



**THE "FREE PRESS,"**

By George Howard,

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**Communications.**

For the Free Press.

NO. VI.

But it may be asked, if Weldon is not as healthy and as well situated for health as Halifax? To this I answer expressly and distinctly, that it is not as healthy, nor as well situated for health as Halifax. That it is not as healthy as Halifax is clearly proved by the number of deaths at each place; for the deaths at Weldon *far, far* exceeds in number the deaths at Halifax, in proportion to the population at each place. The second question is answered by stating that the situation of Halifax for health is decidedly superior to that of Weldon. Halifax has but one mill pond in its immediate vicinity, and that is a small one on a stream called Quankey, which can never be very unhealthy, as the extreme height of the banks and the narrowness of the vale on which it is seated, precludes its spreading to any great distance, or having the baleful effects of either of the large mill ponds in the neighborhood of Weldon; so that though it is adjacent to and rather south of the town of Halifax, there is scarce any bad effects felt from it in the town, not enough to occasion more than a fever and ague, or some slight disease of that intermitting class; for there are scarce any diseases that are inflammatory known there as arising from the influence of that mill pond. Indeed if that mill pond was known, or even suspected to have such dangerous effects, the amiable and public-spirited family that own it, would suffer it to remain in its present dilapidated state sooner than jeopardize the health of any individual, or the interest of the place.

It is true that west of Halifax there is a very large swamp, stretching along south-eastwardly, but that is between three and four miles distant, and is that kind of swamp that creates scarce any vapour and emits but little if any noxious miasma, as it is what is called a living swamp; that is, the water is constantly running, and therefore can never become putrid. The trees in the swamp are all alive, healthy, and vigorous, and therefore cannot emit those poisonous exhalations, that are ever the concomitants of mill-ponds, in which every pore in the dying and dead trees is a capillary tube, pipe, or conductor through which the most subtle and dangerous vegetable poison makes its way from the rotten part into and impregnates the air, to the manifest danger and injury of the inhabitants, who fatally suffer from its effects. This

swamp is susceptible of being reclaimed by being ditched or canalled so as to drain it completely, which it would be the interest of the proprietors to do, as it will give them a body of the finest and most fertile land in the state, capable of producing in luxuriance every article peculiar to, or cultivated in North-Carolina, and thereby greatly increase as well the wealth of the individual proprietors, as that of the country generally, besides the great improvement it must be to the health of Halifax, and that part of the country, to have it done. Nor is the doing it chimerical, for the effecting it would be neither tedious, laborious, or expensive, as is proved by the work which was undertaken and completed in Rocky swamp by Col. Thomas Nicholson, the enterprising and intelligent proprietor, who with a few hands in a very few weeks in the summer of 1823, cut a broad and deep canal between three and four miles in length, the returns from which land has richly and amply rewarded him for his enterprize, public spirit, and the expense he was at in doing it; besides the great improvement in the health of that neighborhood, in consequence of the draining of that swamp. Indeed the town and the county of Halifax would be greatly benefitted in health and wealth, if the whole of that deep swamp, coming up to Enfield was drained, and reclaimed in the like manner that Col. Nicholson has drained his swamp. Nor would the doing it be difficult or expensive, for the labor would be light, and besides the immense body of rich land it would bring into cultivation and into market, there could be staves enough of the best quality, as well as shingles and other valuable lumber got from it, to pay for every improvement necessary, and leave a surplus in the hands of those interested to enrich them. Was it made the object of particular instructions by the people of Halifax to their representative, to get a law passed to compel the proprietors to improve it by degrees, so as to effect the improvement in a reasonable time, and in a proper manner, it would be sound and good policy, as it certainly would be a means of improving their health, and most undoubtedly the staple products of the country, and consequently its wealth and prosperity.

ROANOKE.

Mr. Secretary Canning, after advising with the Admiralty, has refused to cede any land in the Bahamas to the United States, for the purpose of erecting Light-houses there under the control of the U. States, but offers, in the name of his government, to raise Light-houses upon the points which the U. States may point out, provided American shipping will contribute their proportion to support them.—Difficulties arose upon the point of raising money from American vessels to be paid over to the British Treasury, Mr. Canning replied that it would be left to the American Custom Houses—and Mr. Rush having no instructions on this matter

the correspondence closed. It appears to us that the right of soil being in G. Britain and our commerce having a vital interest in the erection of lights upon Bahamas, the proposal of Mr. Canning was a fair one, and the proportion to be paid by our ships for the use and advantage of British lights might be very easily adjusted and reconciled with our rights.

Washington, Jan. 18.—

There was a vote taken yesterday, in the House of Representatives, which we regard as a favorable augury of the success of the bill for the continuation of the Cumberland Road. We refer to the vote, by a majority of 10, to fill the blank in the bill with the sum of 150,000 dollars.

The House was full, and we consider the vote as almost decisive of the success of the bill. The vacant places and privileged seats of the Hall were crowded with ladies, and the gallery was filled with the lords of creation, attracted by the expectation, apparently, of hearing Mr. Clay speak on the occasion.—In which expectation, they were not disappointed.

Among the numerous auditors that crowded the Hall of the House of Representatives, yesterday, to hear the speech of Mr. Clay, we observed General Lafayette and Son.

From the Boston Centinel.

*Choice of President by the House of Representatives of Congress.*—The choice of President of the U. States, for the second time since the adoption of the Constitution, devolving this year on the House of Representatives, we give the following outline of the Rules adopted by that body in 1801, when the first choice was made by that body, and when the Electoral votes for president were 73 for Mr. Jefferson, and 73 for Mr. Burr.

