

# The Raleigh Minerva.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1816.

Vol. 19.

No. 1082.

## RALEIGH, (N. C.)

PRINTED, WEEKLY, BY A. LUGAS.  
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## Internal Navigation.

### FROM THE FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER.

In the last Raleigh Minerva there appeared a most flagrant and unfair attack upon the Town of Fayetteville and the Cape-Fear Navigation Company. It comes to us in the masked guise of a communication and is christened "Veritas." It is unfortunate for the maker of this piece, that he happened to stumble upon the same signature that George Barrington the famous hero of Botany-Bay, used, when he attempted to prove to the world that he was an honest man. But names are nothing—it is the facts only attached to this piece that we would desire to controvert. We are, however, doubtful, whether the author in assuming the name of Truth, did it by way of irony or malice—if the former, we can easily come to the true statement by turning Mr. Veritas wrong side outward, and if the latter, any person who knows any thing of the subject can very soon parry the malicious insinuations. For fear any one should believe Mr. Veritas, we think it our duty to explain a few of the most prominent charges—more might be said, but the people who read his remarks can supply from their own reason and information whatever deficiency may here exist. It is to be hoped that Veritas will not think that his subtleties have excited any alarm in the persons against whom they aimed. It is only for fear they should operate if suffered to pass unregarded, in the minds of some who have given no attention to the facts, that we thus notice them. For intrinsically the allegations amount to nothing, and if properly sifted would ultimately be nought but bran. And even taking them as they appear, if a stenographer could abridge them into reason and truth, you might write the whole of them on the back of your nail.

The object of this Veritas can plainly be seen. He has some vital prejudice toward Fayetteville and cannot endure to see it rise so fast in wealth and population. But it may be that the man has some land interest in the great city of Raleigh, or the little city of Haywood—both of which together bear about the same proportion to Fayetteville, as the latter does to New-York. Or else the writer intends to smother that good spirit for public improvement and the true welfare of the state, which characterizes the present Legislature. It is a gratifying truth that most of the people of N. Carolina are as noblely zealous for the internal improvement of their State, and are disarding that puny sectional prejudice which would bestow no public advantage upon one part, because another would not by natural incapacity assume any. They are beginning to find that the interest of a part, is eventually the interest of the whole. He therefore who would blast this flourishing germ of public spirit, is far from being a discreet statesman or an honest citizen.

But to the point. The writer in question premises that a neighbor of his was on a certain day "brim-full of inland Navigation" and he himself likewise in almost as deplorable a case, for he had been "full of brain navigation." If perchance he had been "brim-full" our fate might have been terrible. How this same navigation was managed, we are not informed; but no doubt it went through the ordinary channel of perspiration, spitting and sneezing at the nose. Well, after all this wit, the aforesaid Veritas goes on in a very expert gambling calculation, to guess that the present Cape-Fear Company cannot long endure because there have already been made two abortive attempts in the same business! Now we exhort all people, who have been imprudent enough to believe Mr. Veritas, to consider that the present Company is strictly distinct from the former. The Stockholders in this Company have nothing to do with other incorporations of this nature. They stand on their own bottom. But yet the man ought to have known that the powers and capital of the former company were totally inefficient to the purpose, and therefore was the necessity found to create one on a competent foundation. And although this writer suspects that former charters have been nugatory and abortive for the purpose of rendering Cape-Fear River navigable, yet he may now receive the information that "The Deep and Haw-River Company" have subscribed all their stock to the new Company, and most of the former Stockholders have become additional Subscribers to the latter.

