equal or greater degree by making Halifax the entrepot, or port of transferring the cargoes from the boats descending the river to the boats ascending from the Atlantic, or depositing their cargoes in suitable and safe warehouses until time and convenience should dictate the transport of such deposits in either direction as the interest or will of those interested should dictate. Nor is there one advantage to be gained by the Virginia members or interest in making Weldon the place of transit or deposit that will not be enjoyed by them in a much greater degree by transferring it to Halifax; for if the doubt be as to the safety of the navigation from Weldon to Halifax for boats such as descend the river to Weldon, a moments reflection will convince them, that any boats that can descend the upper, wide, long, and unsheltered reaches of the river above Weldon, where they must ply in many instances unsheltered from high adverse winds, and occasional storms, must be perfectly safe in plying from Weldon to Halifax, a distance not more than six or seven miles, where the sinuosities of the river and the corresponding curvature and extreme height of the banks, interpose their shelter so completely, as to afford perfect safety to the navigation of that part of the river with any kind of craft or boat of sufficient tenacity to hold together and keep out water; and the same advantages of purchasing, holding, and owning lots for warehouses, building, and other improvements, will be afforded on as reasonable terms at Halifax as at Weldon, and the interest resulting from the investment in making such improvements, must be greater and more immediate than it possibly can be by locating the place of transit and deposit at Weldon, and making correspondent improvements there, with a view to the making it permanent; besides the physical certainty that Weldon must, at no distant period, share the fate and exhibit the appearance of desertion and desolation now exhibited by Rockland, its neighbor & predecessor in ill judged speculation, to the disappointment and ruin of many ardent and enterprising men.

It is true that doubts might, and no doubt are entertained of the safety of boats lying at Halifax, in times of high freshes, from drifting ice and floating timber running against them and injuring them; those particularly from the upper county, as being more fragile than those ascending from the Atlantic, and less fitted to withstand with safety such uncommonly violent torrents as those are which at such times precipitate their impetuous volumes down the bed of the Roanoke; but these doubts must cease, and confidence be restored to the most timid, by viewing the complete and secure shelter afforded by the projecting cliffs, and indented banks at Halifax, and the great facility with which an harbour, perfectly secure at all times and seasons can be made there with a trifling comparative expense of money, and the calling in common sense and common industry to aid in profiting by the advantages which the ravines at that point afford, to make docks by trifling excavations, as many of them are nearly equal in depth to the bed of the river; in addition to which, it is well known that a gentleman as eminent for kindness of disposition and many amiable traits of character, as he is singular for the affectation of rough, blunt, and apparently cynical manners with which he disguises them, with a public spirit that does him honor, and a zeal and anxiety for the prosperity of Halifax, that should endear him to its citizens, procured a law to be passed to authorize the building a permanent bridge at Halifax, the doing of which will most assuredly make Halifax the thoroughfare between the eastern section of Virginia and of the eastern states, and Raleigh, Fayetteville, and the southern sections of the states of South Carolina and Georgia, &c. as it would shorten the distance now travelled and put the road on much more level and firm ground. This bridge, if built as it should be, of durable materials, namely of stone work, especially if the abutments were so built, the southern abutment can be so constructed, and no doubt will, as to afford a perfectly safe harbour to every description of craft on the down steam side in all freshes, and other extraordinary cases; and there can be little doubt but the contemplated bridge will be completed in due time, because the people of Halifax, both in town and country, cannot always be so blind to their immediate interest, as not to promote it with all their weight and influence as well as assistance; as it is certain that the tolls at a bridge properly built at that place would pay a large interest of the capital stock invested in the building, which will be trifling compared with the great advantages to be derived from it to the country generally, and with the extraordinary per cent. it must and will pay in tolls on the capital stock so invested.

ROANOKE.

Interesting to Jurors....At the last Mayor's Court in Philadelphia, on the trial of a person for felony, some difference of opinion appearing to exist among the Jury, it was agreed by the counsel for the Commonwealth, and the counsel for the prisoner, that a constable should be sworn to keep the Jury together until they agreed; that they should then seal up their verdict and go home; the verdict to be received, from the Jury, at the meeting of the court in the morning. These conditions were acceded to by the Court. Soon after the Jury had retired they agreed upon, signed, and sealed up, their verdict, and separated....When the court met in the morning the verdict was read and was found to be a verdict of guilty, signed by all the Jurors. One of the Jurymen said that he did not agree to that verdict; that he was of opinion that the Defendant was innocent. He was asked if he had entertained that opinion when he had signed the verdict. He said he had, but that he had signed the verdict of guilty for the purpose of being permitted to go home. The Jury not being able to agree in the case, were directed to be discharged. This being done, the Juror, who had just avowed that he had signed a verdict against his judgment for the purpose of ensuring the separation of the Jury, was ordered to enter into recognizances, himself in two hundred dollars and one sufficient security in the like sum, to answer at the next court, for the misdemeanor of which he had confessed himself guilty.

MOUTH OF THE COLUMBIA.