The declaration of the votes took place in the Senate Chamber, on Wednesday, the 11th of February. After the declaration that a choice had not been made by the Electors, and that it devolved on the House, it convened in its own Chamber, and furnished seats for the Senate, *as witnesses*. The House had previously adopted Rules, that it should continue to ballot, without interruption by other business, and should not adjourn, but have a permanent session until the choice be made; and that the doors of the House shall be closed during the balloting, except against the officers of the House.

The following was directed to be the mode of balloting:

"Each state had a ballot box in which the members belonging to it, having previously appointed a teller, put the votes of the state; the teller, on the part of the United States having counted the votes, duplicates were put by him into two general ballot boxes. Tellers being nominated by each state for the purpose of examining the general ballot boxes, they were divided into two parts, of whom one examined one of the general ballot boxes, and the other examined the other. Upon comparing the results, and find-

ing them to agree, the votes were stated to the Speaker, who declared them to the House."

The number of the states was sixteen—nine necessary to a choice. On the first ballot, Mr. J. had eight states, Mr. B. six, and two were divided.

The first ballot took place about 4 o'clock, P. M. Seven other ballots, with similar results, succeeded, when a respite took place, during which, the members retired to the lobbies, and took refreshment. Mr. Nicholson, of Maryland, being unwell, had a bed provided for him in one of the lobbies, to which the tellers took the balloting box of the State for his vote. At 3 o'clock in the morning of the 12th, two other ballots took place and at 4 o'clock in the morning, the twenty-first trial, several of the members coming in with their night caps on—At 12 at noon, of the 12th, the twenty-eighth ballot took place, when the House adjourned to the next day, having probably, in secret session, dispensed with the rule for the permanent session. On Friday the 13th, the House proceeded to the thirtieth ballot, without a choice and again adjourned to the next day. On Saturday the 14th, the balloting had the same result. On Tuesday the 17th, at the thirty-sixth ballot, the Speaker declared, at one o'clock, that Mr. Jefferson was elected, having the votes of New-York; New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Kentucky, Georgia, Tennessee, North Carolina, Maryland, four votes for Mr. Jefferson and four blanks, and Vermont, one vote for Mr. Jefferson, and one blank vote. Thus ended the scene.

*Libels.*—A Mr. Judson has been subjected in \$750 damages, in the Supreme Court at Fairfield, (Con.) for a libel against a Mr. Rayner, arising out of a dispute about "Universalism." There was also an action, Dunning vs. Hill-house, for a libel on the character of the plaintiff, contained in a report of a case made by the defendant, in which the plaintiff was witness, and in which he was charged by the defendant with the crime of perjury. The plaintiff obtained a verdict of \$500 damages and costs.

*Small pox.*—It appears from the Fayetteville N. C. papers that the Varioloid species of Small Pox has prevailed for some time in that town.

*A new thing under the Sun.*—A writer in the Kentucky Argus recommends that, instead of turnpiking, our public roads be covered with a roof from town to town, similar to the roof of a rope walk, which he thinks could be done cheaper than turnpiking, and be kept in repair at a very moderate expense. He says it will be necessary to use cedar or locust posts, or stone pillars every 15 or 20 feet on each side of the road; on these put your plates and rafters, and cover the roof with good oak or ash boards (shingles?) about 3 feet long, well nailed on. By thus keeping the road perfectly dry, the writer thinks it would be a bet-

ter and a cheaper one than any now in use, and it would last a long time. The advantages and comforts of such a road, the writer adds, would be unequalled upon earth. The traveller in winter could pursue his journey upon a smooth, dry, firm, summer's road, and would be perfectly secure without the incumbrance or expense of leggins, or an umbrella; in summer he would be protected from the scorching rays of the sun, & the drenching showers of rain; he would also be relieved in a great measure, from the suffocation of the dust, which is produced by cutting up the roads while wet, and pulverizing the clods when dry.

*Whiskey.*—In contradiction of a paragraph which has been going the rounds of the newspapers, the Baltimore Patriot states, that the lowest sales that have been made, this season, of the article of whiskey in that market, have been at 23 cents per gallon in barrels, and 21½ cents per gallon in hogsheads, casks included.

On Wednesday week, the trial of Adonijah Baily, aged 79 years, for the murder *Jeremiah W. Pollock*, commenced at Windham county, Connecticut, and after a protracted trial of three days, the cause was given to the jury, who returned a verdict of guilty. He was sentenced to be executed on the 8th of June next.—It is stated that the testimony disclosed the most cruel and awful murder that has taken place in Connecticut for many years.

*Distressing Casualty.*—On Wednesday morning the corpse of Mr. *Samuel Paschall*, an old inhabitant of this county, was found within half a mile of his own house. On Friday night, during the falling of the snow, he started from a neighbor's house to go home, but in the dark, it is supposed that he mistook his way (being found on a different path) and finding himself bewildered, laid down where he died from the intense cold. A search for him, we understand, was commenced on Saturday morning, but being completely covered by the snow, he could not be found. He was accidentally discovered by a Negro. A Jury of Inquest was immediately held over his body, whose decision was, that he came to his death in the way above stated.

*Perishing from cold.*—Early on Sunday morning (says the Petersburg Intelligencer, 25th ult.) a slave named Peter, belonging to Mr. James Pace, butcher, was found dead in a field adjacent to his master's residence. He is stated to have been a man of a weakly constitution, occasionally subject to fits; and is supposed to have been overcome by the cold and perished in the snow storm on Saturday night.

Yesterday morning, Lucy Clemans, a woman of color, was found dead in Blandford; having been intoxicated the night before, it is supposed she had fallen in the snow, and thus perished on the public highway.

*Warrenton Reporter.*