

N. CAROLINA FREE PRESS.

Whole No. 457.

Tarborough, (Edgecombe County, N. C.) Saturday, June 8, 1833.

Vol. IX—No. 41.

The "North Carolina Free Press,"

BY GEORGE HOWARD,

Is published weekly, at Two Dollars and Fifty Cents per year, if paid in advance—or, Three Dollars, at the expiration of the subscription year. For any period less than a year, Twenty-five Cents per month. Subscribers are at liberty to discontinue at any time, on giving notice thereof and paying arrears—those residing at a distance must invariably pay in advance, or give a responsible reference in this vicinity.

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, and charged accordingly.

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

DOMESTIC.

From the New York Courier & Enquirer.

Falsification of the Bible.—In running our eyes lately over some of the public papers, we were struck with the following notices of the Holy Scriptures, to which we beg leave to call the serious attention of those, whose peculiar duty it is to guard the purity of that source, from whence springs the faith of so large a portion of mankind.

"A reverend gentleman in England, named Curtis, has recently made some appalling disclosures in relation to the careless and iniquitous manner in which the University editions of the Holy Bible, published by the King's printer, are put forth to the world. Mr. Curtis has exposed some enormous errors, and variations from the original text, as given in King James' time. Six hundred mistakes have been found in one book, and eight hundred in another; many of them most important, and all of them inexcusable. Some of the grosser ones, which seem to have been concerted and intentional, have been rife for forty years. The true sense of Holy Writ, it is contended, has been greatly warped by these errors; and measures are in train to have them rectified, in all future editions of the Scriptures published in England. It is stated that the churches in America have long since adopted the edition in question, as a standard; if so, it is of the last importance, we should conceive, to import one of the correctest copies, now preparing, at the earliest period. The writer remarks, with much sorrowful feeling, that such perversions of the Sacred Word have given rise to more scoffers and infidels than could have been otherwise produced by any one cause."

"It is announced that Dr. Noah Webster, the lexicographer, is engaged in preparing for publication an edition of the Bible, in the common version, but with amendments in the language, chiefly in the following particulars:

1. The correction of errors in Grammar.
2. The omission of obsolete words and phrases, and the substitution of equivalent terms now in use.
3. The use of euphemisms for such indelicate words and phrases as are most offensive, and which cannot be uttered without pain, both to the reader and hearer."

In regard to the falsifications and mistakes of the Bible, noticed in the first article, there is great reason to fear that they extend far beyond the "University editions published by the King's printer." In the multiplicity of editions we see every day palmed upon the world, without any sanction or authority whatever, by booksellers, and societies, and denominations, and sects of all sorts, where is the security that the text may not be altered to suit the peculiar tenets of each particular sect, or marred by the carelessness or ignorance of the publisher? We have heard it asserted, and from the hurried manner in which these Bibles are multiplied almost to infinity, we believe it to be true, that many of the common editions are scandalously inaccurate,

if not wilfully falsified, to sanction the peculiar tenets of the sects by whom they are published. The common people, who have in a great degree lost their reverence and value for the sacred book, from the usual effects of too great plenty, receive it without inquiry, though there is no security whatever for its accuracy, and no sanction of Church or State to guard against interpolation, corruption, or mistake.

