

THE STAR.

"Dispel the gloom, the light of heaven restore,
Green to sea, and Freedom ask no more."

VOL. I.

RALEIGH, DECEMBER 8, 1808.

No. 6.

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY, BY JONES & HENDERSON, AT THE UPPER END OF PAYETTE-STREET, NEAR CASO'S CORNER.—PRICE THREE DOLLARS PER ANNUM, PAYABLE HALF YEAR IN ADVANCE.—SINGLE PAPER 10 CENTS.

PROSPECTUS OF THE STAR.

There are, doubtless, many who think that this State has already Newspapers enough, and that this City in particular stands in no need of another; having already one on each side of the great political questions which at present agitate this country. This might be true were our paper to be merely a Political one; but Politics will be with us a subordinate object of regard. Our plan is a novel one in this State, and men we have given a view of it, and of the proposed manner of execution; and when, as a collateral consideration, the circumstances of our National Affairs are also taken into view we believe it will be conceded that another paper, and such an one as we intend to publish is still wanting, and that its establishment is desirable.

A very important department of our paper will be that devoted to Agriculture and the Rural Arts, or what in foreign Universities is distinguished by the comprehensive term of "Economics," for which they have established Professorships and Periodical Journals.—From the abundant means at command, we can confidently promise, that this department will be well worthy the attention of that respectable class of citizens, who form the pride and opulence of North-Carolina—the Farmers.

New discoveries in Science, and new works of literature shall be briefly, regularly and early noticed.

The STAR will contain such Foreign and Domestic intelligence as shall be important and interesting.

The highly meritorious and patriotic attempts which are now making throughout this State to encourage and promote Education and the diffusion of useful knowledge, will receive the zealous support of the STAR.

A portion of the paper will be devoted to Miscellaneous Essays; but it will be endeavored that they shall always be such that while they amuse the fancy, they shall also enlighten the understanding and amend the heart.

Religion and Morality, those grand pillars of individual and National happiness, shall be inviolably respected, and strenuously supported. Nothing offensive to the most scrupulous delicacy shall ever be emitted from the STAR. The youth and the Sex will always find it to possess the merit of being, at least innocent, and we believe generally instructing.

The election of President of the United States, which will take place in the course of the present year, when a person who has never before been invested with that important office must necessarily be selected, makes the period interesting, and creates the expediency of multiplying the lights necessary to illuminate the public mind on so important a decision.

The situation of our Foreign Affairs is delicate and critical, and has justly excited much anxiety and curiosity.—This renders it desirable and necessary to increase the number of avenues to information; and should impending difficulties eventuate in war, the necessity will be increased.

The political questions upon which the public may "divide with temper," we shall examine and decide upon according to our opinions of right, without regarding the man or the party, who may either agree or disagree with us in sentiment—our party will be that of our Country; and in defending its interests and honour we shall employ the arguments which candour shall dictate, and with a constant endeavour to observe that impartiality which is not incompatible with a sacred regard to justice and truth. Personalities we utterly disclaim, and they shall never be resorted to, by us unless rendered necessary to repel personal attacks.

We shall attempt to pursue a firm, yet liberal line of conduct; often giving facts, more seldom opinions; and those ever candid and dispassionate; solicitous always to stifle the baneful spirit of faction, and looking with a single eye to the happiness and honour of United America—a country endeared to us by the ties of birth, interest, and the many favors we have received from it.

From this slight and superficial view it will be seen that our plan is extensive and diversified: This paper will be a complete Farmer's Library, which would not be an inappropriate title. It remains for us to say how we shall be enabled to do justice to so many objects.

