

# THE STAR.

Vol. 1.]

RALEIGH, JULY 13, 1809.

[No. 37.]

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## ADVERTISEMENTS.

### Franklin Academy.

ON Monday and Tuesday the 19th and 20th instant, the Students of the Franklin Academy were examined in the presence of the Trustees and others, on the English Grammar, the Greek, Latin and French Languages, Geography and Belles Lettres; and on Wednesday delivered Dialogues and select Orations before a crowded and respectable audience.

The Examination, as usual, was highly satisfactory, & the Students discovered great progress in their pursuits. They were particularly accurate and ready in the Rules of Grammar, which shows the industry and attention of Mr. Mayhew, the principal, to this essential and fundamental part towards a complete and lasting knowledge of the languages. On the whole of the performance the Trustees have great pleasure in congratulating the Parents and Guardians of the Students, and the patrons of the Institution on its flourishing state.

GREEN HILL, Jr. Sec'y.  
Louisburg, June 24, 1809.

### Committed

TO the Jail of Rockingham county, (N. C.) on the 25th ult. a Negro Fellow, who says his name is JOHN ARMSTRONG, and that he is a free Man—says his father was emancipated by a family of the name of Ladd, near Richmond—says he lived with Mr. Buford, who formerly kept the Eagle Tavern in that place, and that he also lived several years with Mr. Smoke, who now keeps the Eagle Tavern, in the capacity of Oster.

JOHN is about 30 years of age, 5 feet 8 inches high, is very much pitted with the small-pox, and when apprehended, said he was on his way to Tennessee, where his wife resides. The owner is requested to prove his property, pay charges and take him away.

JOHN LILLIARD, Jailor.  
7th June, 1809.

### Masonic.

DAVID LODGE, No. 39, State of North Carolina, Bertie County.

RESOLVED, that WILLIAM HODGES be, and is hereby FOREVER EXPELLED from this Lodge, for conduct disgracing him as a Man and as a Mason.

Extract from the Minutes.

Taste, LEMUEL MURDAUGH, Sec'y.

### One Dollar Reward

WILL be given to any person who shall apprehend and deliver to the Subscriber, JOHN PHILLIPS, an apprentice boy, who absconded from my service a few days since.

JOHN BROWER.  
Randolph county }  
June 28, 1809.

### List of Letters

Remaining in the Post-Office at Raleigh, quarter ending the 1st of July, 1809.

A Henry R. Achison, Wm. Atkinson.  
B John Brannon, Steven Brown, Robert Brown, Thos. Busbee, Jeremiah Brown, Absolom Bennit.  
C P. Conway, Mark Cook, Henry Cook, Blount Cooper, Spence Coluburn.  
D Anthony M. Dickson, Hardy Dean.  
E James Easton, John Ezell.  
F Edmund D. Ford, Mary Fowler, James Faircloth, Willie Fenell.  
G Silas Green, Faushin Gardner, Samuel Guthrie, Dennis Graddy.  
H Picaunt Harden, David Hilliard, David Hinton, Wm. Hokit, George Harrison, Sarah Hollowy, H. Hubbard, Whitmil D. Horn, Amos Horton, Willie Holland, Andrew Karsfield, Sarah Harrison.  
I Nath. Jones, C. T. Richard Jones, Jarret Jelks, Edmond Jeter, Willie Jones, Lemuel Jackson.  
K John Kelly, Richard Kenney, Charles Kennon.  
L Miss Ann Lane.  
M Morgan Murray, John McKenny, John Murphy 2; Corby Martin, Allen Mobly, John Marshall.  
N George Nance.  
O Richard Olive.  
P Hinton Pugh, Thomas Parr, Francis Perry, Miss Elizabeth Pully, Charles Parish 2; Thomas Price 2; Miles Porvil, James Perry.  
R John Rex, Peter Randolph, Joel Reddings, Myllie Rollin.  
S Joel Simmons, Richard Smith, senr. John Sanders, Repps Seogin, Elick Smith, Tiller Ship, John A. Smith 2; James Somerville, Harrison Smith, Hannah Sims.  
T Wm. Turner, Robert Warwick.  
W Wm. Wynne, Alfred Wood, James Woodward 2; James Watson, Henry Wells, Wm. Wright, Blunner W. L. son.  
V Ozias Vinson, Elisha Vinson.

WM. SHAW, P. M.

