



THE "FREE PRESS,"

By George Howard,

Is published every Friday, at THREE DOLLARS per year, consisting of 52 numbers, and in the same proportion for a shorter period. Subscribers at liberty to discontinue at any time, on paying arrearsages.

Advertisements inserted at fifty cents per square, or less, for the first insertion, and twenty-five cents each continuance.

Letters addressed to the Editor must be post paid.

Communications

FOR THE FREE PRESS.

The Editor of the Western Carolinian has, on several occasions, amused himself in witty remarks, if not invidious comparisons, between this town and that of Salisbury. He in derision calls this town *Old Sarum*, which is a compliment to us, of which the Editor knows not: *Old Sarum*, is a borough in England, which had only three votes for a Member in Parliament; they were given to the celebrated WILLIAM PITT, the great Commoner, as he was called at that day, and afterwards the great Earl of Chatham. A great and celebrated name, as Mr. Burke observed; and another great statesman also observes of him: "With one hand he smote the House of Bourbon, and wielded in the other the democracy of England." But for an Editor of a backwoods town, "where hope never smiled, nor pleasure ever dawned," to be always nibbling at this town; he might perhaps be offended if we did not notice him—we know that "base envy withers at another's joy, and hates that excellence it cannot reach." We will admit that the town of Salisbury has but little commerce, except only in the Christmas holidays, they sell a great many ground peas; as to fashion, dress, and taste, and that elegant *non chalance* of fashionable life, the Editor confesses it is not to be found in his town—but at the same time in his *statistics* he does not inform us how many country-bumpkins there are in the vicinity of the town. Q.

For the Free Press.

NO. V.

Having disposed of what appears to be the material objections to the locking into the river at Weldon, and making Halifax the place of transit and deposit, I will before I quit that part of the subject, bring to view what though merely incidental must have an important influence on reflecting minds in considering it. And that is, the unhealthiness of Weldon; for that it is unhealthy is a fact well and publicly known for years; from what causes, whether local or otherwise, it is impossible to determine; but that the fact is so, is on all hands admitted. It is true that the local position of Weldon would to those acquainted with it, induce a conviction that the deadly mortality with which it has been visited, is owing to some approximate existing causes, for close to it on the west lies the large mill-pond of Mr. Hudson, and southwardly of that one lies

another large mill-pond, both covering a great area of land, and having immense bodies of rotting and rotten timber and wood, and consequently great quantities of putrid and putrifying vegetable matter, the exhalations from which, under the action of the intense heat of a summer's sun, emits a poison at once subtle and hostile in the extreme to human health, and of course to human existence. This miasma, so dangerous to health and so obnoxious to life, from the contiguity of its origin to Weldon, and from the prevalence of south and south-westerly winds in the latter part of the summer, in the whole of the autumn, and in the beginning of the fall months, impregnates the circumjacent air and precipitates itself on this spot, apparently devoted to its fury, and of course to ill-health, pestilence and death; while immediately in front of it on the north lie the marshes on the margin of the river, contributing also their baleful influence, together with the water in the Basin, which having no outlet becomes stagnant and offensive, and with Mush Island, proverbial for its insalubrity and its great fertility. While stretching from south to east and eastwardly, on the remaining side, are endless swamps and pools of water, that becoming putrid in the summer help to swell and condense bodies of noxious vapors, that engender and spread ill health, disease and death in and around Weldon, and makes it at once an hospital for the living, and a grave-yard for the inhabitants, and poisons their enjoyment of life with the certainty of their peril, as the gloom upon their countenances, and their sickly cadaverous visages and atrabilarious complexions, with a few exceptions, proves beyond the power of human ingenuity to refute. I will here ask, solemnly ask, the friends to the making Weldon the place of transit and deposit, in the name of humanity, if they are determined to persevere in this unfeeling, impolitic, and unprofitable course, at the risk, the imminent danger (I will say certainly) of immolating the hardy yeomanry, peasantry, and laborers who shall man the upper boats descending to Weldon from the high and healthy regions of Virginia, and of this state, to their whims, their mistakes, their prejudices, and their selfishness? Or, if they are incapable of commiserating the woes of their fellow men, are their consciences so seared by momentary interest, (an interest that as it regards Weldon must be fugitive) as not to feel any qualms for the miseries they may bring into and upon families in every part of the country? And if they are determined to set public sentiment and public feeling at defiance, still let me ask if they are not alarmed, lest the spirit of the people should rise in a tempest of indignation against them, at finding themselves sacrificed, consigned to disease, pestilence and certain death, by being thus compelled to sojourn at Weldon? which must inevitably be the fate of those men who from an healthy country arrive there as boatmen in full health,

strength and vigor, and therefore the more certain mark for the demon of desolation to hurl his fatal darts at. Surely when such a state of things can be avoided, and when every individual interested will be greatly benefitted, and the public interest essentially promoted by taking a different, but an equally easy and far safer course, it is the bounden duty of those to whom their fellow citizens have confided interests so important, so interesting, and so dear to all, to take that course that is most congenial with public opinion and feeling, and most conducive to public good, and therefore better adapted to, and more commensurate with, giving general satisfaction.

ROANOKE.

**Public Debt.**—The Public Debt of the United States on the 1st of October, 1824, amounted to \$90,697,071 54. Of the amount then due there was held—

By the British,	\$18,515,764 50
By the Dutch,	3,362,366 46
By all other foreigners,	2,072,241 97

Making the total amt held by foreigners,	23,950,372 93
The amt of stock held by domestic credit is	66,695,240 90
Add for stock in transition from and to the several loan offices,	31,457 71

Making the total amt of the public debt on the 1st Oct.	\$90,697,071 54
---	-----------------

**Artificial hands.**—Perhaps the following relation may be interesting to the curious, and at the same time be the means of directing some unfortunate being to an ingenious mechanic who can actually make artificial hands and feet, which are valuable substitutes for amputated limbs. When we recollect that the Taliacotian operation of manufacturing new noses, out of the integuments of the forehead, has been successfully practised in the United States, and that palates to the mouth, and even glass eyes can be fitted into the sockets so completely as to deceive a critical observer, we can scarcely doubt the possibility of making other appendages, equally useful.