1st. The STAR shall be printed on paper of

as large a size as that of any other Newspaper now published in the State. 2d. Intelligence will be generally digested into the form of a summary, so as to retain all the essential parts, and exclude the many trifling circumstances of detail that swell such articles into a size much beyond their value or importance. 3d. The usual rumours (and often original ones) commonly prefaced by "we are told," and "it is reported," shall never have place, unless strengthened by more probabilities of truth than are usually attached to them. 4th. The Proceedings and Debates of Congress and of the Assembly, shall generally be presented in a condensed form or epitome, unless a speech of uncommon excellence shall lay a fair claim to the respect of entire insertion: The laws of both will also be presented in a summary form. 5th. Horse Advertisements, which periodically fill so large a portion of most Newspapers, shall never be admitted into this. After making from the STAR such liberal deductions of trash and verbiage, much room will remain for the admission of useful matter.

A mere *quid nunc* may complain that the News Department will not be sufficiently copious; but of both Foreign and Domestic intelligence it shall, in a compressed form, contain enough to satisfy a reasonable curiosity: Those who search with eager avidity for an account of the promenade of a Prince, the gala of a Duchess, the wreck of a Chinese Junk, or a hurricane in the East Indies will often be disappointed.

To furnish materials for the Paper all the periodical works relating to Science, and all the Reviews & Magazines of merit, publishing in America and Great Britain, will be regularly procured. An extensive correspondence with the Editors of this country will be maintained, and we hope something from the assistance of friends who are enabled to enrich the columns of the STAR by the extent and accuracy of their observations, the splendour of their wit, the elegance of their taste, or the solidity of their learning.

We do not come forward as the rivals or opponents of any established paper; those who read the *Minerva*, the *Register*, or any other of the Newspapers of the State, will not we expect, find ours to be a superfluous one. We found these pretensions not on any claim to superiority, but in the novelty of our plan. Neither our professions nor the title of our paper, we hope, will be thought too assuming; there are papers which assume the splendid titles of the "Sun," and the "Constellation!"—to ours we are content to give the simple and more humble epithet of "The STAR," and though it perhaps may not, in the departments common to all, rival the great luminaries just named, and others with different names, we yet hope it will not be altogether lost in the brilliancy of their rays, and twinkle without regard; but that it will attract the notice of our various astrologers, and contribute something to the general illumination.

UNITED STATES.



Congress.

IN SENATE.

Monday, November 21.

EMBARGO.

This being the day fixed for the discussion of the following resolution offered by Mr. Hillhouse, *Resolved*, That it is expedient that the act, entitled "An act laying an embargo on all ships and vessels in the ports and harbours of the United States," and the several acts supplementary thereto, be repealed, and that a committee be appointed to prepare and report a bill for that purpose.

The Senate took up the subject. Mr. Hillhouse opened the debate. When the reporter entered the Senate chamber, Mr. Hillhouse had been speaking for a few minutes, and was then discussing the effect which the embargo had had upon France, and the light in which it was viewed by her rulers. He alluded to the declaration of satisfaction at this measure, contained in a late French expose, and made many observations tending to shew that it was not a measure of hostility or coercion, as applied to France.

On England it had little or no effect. Her resources were immense. If deprived of a supply of grain here, she could obtain it elsewhere. The Barbary powers were at war with France and at peace with England, who might thence obtain wheat in any quantity she pleased. Great Britain he said was a nation with the whole world before her; her

commerce spread over every sea, and she had access to almost every port and climate. Could America expect to starve this nation? It was a farce, an idle farce! As to her West-India islands they raised Indian corn; all their sugar plantations could be converted into corn fields, and would any man say that they would starve because they could not get superfine flour? Was this a necessary of life without which they could not subsist? On the contrary a great proportion of the American people subsisted on it, and enjoyed as good health as if they eat nothing but the finest of wheat flour. The moment people understood that they could not get their necessary supplies from a customary source, they would look out for it in another quarter, and ample time had been given to them to make arrangements for this purpose. A man of the first respectability in the town in which Mr. H. lived had been there during this embargo, under the President's permission. What accounts did he bring? Why, that the trade in corn meal and live cattle, articles of great export from Connecticut, and comprising not only the product of that state, but of parts of the neighbouring states, would be entirely defeated; that where they had formerly sent an hundred hogheads of meal they would now find vent for ten; and that from South-America, where cattle had in times past been killed merely for their hides and tallow, cattle in abundance could be procured. Were these people to be starved out, when they could actually purchase cheaper now from other places than they had formerly done from us? No. The only consequence would be, and that too severely felt, that we should lose our markets; the embargo thus producing not only present privation and injury, but permanent mischief. The United States would have lost the chance of obtaining future supplies, they would have lost their market, and ten or twenty years would place them on the same footing as before. Mr. H. said the West Indians would have learnt that they can do without us; that they can raise provisions cheaper on their own plantations than we can sell them; and knowing this they would never resort to us. Though we might retain a part of this commerce, the best part would be lost forever. The trade would not be worth pursuing; though this might answer one purpose intended by the embargo, and which was not expressed.