The most formidable part of the battery of

this disinterested and well-informed writer, is directed towards the town of Fayetteville. The intention is palpable,—that is, to depreciate this town and its citizens in the estimation of the Legislature. He intimates, that the object of the people of Fayetteville was their own aggrandizement, and a desire to exclude all other persons from a participation in the Navigation Stock. Without stopping to vindicate the patriotism of our townsmen, in a wish to raise Fayetteville to importance, or to shew that its prosperity and improvement is not essentially beneficial to the State, let us examine into this charge of exclusion. It is well known that books were opened all over the state, (agreeably to the Charter) in all places where there was any probability of subscriptions. The mighty city of Raleigh had its chance for embarking in this speculation. Mr. Veritas himself, unless he had lived in the woods, or, what is the same thing, in the town of Haywood, for which he feels so much sympathy, might have seen a subscription paper and become one of the Company and helped to regulate the affairs to his own mind. All were bidden to come in. Those who excluded themselves have no right to complain of a monopoly. And so it turned out, that after the books were closed, the citizens of Fayetteville, knowing that themselves were most deeply interested, and being convinced of the need of opening the Navigation of Cape-Fear, appeared to make the larger part of the subscriptions. They then went on to choose their Directors, and although it seems to hurt the feelings of the gentleman in the Minerva, that 3 out of the 4 should belong to this town, yet the voters wisely considered, that those persons who lived on the spot where the work was to be done, were the most proper men to see it done well. They had no idea of travelling to Raleigh or Haywood, or wherever else Mr. Veritas and his "brim-full" neighbor might dwell, to find competent persons to manage the Navigation of the River. But, the gentleman complains of the scaling and what he considers the partial distribution of shares. He thereupon goes into an arithmetical calculation to prove what every one might find by a decent perusal of the Statute Book. It were a pity indeed that such a sage man should get his living by reckoning. The cutting down of little subscriptions more than of large ones is the great complaint. Now, is it not reasonable, that those who embark largely in a novel experiment and are patriotic enough to throw in a large capital, should be entitled to a preference, when the subscriptions are found to exceed the necessary amount? Besides, do not the large subscribers feel a greater interest in the management of a corporation than a petty subscriber who will rather go about his other concerns than attend to this trivial one? This is all we say in justification of the propriety of scaling. Veritas must go to the Legislators who enacted the law for further information. Yet is it not true that Fayetteville wished to monopolise the stock by this system of scaling. The large country subscribers came in upon the same chance, and it is a fact, that the law was so little understood, at the time of subscription, that two of the present Directors, did actually divide the capital they intended to subscribe and place it to a number of different names. There was certainly no necromancy in this that need frighten the Raleigh man. Another fact against the wish to create a power in this town, is this: that after the subscribers had met and the stock apportioned, a subscription to a considerable amount came in from the county of Guilford, which had been subscribed for in legal time, the capital stock was then extended so as to admit these subscribers.

Veritas would have the good people to believe that he knows a great deal upon this subject, that all his barefaced allegations are true. He wishes to shew that this system of apportioning the shares is a new method and altogether the mountebank device of those awful Fayetteville folks. He has shewn himself equally conversant with facts as good manners—and yet the man seems comfortable in his situation. However, "where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise." He says, that in the Cape-Fear charter "the guard which was furnished against the monopoly of monied men, in case of a surplus subscription in the Bank and Roanoke charters is studiously avoided." Now, this is about a fair sample of this poor fellow's knowledge. He undertakes to abuse and vilify a corporation without, apparently, reading a word of their charter. It is well known that the part which regards apportionment of shares is derived directly from the "Roanoke Charter" inasmuch as the Cape-Fear charter adopts this, among many other sections from the Roanoke charter without reciting them.

The desire in the people of Fayetteville to increase the character of their town and refusing to build up a spot of marsh and pine-trees called Haywood, is another prominent subject of complaint. This writer says it has been the studious desire of the Fayetteville people to prevent the river from being opened above their town. We will not undertake to controvert this assertion, for the impolicy of such a measure can be deduced from his own piece.—He says, "Fayetteville is the heart which furnishes the arteries of the corporation with its stimulating circulation, not for the public good, but with the hope it will again return through the veins of agriculture with an annual increase of 15 per cent." This single paragraph contradictory as it is, will shew the policy of this town to be, to promote by all means this circulation in the small arteries, and as far as this affected the growth and importance is mutual