A laboring man by the name of Reed, who had both arms blown off just below the elbow, and who had also suffered the loss of an eye, in blasting a rock at the bottom of a well, made application a few weeks since to Mr. Doyle, of the Columbian Museum, in Boston, who carved a pair of hands and matched them to the stumps, so ingeniously, that they would be mistaken at the first view for natural hands. Although there are several springs exerting a power on the palm and on the wrist, the contrivance is very simple, and there is but little danger of its getting out of order. He is now enabled to take off his hat as genteely as his friends, eat his food, feed himself as readily as any person, and what is still more wonderful, write his name with correctness and facility. His clothing is now kept together by small hooks instead of buttons, which he manages with so much adroitness as to dress and undress himself without any kind of assistance. His acquaintances

have now the strongest hopes that he will maintain himself by his own industry. What adds greatly to the interest of Mr. Reed's case, and reflects honor on the benevolent artist who has thus restored him to the pleasures of manual industry, is that he was made welcome to the services of Mr. Doyle, and left him with a thankful heart and money in his pocket.

[Medical Intelligencer.

**New Inventions.**—The Courier de la Meuse announces an aeronautic scheme which sinks into insignificance all former attempts. It is planned by a physician, named Robertson, and he intends, by means of it, to visit all parts of the globe. This wonderful machine, the Columbus of balloons, is to be called the Minerva, and will be 150 feet in diameter and capable of raising 72,954 kilograms or 149,037 French pounds. It will carry sixty persons, provisions for five or six months, furniture of all kinds, and scientific instruments. It will consist of a balloon holding 1,767,150 cubic feet of hydrogen gas, and the vessel altogether will weigh 80,557 pounds. This stupendous aerial edifice is, we are sorry to learn, only retarded for want of cash. What a misfortune for a learned world!

**Louisville, (Ky.) Dec. 21.**—We are gratified to hear that Dr. Buchanan has succeeded in propelling a boat by the application of his newly invented generator. On Sunday last she ran five or six miles up the river and returned with a number of gentlemen, who seem much pleased with its operation. The advantages which it is considered to possess over boilers now in use, are economy in the cost, a considerable saving of fuel, lightness, the space which it occupies, and entire safety against accidents resulting from the bursting of the boiler; advantages which, combined, cannot fail to introduce it into general use. The boiler weighs about five hundred pounds. We understand the Dr. intends applying it to propelling carriages on land, in which he feels confident it will be eminently successful.

**Imprisonment for debt.**—The law of South Carolina, in relation to debtors, and creditors, has been so far ameliorated as to exempt females from arrest for debt under a *ca. sa.* We hail this, observes the Charleston Courier, as a welcome omen of the progress of illumination among us, which we hope will ere long, produce the entire abolition of imprisonment for debt.

**The Journal des Debats** (Paris paper) contains a report of the trial and conviction at Versailles of a man charged with the horrid crime of murdering a girl of twelve years of age, and eating the flesh and heart. The man confessed the crime and declared he was induced to commit it from an irresistible thirst of human blood. It appeared on the trial, that he had indulged this cannibal ap-

petite in the most barbarous and shocking manner.

**Fire.**—On Tuesday the 30th ult. a large dwelling house, occupied by Mr. W. Norse, of Townsend, (Vermont) was entirely consumed by fire. On the day following, a number of the neighbors and friends of Mr. N. voluntarily collected—timber was felled, hewed and framed, and on Saturday a house was erected forty feet in length and thirty in depth.

N. Y. Ev. Post.

**Fire.**—On Monday week a large brick building, the property of Gen. Taylor, was burnt down at Norfolk. It was a double house; the part in the rear was built immediately after the Revolution for a Court-house. The whole pile was of considerable extent. It was insured. The Norfolk Herald commends in high terms the fire companies, in arresting the progress of the flames.

**Law Case, Circuit Court, New-York.**—Sarah Moraa vs. Dawes. Judge Edwards, present.—This was a case of seduction of the plaintiff's daughter, and has occupied the court for several days. The jury has returned a verdict of NINE THOUSAND DOLLARS damage; being the greatest verdict ever delivered to this country, on a similar charge.

**The Book of Revelation unsealed.**—The last Washington Journal states, that the great demand for this work having suggested the expediency of increasing the edition, and of making arrangements to gratify curiosity every where in the country at once, a delay of a few days will result to subscribers in receiving it, which it is hoped will be excused.

**Parasols.**—The Emperor of Austria has granted to three manufacturers, at Vienna, the exclusive privilege, for five years, of making a new species of their invention. The form of these is singular. When open, they have the appearance of an arch; when closed, that of a lyre. They may be taken apart and packed in a usual sized reticule.

**Creeks.**—The Commissioners who were appointed to conclude a treaty with the Creek Indians, respecting the territory which the latter occupy in Georgia, are said to have returned without being able to effect any thing. It was reported that the Indians were operated on by an influence which the Commissionere could not control, emanating from a quarter where a disposition to thwart the views of the Government was least to have been expected.

**Important decision.**—The Charleston City Gazette says, His honor Judge Bay has decided the question which was argued before him, whether Aliens are liable to the performance of militia duty. The opinion of the honorable Judge, predicated upon the principle of the *Lex Loci*, is, that Aliens are liable to perform militia duty.