These things ought not to be. The Bible is too important a volume to be left thus at the mercy of ignorance, carelessness, or wilful interested falsification. It should come forth with the sanction of some high and responsible authority, and carry with it evidence that it has undergone the strict scrutiny of persons, whose learning and integrity sufficiently guarantee the public against deception and falsehood. As it is now, we really see no obstacle to publishing Bibles to suit any system of morals or religion, and whose precepts may outrage every principle of the Decalogue. Living, as we do, under a government which neither interferes, nor allows of interference in religious matters, it is, without doubt, difficult, if not impossible, to prevent impositions of this kind, since there is no law, that we know of, to prevent a man from publishing any book he pleases, under the denomination of the Holy Bible. Still, the evil we speak of is not the less to be deplored; and we cannot but recommend it most earnestly to the attention of all those who would preserve the Scriptures from degenerating by degrees into a heterogeneous jumble of contradictory and irreconcilable inconsistencies. The few doctrinal differences originating in the two translations of the Catholic and Protestant faiths, detract but little from the divinity of the Scriptures: but the eternal multiplication of these differences, must, in the end, entirely destroy their force and authority, and undermine the very foundations of our faith. When it is seen that they sanction the most opposite and incongruous opinions, and that those who agree in nothing under heaven, can find in the Scriptures authority for all their differences, it cannot but happen that reflecting minds will begin to doubt the infallibility of an oracle so liable to be misinterpreted.

But, if we have read the statement on the authority of Mr. Curtis with pain, we have viewed the notification of Dr. Webster with indignation and contempt. We look upon this project of dressing up the Doric simplicity of the Bible in all the trumpery of 'euphemisms,' as little less than impiety—as an attempt to strip the book of life of its very life—its beautiful simplicity—its childlike unconsciousness of giving offence by calling things by their right names, which gives it such a character of unequal grandeur and purity. Does not Dr. Webster know, that nothing is so well calculated to call up an offensive image in the mind, as that affected squeamishness under which lasciviousness may be, and so often, is masked? Is he ignorant that offensive ideas may be as easily conveyed by circumlocution or 'euphemisms,' as by the plainest words? Or that the truly delicate and virtuous mind revolts ten times more indignantly at the one than the other, because the former is an attempt to cheat it into toleration by artifice and disguise, while the latter comes in the garb of simple truth at least? What should we think of Dr. Webster dressing up Moses and the Prophets in the costume of a dandy of the present day, or decorating Sarah, Rebecca, and Esther, in the multifarious trumpery of a modern fine lady? Yet this would not be more supremely ridiculous, and not half so mischievous, as *reforming* the Scriptures into the pompous, artificial rhetoric of the present day. We beseech the Doctor to stick to his spelling books and dictionaries, and let the Bible alone. We be-

lieve him to be a pious man, and that he would not intentionally make the Scriptures ridiculous, by translating them into "euphemisms."

The Agent appointed by the Seminole tribe of Indians, to explore the country west of the Arkansas river, offered to them by the provisional treaty with our government, which was negotiated by Col. Gadsden last spring, has returned to Florida with a favourable report both of the climate and soil, and the treaty has accordingly been formally ratified by the tribe.

The Lexington (Ky) Gazette notices the exhibition, in that place, of Miss Snyder, a young lady, about nineteen years of age, who is regarded as one of the greatest natural curiosities ever seen. The lady has neither hands nor arms, nor is there to be seen the least appearance of an arm! She has one leg and foot complete, with the exception of the toes being only four instead of five. The other leg has but one joint (that of the ankle) and is only about half the length of the first; the foot having on it, (like the other) only four toes. She is 3 feet one inch high, weighing 60 lbs. is in possession of all her mental faculties, converses very fluently on any subject, and is very fond of engaging in conversation with her visitors. She sows, knits, paints, cuts a variety of flowers, watch papers, &c. and writes tolerable well with her left foot.

At the late term of the Superior Court of Mecklenburg county, the case of William G. Cox vs. Thos. Sising, for slander, was tried, and a verdict of 2,000 dollars damages rendered in favor of the plaintiff. There was also another case for slander and one for breach of marriage contract; in which verdicts were rendered for 500 dollars each.

Execution.—Charles Stokes, the criminal who was condemned to be hung at the late Superior Court of Surry County, on Friday, the 5th of April, and respited by the Governor till the 17th of May, was executed on that day, at Rockford, Surry County.