Having considered the article of provisions as important to various parts of the union, Mr. H. said he would now turn to another article, cotton. It had been very triumphantly said that the want of this article would distress the manufacturers of G. Britain, produce a clamour amongst them, and consequently accelerate the repeal of the orders in council. Mr. H. said he would examine this a little, and see if all the evil consequences which opened to him at the time of the passage of the embargo law were not likely to be realized. He had hinted at some of them at that time, but the bill had gone through the Senate like a flash of lightning, giving no time for examination; once, twice and a third time in one day, affording no time for the development of all its consequences. This article of cotton was used not only by Britain but by France and other nations on the continent. Cotton, not being grown in Europe, must be transported by water carriage. This being the case who would now be most likely to be supplied with it? Not the continental powers who have so little commerce sloop nor any neutrals to convey it to them; for the U. States were the only neutrals which of late traded with France, and now the embargo was laid, she had no chance of getting it, except by the precarious captures made by her privateers. To Great Britain then was left the whole commerce of the world, and her merchants were the only carriers. Would not these carriers supply their own manufacturers? Would they suffer cotton to go elsewhere till they themselves were supplied? America was not the only country where cotton was raised; for he had seen an account of a whole cargo brought into Salem, from the East Indies and thence exported to Holland, with a good profit. Cotton was also raised in Africa, as well as elsewhere; and this wary nation, Great Britain, conceiving that the U. States might be so impolitic as to keep on the embargo, had carried whole cargoes of the best cotton seed there for the purpose of raising cotton for her use. Great Britain had possessions in every climate on the globe, and cotton did not, like the sturdy oak, require forty or fifty years to arrive at maturity; but if planted would produce a plentiful supply in one year. Thus, then, when this powerful nation found America resorting to such means to coerce her, she had taken care to look out for supplies in other quarters, and with the command of all the cotton on the globe which went to market, could we expect to coerce her by withholding ours? Mr. H. said no; all the inconvenience which she could feel from our measure had already been borne; and G. Britain was turning her attention to every part of the globe to obtain those supplies which she was wont to get from us, that she might not be reduced to the humiliating condition of making concession to induce us to repeal our own law, and purchase an accommodation by telling us that we had a weapon which we could wield to her annoyance. Mr. H. wished to know of gentlemen if we had not experience enough to know that Great Britain was not to be threatened into compliance by a rod of coercion? Let us examine ourselves, (said he) for if we trace our genealogy we shall find that we descend from them, were they to use us in this manner, is there an American that would stoop to them; I hope not; and neither will that nation from which we are descended be driven from their position, however erroneous, by threats.

This embargo, therefore, instead of operating on those nations which had been violating our rights, was fraught with evils and privations to the people of the United States. They were the sufferers.—And have we (said he) adopted the monkish plan of scourging ourselves for the sins of others? He hop-

ed not; and that, having made the experiment and found that it had not produced its expected effect, they would abandon it as a measure wholly inefficient as to the objects intended by it, and as having weakened the great hold which we had on Great Britain, from her supposed dependence on us for raw materials.

