



THE "FREE PRESS,"

By Geo. Howard,

Is published weekly, (every Friday,) at **TWO DOLLARS** per year, (or 52 numbers,) if paid in advance—*Two Dollars & Fifty Cents*, if paid within the subscription year—or, *Three Dollars* at the expiration of the year—for any period less than a year, *Twenty-five Cents* per month. Subscribers at liberty to discontinue at any time on paying arrears. Subscribers residing at a distance must invariably pay in advance, or give a responsible reference in this vicinity. No subscription discontinued unless a notification to that effect is given.

Advertisements, not exceeding 16 lines, will be inserted at 50 cents the first insertion, and 25 cents each continuance. Longer ones at that rate for every 16 lines. Advertisements must be marked the number of insertions required, or they will be continued until otherwise ordered.

Letters addressed to the Editor must be post paid, or they will not be attended to.

General Assembly.

GOV. OWEN'S MESSAGE.

To the Honorable the General Assembly of N. Carolina:

(continued from our last paper.)

The Judiciary, which has always been, and with much propriety, the favorite branch of the government, cannot be guarded with too much care. Upon the purity and ability with which the laws of the country are administered, depend all our rights and happiness, in connection with liberty and property. The Judicial districts into which the State has been divided, are believed to be too large, and the eastern circuits particularly, to require a new organization, to prevent the waste of life, and the delay of justice, incident to the present arrangement. In connection with this subject, permit me to call your attention to the pardoning power; which, in every government, is wisely placed somewhere, and by the Constitution of our State, is very properly given to the Executive; to be exercised by him, when a fit case for clemency occurs. But the ease with which an artful man can make a homicide in the first degree, appear a homicide in the second or third; or a felony appear a breach of trust; and the better feelings of our nature all turning to the side of mercy, by which petitions, filled to great length, by respectable names, are easily obtained, thereby embarrassing the Executive in the discharge of his official duties, it is respectfully submitted, how far it would add to the public demonstration of the majesty of the laws, and be productive of a deep and salutary effect on the public mind, to require the Judge presiding on the trial of any criminal, to make out, at the instance of the convict, an abstract of the evidence in the case, to be submitted by him, with his petition for pardon, to the Executive.

In obedience to a resolution of the last General Assembly, directing the Board of Internal Improvements to collect evidence concerning the obstructing the navigation of the Cape Fear river, below the town of Wilmington, during the revolutionary war, for purposes

of defence, and the opinion of the Civil Engineer of the State as to the probable effects on the navigation of said river by such obstructions, the depositions of several of the most respectable citizens in that vicinity, and some of them aiding in the very operation, together with the opinion of Mr. Nash, on the subject referred to him, were forwarded to our Senators in Congress, and immediately met the favorable consideration of that body. An appropriation of \$20,000 was made to remove the obstructions, and the work is now going on exclusively under the direction of the General Government. Of a similar character is the improvement of the navigation of Ocracock Inlet, for which, appropriations to the amount of \$41,000 have been made by Congress.

That these works, promising such advantage to the State, and of such vital interest to the towns of Newbern and Wilmington, carried on under the fostering care of the General Government, conducted by Engineers of competent skill and with adequate funds, will be consummated, we have the guaranty of the government, in the liberal appropriations already made, and in their established practice of never abandoning a work of usefulness, in an unfinished state.

But a work of still greater importance, both as it regards the interests of the State, and of the United States, calls loudly for your attention, and, through you, for the attention of Congress. If there be a work more peculiarly national in its character than any other in which the State of North-Carolina can have a direct interest, it is the opening a communication from the Albemarle Sound to the Atlantic Ocean. Until such an outlet can be formed, a vast proportion of the products of the State will find a market through the ports of Virginia, and we shall still be tributary to that State. If the difficulties of getting to sea from this extensive and commodious bay, watering a tract of country, not inferior in point of fertility to any part of the world, and fed by tributary streams from every direction, one of the first commercial towns in the southern country would grow upon its borders, and afford a market for the products of industry, which could not fail to quicken vigilance throughout our State. And in answer to the question, "How will the execution of the project affect the interest of the Union?" permit me to use the strong language of the Board of Engineers of the United States: "Without entering," say they, "into an examination of the political effects of the proposition which has come under our consideration, and in which the particular interests of the State may possibly run counter to those of the Union, an examination to which