### Advertisement.

THE Subscriber having qualified as Administrator of the Estate, with the W<sup>ill</sup> annexed, of ALEXANDER WORKE, late of Iredell county, deceased, hereby gives notice to all persons having claims or demands against the said Estate, that they exhibit such claims or accounts properly authenticated within the time prescribed by law for presenting demands against the Estates of deceased persons, or they will be barred of a recovery.

It is the desire of the Heirs and Legatees of the late Alexander Worke, and it accords with my own wishes, that a speedy settlement and distribution of the Estate be made. Those indebted will therefore be pleased to make payment of their respective debts as soon as possible.

The Heirs and Legatees who are not indebted more than their distributive shares of the said Estate, will not be required to make payment of their debts, but they must give such bonds as will be a sufficient security and indemnity for what they have thus received.

M. STOKES, Administrator  
of Alex. Worke, deceased.  
Salisbury, May 23, 1809.

### Advertisement.



RUN-AWAY from the Subscriber on the 16th day of May last, a Negro fellow named JACK, but perhaps he may have gotten a pass by the name of EZEKIEL WATKINS. He is about 30 years of age, about 5 feet eight or nine inches high, has lost some of his fore-teeth, and is much marked with the small-pox; he is very sensible, smooth and plausible in conversation. A generous reward will be given for taking up the said Negro, and securing him in goal so that the subscriber may get him again.

DANIEL WOOD.  
Rowan County, near Salisbury, June 18, 1809.

Positively to commence drawing, On Monday the 9th of October next.

### INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT.

TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS  
May be given for the small sum of two and an half dollars!!  
IN THE THIRD CLASS  
OF THE  
River Lehigh Lottery.

The capital prizes are, viz.  
2 of \$10,000 3 of \$1000  
2 of 5,000 6 of 500  
2 of 2,500 15 of 200, &c.  
Less than two and an half blanks to a prize, the lowest of which is 5 dollars.

To draw 500 numbers each day, at the state-house in Philadelphia, where the prizes will be paid by Thomas Allison, Esq. the Treasurer, 30 days after the conclusion of the drawing; subject to a deduction of 15 per cent.

This is one of the richest Lotteries published here for many years, and the moderate price of the tickets places the grand prizes within the reach of every individual who chooses to become an adventurer, which he may do for so small a sum as sixty-two and an half cents. The object, moreover, is such as must interest every well-wisher to the internal improvement of the state.

Letters post paid, and inclosing the cash, will be duly attended to, and prizes of lotteries of this city and of New York, as well as bank notes of the different states, received in payment. The price of the tickets will advance with the approach of the drawing.

Whole tickets, \$2 50  
Half do. 1 25  
Quarter do. 62 1-2 cents.

GEO. TAYLOR, junior.  
No. 85, South Second-street, Philadelphia.

N. B. The earliest information will be given to distant purchasers, of the state of their tickets. Those of the Second Baptist Church, Universalist Church, Pennepack Academy, and Vineyard Lotteries, also for sale as above.

The price of Tickets will be raised to three dollars on the 15th of July next.

May 1, 1809. 30-3m.

### LITERARY.

#### REMARKS ON ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS OF THE ROMAN POETS.

It was not until some time in the seventeenth century, that Virgil was disgraced by an entire English version. Ogilby was the offender. But, as his performance has never been commended, and is now almost unknown, I shall not waste time in animadverting on the work, nor attempt to disturb that repose which it has enjoyed almost from birth.

If Ogilby had been bred a scholar instead of a dancing master, and had become a student at Cambridge before he received the trust of deputy manager of the Irish revels, he would have grown wise enough to refrain from a task, which he has accomplished so infamously. No poet would then have had occasion to call on Dryden in defence of Homer,

"To right his injured works, and set them free  
From the lewd rhymes of groveling Ogilby."

Nor would the admirers of Virgil have been excited to indignation by the efforts of this bungling interpreter. To adopt the language of one of Dryden's panegyrist, it was Virgil's fate,

"To lye at every dull translator's will;  
Long, long his muse has groan'd beneath the weight  
Of mangling Ogilby's presumptuous quill."

From the gross injustice toward the Mantuan bard, which has been adverted to, we turn with pleasure and relief to the successful labours of Dryden. His reputation, not only as an original poet, but as a translator also, was well established before he promised his poetic version of Virgil. Public expectation was highly raised. It was not suffered to fall, because Dryden made no needless delay; it was not ultimately disappointed with his version, because no one could have expected a better.