The editor of the New York Advocate (Mr. Noah) says that a man on his journey from New York to the mouth of Columbia river, will meet with the following accommodations on his route:

"He may, very pleasantly, breakfast with the Russians....dine with the English....sup with the French....eat macaroni and Parmesan cheese, with the Italians—sour erout, with the Dutch—and smoke a comfortable pipe with the Austrians;—if he starts from Mackinaw, on his trip, visit the Quapaws, the Sioux, the Chippewas, the Catawbas, the Foxes, and all of those independent tribes of savages which are spread over that vast territory; he will have a little comfort and accommodation as he has tranquility and peace of mind.—Instead of a neat cottage, overgrown with honeysuckle, and a short petticoated damsel, with black eyes—cream and fruit, and wine for breakfast, and all those comforts we meet with in a walk through Switzerland, the traveller, in his journey to Oregon, will occasionally hear a bullet whistling by his ear, will have the privilege of dodging a blow from a tomahawk, or be placed rather too close to a roasting fire for convenience. Bear meat, buffalo horns and opossums, may be ranked as delicacies, if he can catch them; and should the traveller, after a pilgrimage of many months, come in sight of the U. States' territorial government of Oregon, he will, like those who journey to Mecca, be ready to lay his bones in the promised land."

Police Court.—A man, calling himself George Sleeth, of decent appearance and seemingly of about thirty years of age, on Friday last voluntarily presented himself before the Police Court, and entreated, to be imprisoned and tried for the murder of his wife. He said that in 1815, she was taken sick, at Pittsburg, and, as the usual phrase is, brought to bed; that he applied to a physician, who, as he supposes, gave him by mistake, other pills than he intended, which he, himself, gave to her, and she died; that no one ever accused him of killing her, but the "private monitor, conscience," that he had never before "complained of himself" or told the circumstances to any one; that he was troubled with dreams, and was induced, by those he had last night, to become his own accuser. Having been told, that he "had better go home, and go to work," he replied, "no I can't work, I never shall do any more work." On being questioned particularly with respect to his last night's dreams, he said, he went to bed at 12 o'clock, after having drunk two glasses of brandy; that he sleep alone, but, that there were other persons in the room, that he dreamt about cats, ghosts, hobgoblins, witches and wizards, that the cats were of a black and grey color, but, he could not tell, whether, they were "he or she"; that he saw men in different dresses. He said, he lived at No. 158 Front street and kept store for Mathew Dollards. He was dismissed by the magistrates, with the consoling assurance, that if any complaint should be made against him, he should be sent for, in form of law. We have been informed, that he had made one or two similar applications before. He appears to be very much dejected, and indeed, it may with truth, be said of him, that "melancholy" has "marked him for her own."

New-York E. Post.

N. Carolina Legislature

The Legislature of North-Carolina, after a session of 52 days, (the longest ever held in this state,) rose on Wednesday, the 5th inst. having passed 33 acts of a public nature, 112 private ones, and 35 resolutions. The following is a list of all the public acts, (as furnished by the Raleigh Star,) with such of the private acts and resolutions as are considered interesting to our readers.

CAPTIONS OF LAWS

Enacted by the Legislature of North-Carolina at its session of 1824-5.

PUBLIC ACTS.

1. An act to extend the right of reviving actions where the plaintiff or defendant may die pending the suit. [No suit, to which an executor or administrator is a party, shall abate by the death of such executor or administrator; but may be revived by or against the administrator *de bonis non* of the deceased party.]

2. Authorising the making of a turnpike road from the Saluda Gap, in Buncombe, by the way of Smith's, Murrayville, Ashville and the Warm Springs,

to the Tennessee line. [State to subscribe for 100 shares, at \$50 each.]

3. Amending the act of 1819 to provide for the payment of witnesses in certain cases. [Where the Court or Solicitor dismisses a prosecution on behalf of the state, the Court may order the witnesses to be paid.]

4. Allowing amendments on writs of error and appeals, and authorising the Supreme Court to make amendments.

5. Amending the act of 1818, laying duties on sales at auction. [Contemplates a duty on private sales, by auctioneers, regulated by a previous sale or sales at auction.]

6. Amending the act of 1814, concerning divorce and alimony. [Repeals so much of said act as requires 12 months to elapse after filing the petition, and so much as imposes a tax of 10 pounds on the person cast; and provides that if the party petitioning make oath that he or she is not worth 200 dollars, bond for the payment of costs shall not be required.]

7. For restraining theatrical representations in the vicinity of the University. [Makes it indictable for persons to exhibit theatrical representations within five miles of Chapel Hill.]

8. Concerning the lands held under leases from the Tuscarora tribe of Indians. [Lands held under such leases to be considered real estate.]

9 Directing the completion of a public road, commenced by Aaron Albertson, from Parkville, in Perquimons county, to Pasquotank river bridge. [Appoints commissioners to receive subscriptions and contract for the completion of said road; and should the sum raised by subscription be insufficient for the purpose, authorises the Public Treasurer to supply the deficiency, if not exceeding 2,500 dollars, out of the fund appropriated for Internal Improvement.]

10. To carry into effect the contract made by Benj. Robinson and William Robards, commissioners on behalf of the state, with certain Cherokee Indians.

11. Granting further time to file appeals in the Supreme Court. [Allows the appellant any time within the first seven days of the term to file his appeal.]

12. Amending the act of 1819, to create a fund for internal improvement, and to establish a board for the government thereof. [Reduces the number of the Board from six to three; limits the salary of the Civil Engineer to 3,500 dollars; and reduces the pay of the Secretary of the Board from 6 to 3 dollars per day for every day the Board shall be in session.]

13. Appointing commissioners to superintend the laying off and improving that part of the great state road between the town of Jefferson and the Tennessee line, in Ashe county. [Provides that the commissioners shall publish proposals for said work, which shall be given to the lowest bidder; and authorises them to draw 300 dollars from the fund set apart for internal improvement, for the purpose of carrying the provis-