

TARBOROUGH FREE PRESS.

Whole No. 494.

Tarborough, (Edgecombe County, N. C.) Friday, March 14, 1834.

Vol. X—No 26.

The "Tarborough 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 Chapel Hill Harbinger.
COUNTIES OF NORTH CAROLINA.
(concluded.)

1784. *Sampson* formed by a division of Duplin was named after John Sampson, who was a member of the council of the last royal governor and an inhabitant of the county divided.

Moore—the north-western part of Cumberland. Several individuals of the same family demand respectful mention in the history of North Carolina—some for talent, integrity and patriotism with which they discharged the duties of important and responsible civil offices and others as military commanders, so that it is impossible here as in the case of Ashe and Nash, to determine the amount of influence exerted by each individual in securing for the family this tribute of respect from the Legislature. Maurice Moore was associate justice of the Supreme Court of North Carolina, under the royal government and Alfred Moore his son, associate justice in the Supreme Court of the United States.

1785. *Rockingham*, the northern part of Guilford, so named in evidence of the grateful remembrance cherished by the people of the State, of the exertions of Charles Marquis of Rockingham in favor of the colonies in the British Parliament.

1786. *Robeson* was up to this date a part of Bladen in which county lived William Robeson; a man of ability, patriotism and influence, who died before the close of the revolutionary war.

1783. *Iredell* separated from Rowan. James Iredell was one of the associate justices of the Supreme Court of the United States.

1789. *Stokes*—the eastern part of Surry. John Stokes was district Judge of the United States for the district of North Carolina. Montfort Stokes represented North Carolina in the Senate of the United States from 1816 to 1823, and was afterwards governor.

1791. *Lenoir*. Dobbs was divided and the old name dropped as in the case of Bute and Tryon. Gen. William Lenoir of Wilkes was this year Speaker of the Senate.

Greene. The upper part of Dobbs received at first the name of Glasgow, in honor of the individual who was secretary of the convention that framed the Constitution of North Carolina, and afterwards Secretary of State. The name it now bears was substituted in 1799. Gen. Nathaniel Greene, commander of the army of the United States in the southern department, died in Georgia, on the 10th of June 1786.

Buncombe. The western part of the State comprehended heretofore in Rutherford and Burke was erected into a new county bounded by the Blue Ridge, on the east, and the Nolchucky river on the North, and named after Edward Buncombe of Tyrrell, a distinguished Whig, appointed commander of a brigade of the State troops at the opening of the revolutionary war.

Person. Caswell was divided by a meridian line into two equal parts, and the eastern half called after Thomas Person of Granville, a man of weight and influence from the time of the Regulation in which he appears to have been to some

extent involved down to that of the adoption of the Federal Constitution. The college chapel was named after him Person Hall, he having been a considerable benefactor of the University.

1792. *Cabarrus* was formed by a division of Mecklenburg. Stephen Cabarrus of Chowan was speaker of the House of Commons for several seasons between 1789 and 1806.

1799. *Ashe* was erected comprehending all that part of Wilkes lying west of the Blue ridge. Samuel Ashe had been elected governor in the preceding year. John B. Ashe had been speaker of the Commons in 1786 and Representative in Congress in 1790-93.

Washington was formed by a division of Tyrrell.

1803. *Columbus* comprehends part of the old county of Brunswick but was established chiefly at the expense of Bladen. The time was rather late for the erection of a monument to the memory of the great navigator.

Haywood became by the division of Buncombe the frontier county on the east. It is in this solitary case only that the individual to be honored by the imposition of a name upon a county is particularly specified in the act of the Legislature—"in honor of the present Treasurer of this State."

1822. *Davidson*. After an interval almost long enough to render the power of the Legislature to create new counties a matter of doubt and uncertainty, it is exerted in the separation of Davidson from Rowan. Gen. William Lee Davidson was killed by the British at the ford of the Catawba, on the night of the 31st of January, 1780—"a brave and tried patriot, universally deplored."

1823. *Macon* including a considerable tract of country the Indian title to which is not yet extinguished, and which may furnish materials for the county still further west on the Hiwassee, was called after Nathaniel Macon of Warren, long a member of the Senate of the United States from North Carolina.

1834. *Yancey* comprehends that part of Burke lying beyond the Blue Ridge on the western waters and a small corner of Buncombe. Named after Bartlett Yancey of Caswell, for several years speaker of the Senate. N.

From the American Farmer.

GAMA GRASS.

Wilmington, N. C. Feb. 1834.

Mr. Hitchcock:

Dear Sir: So many inquiries have been made of me, as to the nature, mode of culture, &c. &c. of the Gama Grass, I am induced to communicate through the medium of your paper, such knowledge as I have on the subject.

The grass is perennial. Its most valuable qualities will be as hay, and when used green, for soiling. I have not yet made the experiment, but doubt whether it will answer for pasturage. This doubt is produced, not only by the form of the grass, but by the fact, that it is never found growing spontaneously where cattle have uncontrolled access.

The soils most suitable to its growth, are limestone, alluvial bottom, and rich clay loams. But its great excellence is, it will grow and produce abundantly in any soil, (dry enough for Indian corn,) naturally rich or made so.

He who cultivates it on poor ground, with the hope of large crops, will certainly be disappointed.

It produces very little if any seed, the first year, nor does it reach its full maturity and best product, until the second or third year.

It is very easily transplanted. Where there is only a small supply, the quantity (for another year) may be greatly increased, by taking up the roots in the fall or winter, and dividing or transplanting them. Each root will furnish from five to twenty and sometimes fifty plants.

The seed should be planted from November to January, and covered from one to two inches deep. They will not vegetate until warm weather.