Dryden early discovered a poetic taste; but his first attempts at versification exhibited more genius than poetry, odd conceits without attention to harmonious numbers, and uncommon originality without sufficient adherence to metrical rules. He improved by experience, but not by carefulness. He had an impetuosity which he seems never to have resisted, and an ardour which he never studied to abate. Impetuosity is commonly checked by age, and age is not often chargeable with unreasonable heat. Dryden began his translation after he had entered his sixty-fourth year. He suffered more than the usual infirmities attendant on that period of life; and had lost much of his relish for poetry, whether pastoral, georgic, or heroic. To these circumstances we are probably indebted for a greater fidelity to his author, than he

would otherwise have exhibited. An imagination so transcendent, and a vehemence so uncommon, would, in the vigour of youth, have betrayed him into a negligent departure from the rules of translation. He has not wholly escaped this censure; and, under the pretext of greater strictness to the meaning of Virgil, the world was afterwards taxed with a dull performance of a servile interpreter (Trapp).

It was Dryden's opinion of a just translation, that it "is not so loose as paraphrase, nor so close as metaphor." Of his too strict verbal adherence to the original, it would be difficult to find instances: it is a fault of which he was never suspected. But that he is often paraphrastic, they who will compare him with his author, may readily perceive.

I will give only one example, taken from the ninth eclogue.

#### LYCIDAS.

"Hic, ubi densas  
Agricolae stringunt frondes, hic, Moeri, canamus:  
Hic hados depono: tamen venimus in urbem;  
Aut, si, nox pluviam ne doliqat ante, veremur,  
Cantantes licet usque, minus via laedat, camus,  
Cantantes ut camus, ego hoc te fasce levabo."  
Ecl. ix. l. 61.

#### LYCIDAS.

"Here, where the labourer's hands have formed a bower  
Of wreathing trees, in singing waste an hour.  
Rest here thy weary limbs, thy kids lay down,  
We've day before us yet to reach the town;  
Or, if ere night the gathering clouds we fear,  
A song will help the beating storm to bear.  
And, that thou may'st not be too late abroad,  
Sing, and I'll ease thy shoulders of thy load."  
Dryd. Past. ix. l. 84.

"Have form'd a bower  
Of wreathing trees."  
This may convey the meaning of Virgil; but it approaches very near to commentary, and is not happily expressed.

Why Dryden represents Lycidas, entreating Moeris to "waste an hour in singing," it is difficult to conceive. Virgil's Lycidas was not guilty of this incivility. "Hic, Moeri, canamus" can never mean "in singing waste an hour;" and we should hardly have expected this censure upon music from the author of "Alexander's feast."

"Rest here thy weary limbs."

This is doubtless to help out the line, for we find nothing answering to it in Virgil.

"And that thou may'st not be too late abroad."

Lycidas does not assign this reason for offering to take the burden of Moeris; and it would have been more poetic in Dryden, and more just to his author, to have represented music as having the power of rendering the burden light.

Instances of greater freedom, which Dryden has manifested in different parts of his version, might be selected; examples which critics can censure more easily, than the translator could avoid.

I shall not attempt to decide, in which part of his translation he is most deserving of praise, whether in the pastorals or georgics. In the latter he has performed his task pretty uniformly well; and has rendered them as pleasing as the nature of the subjects admit. In the battle of the bees, near the commencement of the fourth book, if its excellence consists in the mock heroic, he has fairly won the laurel from Virgil; and the tale of Orpheus and Eurydice, towards the close of the book, has lost little of its spirit, as told by the translator.

Dryden, no doubt, deserved that encomium, which Pope bestowed on him, of producing "the most noble and spirited translation he knew in any language." It was however a hurried performance; and, like every thing of Dryden's, it indicates a writer impatient of labour. Had he proceeded in the work with greater deliberation, his version might have been more equal, but probably not more brilliant; less deficient in harmony, but not more uniformly interesting. Though versification since the time of Dryden has become more correct, than at the period when he wrote, yet he has scarcely been surpassed as a poet.—For all his faults he affords a recompense: when he does not please the ear, he delights the imagination, and captivates the mind.

It was scarcely to be expected, that, as a translator of Virgil, Dryden would very soon have a rival; and it may be said with truth, that he had no rival.