Some gentlemen appeared to build up expectations of the efficiency of this system by an addition to it of a non-intercourse law. Mr. H. treated this as a futile idea. They should however examine it seriously and not like children shut their eyes to danger. Great Britain was not the only manufacturing nation in Europe. Germany, Holland, France, Spain, Portugal, and Italy manufactured more or less, and most of them had colonies, the exclusive supply of whose manufactures they had heretofore reserved to themselves. Whilst we had enjoyed the carrying trade, we had supplied the deficiency in navigation of those nations; and all the inconvenience felt for the want of it ceased because we stepped in and aided them. This trade had been cut up, and perhaps it was not a trade which the energies of the nation should be embarked in defending. Who was there now to supply all these various colonies that used to be supplied by us?—None but England, the sole mistress of the ocean. Whose products then would G. Britain carry?—Would she carry products of other nations and let her own manufacturers starve? No; and this exclusion from the colonies of other manufactures and leaving her merchants the sole carriers of the world, produced a greater vent for her manufactures than the whole quantity consumed in the United States.

This, however, was arguing upon the ground that the United States would consume none of her manufactures, in case of a non-intercourse. Mr. H. said he was young when the old non-intercourse took place, but he remembered it well, and had then his ideas on the subject. The British army was then at their door, burning their towns and ravaging the country, and at least as much patriotism existed then as now; but British fabrics were received and consumed to almost as great an extent as before the prohibition. The armies could not get fresh provisions from Europe, but they got them here by paying higher prices in guineas for them than was paid by our government in ragged continental paper money. When the country was in want of clothing and could get it for one-fourth price from the British, what was the consequence? Why all the zealous patriots—for this work of tarring and feathering, and meeting in mobs to destroy their neighbour's property because he could not think quite as fast as they did, which seemed to be coming in fashion now, had been carried on then with great zeal—these patriots, although all intercourse was penal, carried on commerce notwithstanding. Supplies went hence, and manufactures were received from Europe. Now what reliance could be placed on this patriotism? A gentleman from Vermont had told the Senate at the last session that the patriotism of Vermont would stop all exportation by land, without the assistance of the law. How had it turned out? Why, patriotism, cannons, militia, and all had not stopped it; and although the field pieces might have stopped it on the lakes, they were absolutely cutting new roads to carry it on by land. And yet the gentleman had supposed their patriotism would effectually stop it! Now Mr. H. wanted to know how a non-intercourse law was to be executed by us with a coast of 1500 miles open to Great Britain by sea, and joining her by land? Her goods would come through our courts of admiralty by the means of friendly captors; they would be brought in, condemned, and then naturalized, as Irishmen are now naturalized, before they have been a month in the country.

Mr. H. went on at some length to shew the impracticability of enforcing a non-intercourse law, and its demoralizing consequences on our citizens.

It had been said that the embargo should not be raised, because there was no commerce that could now be safely pursued. He was astonished that gentlemen should introduce this argument; as it went upon the ground that France and England could mutually arrest our commerce with each other. If this were really the fact, merchants, who were so nice in their calculations, would not risk their property. The insurance offices were perfect thermometers by which to calculate the degree of risk in any commerce. They always made their calculations on the safe side; and it would be found that no property was more sought after than insurance stock, and this was because the institutions were generally conducted by cautious merchants. A few harum-scarum individual merchants might engage in hazardous enterprises, and lose all. Such men would never be controlled by law or prudent considerations. But the great body of merchants would always regulate the course of trade, and there was no need of an embargo to save them from running too great a risk.

How had they done in time past? Laws had been in force making it unlawful to trade with the Spanish possessions in S. America; but we had nevertheless carried on a profitable trade there, and not all the vigilance of Spain could prevent it. Now and then a few of our citizens had been caught and imprisoned, but that had not stopped our trade; nor was it in the power of France and England combined to do it. On this subject Mr. H. said gentlemen took for granted what was not true. France had issued her decree, saying that no vessel should navigate to England or her dependencies. What had been the consequence of this decree? It had not raised insurance five per centum. Had there been no good reason for this? Yes; it was well known that the whole combined navy of France was not able to meet a British fleet on the ocean. The French ships of war therefore could never go out but by stealth, and could not spread over the ocean so as to endanger our commerce. Insurance had therefore been very little affected; and was it worth