When the roots or seed are planted to remain permanently, I think the best manner is to set them in drills three feet apart and place them two feet apart in the drill. In two years the drills will be filled up, and there will be space for manuring between them. I take it for granted, the immense yield of this grass will produce exhaustion of the fertility of the soil; and unless manured, the product must lessen.

If not necessary, it is, at any rate, better, to cultivate it the first year, and keep it clear of weeds and other grasses; after that, I think it will root out any competitor.

It may be found in every State of the Union from Virginia to Missouri, (inclusive,) south and west; and I have been surprised by inquiries after it, from places where it abounded in the neighborhood.

Yours respectfully,

Wm. B. Meares.

Distressing Accident.—On Thursday, the 13th inst. Mr. Jonathan Conrad, of this county, on his way to attend a wedding of one of his relatives, was thrown by his horse, and so much injured, that he expired the day following. He was a promising young man, and is deeply lamented by his parents and friends.

Salem Reporter.

Fire.—On the night of the 25th ult. the steam mill of Messrs. Rascoe & Wills, at Edenton, together with a quantity of plank, was entirely consumed by fire. Loss estimated at about 5,000 dollars.—*Raleigh Star*.

Missionary Meeting.—The annual meeting of the Virginia Conference Missionary Society was held in the Methodist Church, in this city, on the evening of 26th ultimo, in the presence of an overflowing audience. The meeting was addressed in a forcible and interesting manner by the Rev. Messrs. Drake, Doggett, Wm. A. Smith and H. G. Leigh, and a collection taken, in aid of the funds of the society, amounting to about 145 dollars.—*ib*.

The Little Rock (Arkansas) Gazette of 8th Jan. states that the boiler of the steamboat Missouri burst, and that sixty persons lost their lives.

A novel decision was made in the United States District Court in Louisiana, a few weeks since, in regard to the liability of mail contractors for debt. The mail between Mobile and New Orleans is carried by steamboats. The owners having become largely indebted to sundry persons for supplies furnished to the boats, the creditors by the customary civil process seized upon the boats. On the application of the U. S. Attorney, the Judge set aside the order for seizure, upon the ground that the creditors by these proceedings were guilty of "obstructing the carrying and conveying of the mail."

The general principle is thus affirmed that the property of mail contractors used in complying with their contracts with the Post Office department is not liable to civil process for debt; a principle which, we imagine, cannot be sustained by public opinion. No argumentum ab inconvenienti to the United States, can be construed to suspend the operation of the State laws for the collection of debts. The same doctrines would exempt all those engaged in the transportation of the mail from arrest for any offence whatever, and establish, by a construction, no broader than that assumed on this occasion, total exemption for a particular set of individuals from all responsibility to State process. The technical offence of obstructing the carrying of the mail requires malice against the public service,

and should not be made to cover individuals from their just liabilities. In our judgment, the decision ought not to stand.—*Baltimore Amer.*

Shocking Accident.—The New York Commercial says: A terrible catastrophe happened on Saturday. Mr. C. C. C. Cohen, an operative chemist and scientific gentleman, having a laboratory at 37 Hamilton street, and who had been recently employed in supplying the increased demand for fulminating powder, used in the manufacture of percussion caps, while engaged in making that article on a new and more expeditious plan than heretofore, was blown into pieces by its explosion. At one o'clock, says the Courier, he left his laboratory to go to his house to dinner, but in a few minutes returned and was in the act of pouring the mercury from one vessel to another over a charcoal fire, when it is supposed that a spark from the fire struck the mineral in the vessel he held in his hand and caused it to explode. He was horribly mangled, his eyes were driven back into his head, one of his arms were blown off into the street, the other only hung to his body by a few ligaments, and was entirely taken off by Dr. Rogers before his death, which followed in a few hours.

Hard to beat.—Jesse Powell, Esq. of Wake Forest, killed, a few days since, a Pig which weighed 400 lbs. The sale of it yielded him \$24, exclusive of the offal.—*Raleigh Register*.

We have been favored, (says the New York Gazette,) with the following extract of a letter from Shrewsbury, N. J. dated on Tuesday last, which we publish with the sole omission of the names of the persons supposed to be implicated in a dark transaction:—

"There is considerable excitement in Shrewsbury, about three kegs of gold coin found in the cellar of ———, after he had hung himself. They are said to contain \$78,000, supposed to have been pillaged from some wreck. It is also reported that three murders were committed, and that ten persons in the neighborhood of Long Branch were concerned. A. B. who was one of them, also hung himself, being apprehensive that some of the gang were about to turn States' evidence. An investigation is now going on which may result in a full disclosure of all the facts."

Reading, (Pa.) Jan. 23.—A rare instance of the effects of the upbraidings of conscience, occurred a few days since, which deserves a passing notice. A farmer residing a few miles from this place, called on one of our oldest established merchants, and stated, that a certain day, more than eleven years ago, he had passed on him a \$10 counterfeit bill, describing the note. The merchant, who had always been in the habit of preserving in a small book kept for the purpose, all counterfeits, as well as the dates of their reception, referring to it, found the bill as well as the date at which he had received it corresponding to the farmer's words. The latter, on taking hold of the bill, tore it into fragments with apparent satisfaction, and desired the merchant to calculate the interest, which, having been done, he paid the whole amount, in good money. He had received the note, the farmer stated, at the time, for a genuine one, but did not know of whom, and, just starting in the world, could not well afford to lose so much; and besides this his wife argued, that he had as good a right to pass it off as the person who had imposed it upon him. Ever since the day on which he passed it, his conscience had goaded him but now it would be at ease, and he went off as contented as if he had received a capital prize.