Trapp has told us, that he should not have translated Virgil, had he not been "honoured by the University of Oxford with the public office of professor of poetry." It is to be regretted, that from this circumstance he felt under any new obligations to the public as a poetical writer. That Trapp knew well what a poem should be, understood the structure of its parts, and was in a certain sense "master of every species of poetry," his "pralectiones poeticae" abundantly evince. But many are ingenious in theory, who are unskilful in practice; and the best critics are not always the best writers.

Trapp was unquestionably a man of erudition, and well versed in ancient literature; and had he been content to be a teacher without aspiring to excel as a poet, he would have gained

more praise, and have escaped much severe criticism. He seems to have thought too contemptuously of rhyme; perhaps because Dryden chose this species of poetry; for he bore no good will to Dryden. His defence of blank verse, because it gives greater latitude of expression than rhyme, is just; and the justice of it a translator must often feel. If however it be the refuge of indolence, it deserves little regard. It is intended to reflect neither upon Trapp nor his opinions. Blank verse may even be best adapted to the *Eneid*: yet with regard to the pastorals I cannot but think, that Trapp was sadly ensnared by his prejudices against rhyme. He makes them a strange sort of composition; rude and simple enough, but dull, insipid, and prosaic. It must be acknowledged, that he deserves more credit as a critic, than as a poet; and more applause for his admiration of Virgil, than for his taste in rendering him into English.

"Intent to teach, too careless how to please,  
Is a line contained in a poetick tribute of a friend to our translator. Perhaps it was not meant to be the language of apology; nor can it ever be received as such. An author will not gain a single admirer by indifference of pleasing, nor conciliate one critic by braving censure. And that writer deserves and excites most tenderness, who, after aiming to please, throws himself on the mercy of his judges.

We wish not to animadvert with severity on a performance of so good a man as Trapp. He was respectable as a divine and a scholar, and estimable as a christian. But he was not great enough to distance adulation, and was fairly flattered into an undertaking, which was never to gain him applause.

After Dryden and Trapp, Pitt produced his translation of the *Eneid*. He professed not to enter the lists with Dryden, though some think that he has fairly gained the prize. Pitt was no less amiable as a man, than modest as an author. His competent fortune, with the leisure of an English Rector, gave him many opportunities above Dryden, who wrote for bread as well as fame. These opportunities he improved by retirement and the cultivation of a delicate taste. His poetical productions were numerous; many of which were written in early life, and never published.

As a translator he has many beauties mixed with some defects. He is too fond of alliteration; a figure which he sometimes repeats in such quick succession, that a severe critic would be prone to charge him with affectation.

The following lines afford an example:

Meanwhile loud thunders rattle round the sky,  
And hail and rain in mingled tempest fly;  
While floods on floods in swelling torrents glide,  
Hell roars down the mountain's channel'd sides.

This versification is generally very correct and very equal. He has none of Dryden's great faults, and perhaps seldom reaches his greatest beauties. Taken as a whole he has exhibited more of Virgil than his predecessor. What Dryden wanted in leisure he had to supply by ready genius and uncommon exertion. If Pitt fell below him in powers of mind, he had an equivalent in time and opportunity.

Dryden has been accused by Spence in his *Polymetis* of ignorance of the allegories of Virgil; and Pitt has been commended by Warton for escaping all but three or four instances of such ignorance, where Dryden has been guilty of fifty.—*Boston Review*.



The noisy herald of a busy world.

### FOREIGN.

On the 1st of May last a numerous meeting of the friends of Parliamentary Reform was held in London. Sir Francis Burdett was Chairman, Col. Wardle, who instituted the enquiry into the conduct of the Duke of York, was treated with very flattering marks of distinction. Petitions for Reform are pouring in from all parts of the Kingdom. A Bill has been introduced into the House of Commons to prevent the sale of places.

*Dutch Complaints.*—The Dutch Legislature have presented a long address to Louis Bonaparte, their king. The legislature, among other things, lay the following picture of the BENEFITS derived by Holland from the Bonaparte dynasty, before their sovereign.—"Commerce, Sir, so languishing for a number of years past, is at this day reduced to an absolute nothing, and the hope of its revival is deferred to an uncertain period—Peace, Sir, Peace is the only, the great interest of the world."

The Minister of the French Treasury, in the printed budget, felicitates his Emperor on