and therefore it is for the public good.—But Fayetteville and the Cape-Fear Navigation Company wish to depress Haywood! Even allowing that any sane man could suspect that Haywood could ever become a rival to Fayetteville, this fact, that the Cape-Fear Company are large proprietors of this apology for a town, will contradict the aspersion, of a studious desire to put down Haywood.—The whole work of clearing out this River cannot be done in a day, and there has as yet been no indication that this "rival" will not come in for her share at some future time.—Every man perhaps but Veritas knows that the most important work is to facilitate the navigation from this to Wilmington, and to this object the whole powers of the Company have been directed and the labor has progressed as far as their resources would allow.—As we said before it will be a part of the ulterior policy of the company to clear out the River to its sources. Veritas need not cry about it—we in Fayetteville are under no apprehensions of a rival either at Haywood or Raleigh.—This town is progressing too fast in real prosperity to be thwarted by small things. If we must fall it must be by the agency of some greater character than Veritas.—We have no idea of dying like that Roman Emperor who was poisoned by mushrooms.

Another aspersion of this man that it was the object of the people of this town to exclude the State from subscription is equally untrue. A reference to the charter will shew that the state could not be interested unless the subscriptions should fall short of a given amount. It is well known that they exceeded that amount. However there was no design to exclude the state, because a vote was immediately passed by the Company to invite the state to subscribe One hundred and Fifty Shares, which invitation has been made at the present session of the Assembly.

We pass over many things in this piece which we might enlarge upon, to notice a very vulgar and common error which is here circulated respecting the power of the Company to levy a tax of 15 per centum. It is not true that "the lumber is annually carried down by freshes" is taxed upon the value—for the power of the Company is only that they shall levy taxes sufficient to produce a profit on the stock of 15 per cent per annum. The tax therefore upon rafts, &c. will be comparatively small, and trivial as it is, no person would grudge to pay it when he finds that his property is so much better secured by the clearing away obstructions in the River.—There are many lumber and naval store makers who annually lose more property in consequence of the present obstructions than would pay their tax for three or four years.

But the tax would fall principally upon this town, and the property that is sent down will not be taxed 15 per cent either. It is a fact, that a tax of 1 pr. ct. on the amount of produce sent down only from this town last year, would have paid the whole necessities of the Company and produced the desired 15 per cent profit.—This is nothing to do with Lumber or Naval Stores or property brought up the River.—So it will be seen that a very insignificant tax upon this town of Fayetteville would amply suffice the desires of the Company and the tax upon rafts, &c. would be comparatively nothing.

We have thus noticed this malicious and untrue attack upon our Town and its most worthy, upright and honest citizens. From what quarter this threadbare jester's threadbare jest proceeds we know not nor care. More might have been said but this will suffice for the present.

## Congressional Proceedings.

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Friday, Dec. 13.

Amongst the petitions presented to-day, was one by Mr. Archer of Md. from a number of the inhabitants of Hartford county, stating the almost total failure of their crops of corn, their inability to provide it in sufficient quantities for their support, and praying the interposition of Congress, by a temporary prohibition of the exportation of grain. Referred to the committee of commerce and manufactures.

Mr. Lowndes of S. C. from the committee of ways and means, introduced a bill supplementary to "An act to regulate the duties on imports and tonnage," which was committed.

Mr. Hopkins of Pennsylvania from the committee on the judiciary, reported a bill to establish an uniform system of bankruptcy.—Committed.

Mr. Johnson, of Kentucky, from the Military committee, reported a bill making donations of Land to the disbanded Officers of the late army.

Mr. Hardin from Ky. offered the following Resolution, with a view to call for the consideration of it at a future day:

Resolved, That it is expedient to repeal the act, entitled, "An act to repeal the existing duties on licenses to distillers, and lay other duties in lieu of those at present imposed on licenses to distillers of spirituous liquors," except such parts as may enable the government to collect the sums now due under said act, or may become due before the repeal of said act takes effect.—Ordered to lie on the table.

The Speaker laid before the House a letter from the acting Secretary of War, transmitting, in compliance with an order of the House at the last session, a plan of a system for the organization and discipline of the Militia of the United States; which, on motion of Mr. Harris of Ohio, was referred to the Military committee.

Monday, Decem. 16.

