

TARBOROUGH FREE PRESS.

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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.

To the Public.

HAVING established myself in the Town of Halifax, the object of this is to say that I have just purchased

A Large Warehouse,

And made every necessary arrangement for the Storage and Shipping of COTTON and other Produce, to Petersburg, Norfolk, or New York.

This house is situated very high and above the danger of the rise of water, to which some of the Warehouses are subject.

Should any of my Edgecombe acquaintances, and of the adjoining counties, be disposed to send Produce this way, their former knowledge of me will be sufficient for them to know that their business will be faithfully attended to.

WILL. H. WILLS.

Halifax, 22d Nov. 1834.

62

New Goods.

Just received and now opening,

At the Cheapest Store in this place.

A large and handsome assortment of seasonable

STAPLE AND FANCY

DRY GOODS,

Cloaks, Blankets, Hats, Caps, Boots, Pumps and Shoes, Saddles, Bridles and Harness, Hardware and Cutlery, Iron and Steel.

GROCERIES,

Ploughs and Points, Cotton Bagging, Rope and Twine, and every other article usually kept in similar establishments; all of which may be bought at prices as cheap as at any Store in this State.

J. W. COTTEN.

Tarboro', 13th Oct. 1834.

Notice.

THE Subscribers are now removing from their old stand to the Store formerly occupied by Messrs. Hyman & Lawrence, and directly opposite to John W. Cotten's. They will in a few days offer for sale, a quantity of Salt, Molasses, Sugar and Coffee, Bagging, Rope, and all of the heavy articles which are important to farmers at this season of the year.

CASH, and the highest price, will be paid for baled Cotton. D. RICHARDS & CO. Tarborough, Nov. 27th, 1834.

62

Family Mournings.

Just received, and now ready for inspection, At the Cheap Cash Store,

Black Italian Lutestring, Gro de Swiss, Gro de Berlin, and Gro de Naples, in great variety, cheap.

Black India Satin—Levantine and Sarsenets, English and French black Bombazines, Black French and English Merinoes,

Black Bombazettes, Circassians, Calicoes, and Gingham,

Ladies black silk, cotton, worsted, and lambs wool Stockings,

Ladies black hoskin and silk Gloves,

Ladies black silk, gauze, and merino Shawls and Handkerchiefs, in great variety,

Black silk Fringe,

Black worsted and silk blond Edging,

5-4 black Crape, made expressly for veils.

JAMES WEDDELL.

Nov. 20th, 1834.

Tallow, Tallow.

600 POUNDS prime Tallow, for sale by

J. W. COTTEN.

20th Nov. 1834.

PAMPHLETS,

Published and for Sale at this Office.

A PATRIOTIC DISCOURSE...the North Carolina Whig's Apology for the Kehukee Association...and, A Basket of Fragments, by the Rev. Joshua Lawrence. Also, A Review of Clark's defence and justification to the Kehukee Association, written by a lay member of the Association...and, Occurrences in the life of Elder Joseph Biggs, wrote by himself. Tarborough, August 9.

CONTENTNEA ASSOCIATION.

This body convened at Union meeting house, in this county, on Saturday the 25th Oct. last, and continued in session three days. From the Minutes we learn that letters from eighteen churches were handed in by their delegates, from which it appeared that during the past year there were baptized therein, 24; received by letter, 7; restored, 1; dismissed by letter, 28; excluded, 9; dead, 10; members, 677. The following is the Circular of the Association:—

CIRCULAR LETTER.

The Contentnea Association, assembled at Union M. H. Edgecombe county, on the 27th October, 1834, to all the churches and brethren composing the Association.

DEAR BRETHREN: According to former usage we address you by Circular. As this kind of letters is offered but once a year, we feel greatly anxious to present something that will aid you to grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We do not know how to do this better than by exhorting you to attend to the light and to the

READING OF THE SCRIPTURES.