Fanaticism.—Instances of insanity, and even of death, from overwrought religious excitement are becoming daily more frequent. This is to be regretted. Religion should bring to the mind tranquillity, peace, and happiness, not excitement and madness. Temperaments too susceptible of excitement should not be so tampered with as to unsettle the reason, or sap the springs of existence. The Union County (Ia.) Star, gives an account of a gentleman in Connelville, in that State, who was wrought upon by some friends to such a degree that he went raving mad. Physicians were sent for, and every means used, but in vain, for his recovery. The gentleman is spoken of in high terms of praise, and the loss to society, and to his family, feelingly lamented.—*Phil. Times.*

Militia Law.—The Boston Atlas alleges that a bill establishing a uniform militia system throughout the United States, has been drawn up by a member of the Massachusetts Delegation, in accordance with the wishes of the Secretary of War. The bill will probably be submitted to the next Congress.

Little Rock, April 24.—Judge Ellsworth, one of the U. S. Commissioners for settling differences, &c. among the Indian tribes in the West, passed down on the steam boat Wyoming, last week from Fort Gibson, on his way to Washington City, and thence to Connecticut, from whence, we understand, he designs returning to Fort Gibson in Sept. next, with his lady.

We are much gratified to learn from Judge E. that the Commissioners have succeeded in bringing about a settlement of the differences (though not of a serious nature) that have existed for a long time between the Cherokees and Creeks relative to boundaries. It has been arranged to the satisfaction of both parties.

An arrangement has also been made with the Creeks, for a portion of their lands for the future residence of the Seminoles of Florida, who will form a separate band of the Creek nation. It is expected that the latter tribe will commence removing next autumn.

At the late Council with the Osages a majority of the nation were in favor of the Treaty proposed by the Commissioners, but as it was likely to produce dissatisfaction on the part of the balance of the nation it was deemed advisable to defer the Treaty until fall, when another Council will be held, at which the commissioners anticipate no difficulty in effecting a treaty to the satisfaction of all parties. The object is, to purchase a portion of the Osage lands, and remove them some one or two hundred miles North West of their present location, and thereby make room for other Indians which the Government designs removing to the West.

Gov. Stokes and Mr. Schermerhorn, the other two Commissioners, will proceed shortly towards the Missouri river, for the purpose of holding Councils and making treaties with some of the Indians in that quarter; and in August or September next, the three Commissioners will rendezvous at Fort Gibson, and proceed to the West, under an escort of U. S. Rangers, for the purpose of holding Councils with the Pawnee, Camanche, and other roving tribes toward the Rocky Mountains, between whom and some of the tribes in the more immediate vicinity of our frontiers, continued wars have existed almost from time immemorial. All the tribes with which the commissioners have had intercourse, appeared to be friendly towards the United States, and desirous of cultivating a good understanding with our Government.

Arkansas Gaz.

One of the Editors of the Portland Advertiser writes, while on his way from New Orleans to Ohio, that the cholera exists on board almost every boat upon the Mississippi. Several of the passengers were attacked on board the boat in which he took passage, of whom two had died—one a captain in the army.

A Mons. Gaubert a professor of Magic, is astonishing the good people of New York. The Courier and Enquirer mentions the following as one of his feats:—A cage, containing some half a dozen small birds, alive and hopping, was exhibited to the spectators; it was then placed on a table, and fired at with a pistol charged with fine shot—every bird fell dead. A cooking apparatus was then produced—fire placed under it and the dead birds thrown into the seething pan; when they were, as was believed, sufficiently cooked, the cover was removed, and behold, instead of a fricasee, and apparently to the utter amazement of the cook, forth from the boiling mess, to different parts of the Saloon flew, again alive and full feathered, the flock of little birds.

A black woman in Washington City some years ago married a slave, and by her own industry purchased her husband's freedom. She became intemperate, and in order to procure the means of getting liquor, she sold her husband into slavery, and for the same purpose, has since sold her four children also.

"Do you take a newspaper, neighbor?" "Yes." "Which one?" "Egad! I take all I can lay my hands on."