we do not consider ourselves called by our instructions, nor qualified by due preparation, we shall merely remark, that if the plan be carried into successful execution, whether we consider the profits of commerce, the dangers of shipwreck, pursuit by an enemy, or convenience as a point of departure and refreshment for our own privateers and vessels of war, a harbor will be formed precisely in that part of the coast, where it is most needed." With these liberal and enlightened views of the agents of the General Government, beckoning us on to an enterprise so replete with interest and importance to the State, shall we, as though conscious of inferior claims upon that government which we have contributed our full share of blood and treasure to establish and maintain, fold our arms in quietness, as though we had neither part nor lot in the matter? Or shall we not rather, cherishing an exalted pride and generous patriotism, call on Congress, through our Representatives in that body, the proper organs of such a call, to unlock the doors which shut us out from the commerce of the world?

The Yadkin river, extending its branches in different directions, almost from the extreme south, to the extreme northern boundary of the State, and watering one of the most interesting portions of its territory, rendered so by the density of its population, the salubrity of its atmosphere, and the fertility of its soil, must find an outlet to the ocean, for its rich and abundant articles of commerce, either through the Cape Fear river, or through South-Carolina by means of the Pedee. Under these circumstances, and a patriotic determination to divert this commerce from passing to its ultimate destination through foreign ports, and to concentrate as far as possible the wealth of the State, it is with much earnestness recommended, that a communication between the Yadkin and the Cape Fear, either by a well finished turnpike or rail-road be established. And that the practicability and utility of the latter may be tested, it is again submitted to the consideration of the Legislature, to construct one from the town of Fayetteville, to the river at Campbellton, as was suggested by my predecessor. This mode of increasing the commercial facilities of a country, and thereby bettering its internal condition, appears to be gaining ground so fast in the estimation of men of science, that it can be hazarding very little, for the State to order such a work to be constructed, between two points so nearly contiguous, and over which the transportation is so great.

Among the subjects which will occupy the attention of the Legislature, is the management and disposal, of that portion of the

public lands, to which the Indian claim has recently been extinguished, lying principally in the county of Macon. What that disposition will be, is for you to determine. A portion of those lands having been surveyed under the direction of a former Legislature, it is respectfully submitted, whether that portion should not be disposed of by an Agent or Agents, appointed under your direction, and the residue, made the subject of entry, as other vacant lands of the State, at a price to be fixed on by the Legislature. But, as there are strong reasons to induce a belief, that on some of those lands there are valuable deposits of the precious metals, it is also submitted to your consideration, how far it may be promotive of the public good, and compatible with the principles of our Government, to secure to the State, an interest in all the mines and minerals which now are, or may hereafter become, the subject of entry. Should this view of the subject meet the approbation of the Legislature, it is respectfully recommended, that a scientific mineralogist and a practical miner (if the latter can be had,) be employed to explore the public lands, to ascertain what portion, if any, for mining purposes, it may be the interest of the State to retain. This examination I have no doubt could be satisfactorily made in a few months, under the direction of the able professor of chemistry and mineralogy in our University, whose labors have already thrown so much light on this subject, and from which the State is likely to derive such incalculable benefits.

An elegant map of the State of New-Jersey, not inferior in any respect to the splendid one received last year of the Commonwealth of Virginia, has been presented us by that State; and we are in daily expectation of receiving one of the States of Missouri and Illinois, and the Territory of Arkansas. You were reminded by my predecessor, that we had from time to time received maps of different States and Territories, and that a due regard to courtesy, would seem to require of us to reciprocate the kindness, as soon as practicable.

The importance of a correct map of a State, must be apparent even to a superficial inquirer; and one elegantly executed, is very properly a subject of State pride. Virginia, at an expense of sixty-six thousand dollars, and South-Carolina at the enormous sum of ninety thousand, have had their respective territories surveyed, and maps executed, which do honor to the artist, and are of incalculable advantage to the country, both in a civil, and military point of view. The surveys in the office of the Board of Internal Improvements, made by order of the State, those made by the several navi-