The Bible is the word of God. It contains the matter and sum of all things concerning the salvation of sinners, and the comfort of saints. Pursuing the letter and the spirit of it, we never wander, never mistake. Aside from the scriptures, all else is but the wild superstition of heathenish darkness, or at best, the imagination of enlightened men. All false religion arises perhaps from false conceptions of God: and as the Bible is all the work that gives correct views of him, we cannot read it to frequently nor too carefully. The scriptures display his character as creator, and decide whether he willed in sovereignty, or depended on the counsel and will of others; whether he worked with sovereign power, or depended upon the aid of others. They exhibit him in providence and redemption with the same decisions of character. They prescribe the manner in which he will be worshipped by us, whether it must be by the offering of our bodies, or of our spirits: whether he will be worshipped as a merciful God only, or a just as well as a merciful God: whether he will be worshipped as having only a claim of obedience from us, or whether he has not a claim of punishment also. The scriptures exhibit him to be the awful and sublime character of judge of quick and dead. Showing us whether in judgment a knowledge of our crimes will be lacking, or not, and whether or not, he will call every sin in to judgment. Whether or not, he will acquit all the human family, or a part, or none: and if he acquits any, they show upon what principle, and if he condemns any, they show upon what principle. They show us our relationship to him: whether in our primitive state we did or did not, owe him perfect obedience: whether we maintained that state by obedience, or fell from it by transgression: And, if we fell by transgression, whether our transgression exempted us from the debt of obedience, or incurred a new debt of punishment or suffering; and if a new debt of punishment, whether it be temporary or eternal. They show whether transgression did or did not qualify us for paying the debt of obedience: and, if it were possible for us to pay the debt of obedience, they show us whether that would pay both debts, obedience and punishment, and whether one debt will pay to which are separate and distinct. If we thus owe a double debt to God, which we cannot pay, the scriptures show us whether God has condescended to grant any discharge or not; and whether that discharge or forgiveness be the reward of human works, or the gift of divine grace: whether sinful, lost, condemned and wretched man may become the child of God; whether this is by any change in man or not, either in reforming the external deportment, or in repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ, making him a new creature. They show whether such a person loves sin, or holiness; whether he loves Jesus Christ and his service, or Satan and his service; whether a saint of Christ can sin and still remain a saint; whether or not he is saved so long as he maintains an upright walk, and again condemned as soon as he transgresses; or saved with everlasting salvation. If the scriptures afford this light, (and abundantly more,) you will at once agree that there is great advantage in reading them. You will pardon us also for pointing to a few of the disadvantages of not reading them. As often as you read, you hear in a manner the voice of your God, your Father whom you love. Not reading, you lose this privilege. As oft as you read you see, even if it be dimly, the face of Jesus Christ, and hear his gracious will concerning you: not reading, you lose these blest enjoyments. By reading, we find whether we have passed from death to life; not reading we may continue to be deceived. If the Holy Spirit has wrought the work of salvation within us, and revealed Christ the way, the truth and the life to us, reading the scriptures makes the way more open and clear, the truth more sweet, and the life more delightful and heavenly. You lose, in some degree, the comfort of these by not reading. In short, brethren, if you neglect the reading of the scriptures, you will not be prepared to converse with the brethren with so much satisfaction, you will lose much even in meditation; you will not understand preaching so well; you will grow more worldly-minded, lukewarm and cold; more feeble to resist temptation; have less zeal for the prosperity of the church and the cause of God generally; be more liable to receive erroneous doctrine. A sound ministry goes far towards maintaining the truth in the church; but whenever the church gives over the reading of the scripture to the ministers, it takes the first step toward departing from the truth; and continuing to neglect the reading of God's word, the church will sooner or later be seen departed from the truth and overwhelmed in error. It sometimes happens that ministers of our own denomination through mistake, quote that for scripture which is mere tradition; if you do not read carefully you will receive it and set it down as scripture. Men through design may quote wrong, and largely tingle their own traditions, self-will, and self-choice, and you will not be prepared to detect them. If the preacher reads a text which you have not seen nor heard, you may judge there has already been a great neglect of reading. If you feel more interest in reading men's books than the word of God, it augurs badly. The truth of the scriptures is a charge committed to the church for safe-keeping; and it is as though the Lord had said, *Take my truth in your hands; take care of it till I come.* Much depends on reading the scriptures; perhaps more than upon all other religious exercises put together. May we read them constantly and impartially; and the Lord give us understanding in them. May we make them, (and not what men think about them,) the rule of our constant faith and practice. The Lord be pleased to guide you along the narrow way, and lead you through the strait gate to his rest, for the sake of the Lord Jesus; to whom be glory throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

The State of Georgia has purchased of his owner, at the enormous price of \$1800, a negro man named Sam, with a view to his emancipation, for his services in extinguishing the fire on the State House, which occurred upwards of a year ago.