Mr. Yancey, of N. C. from the committee of claims, reported a bill for the relief of William Hasslett; and Mr. Reynolds, of Tenn. a bill for opening the road therein mentioned; which bills were committed.

### Internal Improvements.

Mr. Calhoun, of S. C. referring to a proposition of the same sort made at the last session, but then opposed by him as being unseasonably introduced, said that, since that time, the Bank Law had passed, the subscription had been filled under auspicious circumstances, and the Bank was about to go into operation. Now, he said, was a proper moment for the House to consider whether the course of internal improvement was a proper direction for the United States to give to their share of the profits of that institution. He therefore moved,

"That a committee be appointed to enquire into the expediency of setting apart the bonus, and the net annual proceeds, of the National Bank, as a permanent fund for the internal improvement."

The bill respecting a modification of the tonnage duty, reported the other day, by the committee of Ways and Means, passed through the committee of the whole, without debate, and was ordered, nem. con. to be engrossed for a third reading.

Mr. Smith of Md. made a motion to instruct the committee of Ways and Means to enquire into the expediency of repealing the act laying a duty on notes of Banks, Bankers and certain companies, &c. Mr. S. briefly expressed his reasons to be, the injustice of the operation of this duty to enterprising men of business from which capitalists and those best able to bear it were wholly exempt.

The motion was agreed to without opposition; and

The House adjourned.

Tuesday, Decem. 17.

Mr. Taylor, of Va. appeared, and took his seat.

Mr. Yancey, of N. C. from the committee of claims, to whom was referred the Message of the President, recommending a revision of the act for the settlement of claims, for property lost and destroyed in military service during the war, handed in a report, stating the circumstances of three decisions, which, in the opinion of the committee, the commissioner had incorrectly made under the law, and recommending to the House the adoption of a bill to amend the act "To authorize the payment of property lost, captured or destroyed by the enemy, while in the military service of the United States, and for other purposes," passed the 9th day of April, 1816.

The report and bill were read, and referred to a committee of the whole house.

Mr. Johnson, of Ky. from the committee on military affairs, reported a bill concerning the Invalids of the Revolutionary War, and the widows and children of the militia, and the soldiers of the army, during the late war.

A bill was reported by Mr. Herbert from the committee on this district, to incorporate the Columbian Insurance Company of Alexandria—which was twice read and committed.

Mr. Alexander moved that the committee on pensions be instructed to enquire into the expediency of placing William Maxwell on the pension list.

On motion of Mr. Pickens, of N. C. the House resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the motion to establish a uniform mode of electing representatives and electors, throughout the United States.

The committee reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again. The House then adjourned.

Wednesday, Decem. 18.

Mr. Johnson brought in from the committee appointed to consider the expediency of amending the Compensation bill, a report from said committee—which was read.

A bill founded on that report was bro't forward, and read a first and second time; which bill changes the mode of per diem allowance and for travelling, which said allowances, left blank, were to be filled up by the committee of the whole house—to whom it was referred.

Much difference of opinion arose as to fixing the day for the committee to report, Mr. Johnson was fully of opinion that a sufficient time should be allowed for considering the report, and moved, that it be the order of the day for the 2d Monday in January.

Mr. Grosvenor did not see what plea could be urged for bringing the motion so precipitately before the house. He was disposed to view it as a most important measure, and hoped that ample time would be granted the house to reflect, besides the holidays were approaching, and would, in fact, occur next week, and no doubt many of the members would be absent.

Mr. Nelson was surprised, that time should be required to act upon a subject which had been so fully discussed, for his part, he hoped, that the subject would be promptly attended to tomorrow.

Mr. Johnson observed that many members were absent, some of whom had written to express a wish to have time to give the subject full consideration.

Mr. Baskin agreed with Mr. Nelson; and thought as many imputations had been thrown upon the house undeservedly, that they should act with promptitude.

Gen. Smith did not wish the House to act precipitately; he thought it best to pursue a middle course; and wished them to fix on the 2d day of January.

Mr. Robertson said, that the house had been

(See fourth page.)