FOR THE FREE PRESS.

INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT.

Mr. Editor: As internal improvement has for a series of years, been a subject of much public as well as private controversy, and few people in this part of our State, being acquainted with the sea coast of North Carolina, I will, through the medium of your paper, if you please, offer a small communication to the public on that subject.

This communication being intended to give some information, relative to the nature and situation of the sea coast of North Carolina, and the country thereunto adjacent, I will begin with the southern part of the State; or that of the Cape Fear River. That river, where the great impediment to navigation subsists, is from two to three miles wide; in the river at that place is an island, a few miles in length, which is called Long Island; this island is much nearer the eastern shore than the western; the course of the river nearly due south.

This island appears to have been formed by the action of the current; the river above and below this, is margined with rice farms to a considerable distance; which are of recent date, as shown by the sponge which forms this soil; the ditches that are dispersed through them in all directions, from four to five feet in depth, cut this decomposition of vegetable matter, with timbers intervening, in all directions, the whole depth of the ditch: which is unquestionable evidence, that these farms were once occupied by the water of the river. This some miles of obstruction to navigation, is about the middle grounds, between Wilmington and the Sound. Before there was any thing done to improve the navigation, the western side of this Island, called the western channel, was if my memory serves me right, agreeably to what I was informed in the neighborhood; about two feet and a half the best; but the engineer, after inspecting the situation of the place, advised, that a gettee should be constructed across the western channel, stopping the current altogether on that side, by which the whole action of the water would be thrown on the eastern side of the island; that channel being much the narrower of the two, would be acted on in such a way by the current as to improve the navigation, by cutting out the channel, and thereby get water sufficient.

A gettee through the auspice of the engineer, was introduced by the Board and undertaken at five thousand dollars: this gettee extends across the western channel, and is, I think, from half a mile, to three quarters long (I have walked on the gettee, backward and forward) it is built of large timbers, perhaps, from twelve to fifteen or sixteen inches square; two tier of these timbers are drove perpendicularly into the bottom of the river, from twelve to sixteen feet asunder; these girded together at the top, with timbers of the same kind, and the interval between, filled up with whatever they met with on the bank, convenient for floating to the gettee. There was an old gettee, two or three miles above, the particulars of which, as to dimensions, cost, &c. I did not understand, but was informed, it had no effect in improving the navigation, for which purpose it was intended. We will now return to the five thousand dollar gettee; which being of mammoth cost, was expected to effect a great improvement in the navigation, which as above stated, stopped the channel, that had two and a half feet the best water; and the action of the current, did not have any effect on the eastern channel, as prescribed by the Engineer; and here was an expenditure of five thousand dollars, for improving the navigation, and had made it two and a half feet worse than it was before they began. Then, to obviate this impracticability, the plan of a drudging boat was adopted, with which they were going to apply steam power, and rake out the bottom of the river, to any depth that might be necessary; this a performance of manual labor, would not, like the gettee, fail to effect a grand improvement. This drudging machine, is the contrivance of a boat that goes by seam, in which there is a large shaft, that is put in motion by steam power, this shaft has arms, or timbers to it attached, to the extremes of which, are attached iron buckets, or scrapers, that by the action of the shaft, are made to pass down, and scrape the bottom, fill themselves, come up on the opposite side of the shaft, and empty themselves into the boat. Thus, when a boat load is obtained, go off and empty.

The labor bestowed in this way, for several years, that I was some little acquainted there, if I mistake not, had little or no effect: and we do not hear of any great improvement unto this day, and it is highly probable, there never will be any lasting improvement, in the navigation of that river.

The land on the eastern side of the river, from Wilmington to Federal Point, a distance of twenty miles, is light sand, which yields to the action of the water at every impulse; the bed of the river, likewise, being of a submissive nature, these, yielding to the action of the current, in its descent, and preponderation, will, in all probability, continue to be thrown into the channel, so as to prevent any improvement in the navigation. I will give it as my opinion, at least, (though, I do not pretend to possess the knowledge respecting those things which many profess to do) that with all the labor, or drudging, they can bestow, for half a century to come, that the navigation will not be standing, as good as the western channel was before there was any thing done for improvement.

We will now attend to the improvement, which has been endeavored to be effected below Newbern, the particulars of