

or another," is the remark frequently heard from busy idlers, who fancy that, so long as their bodies are not stretched on a couch, or their hands folded before them, they may be said to be up and doing. But what is it to be employed? Johnson defines the word "business, object of labor." We have, therefore, only to inquire, what is men's business in the world? what is the object pointed out to them as the most worthy to be labored for? If they be of the Israel of God, the answer is given by him, "This people have I formed for myself, that they may show forth my praise." If they be not of that Israel, O how awfully starting is the cry of every squandered hour, while they linger unmindful of the thrilling call, "Escape for thy life; flee to the mountain!"

Southern Citizen.



ASHBOROUGH, N. C.

Saturday, June 3, 1837.

THE NEGRO STEALERS.

This was a prosecution commenced in the county of Rutherford against John Haney, John C. Hardin and John W. Williams for having stolen and conveyed away a negro slave belonging to Mrs. Nancy Davis. The three prisoners were jointly indicted together. Haney severed from the others, and was tried separately, and convicted at Rutherford. The other two removed their trial to Burke, and were jointly tried together last week at Morganton.

The principal testimony against the prisoners came from a man by the name of William Robins, an accomplice in the crime, who turned State's witness against his companions. A great number of witnesses, (perhaps 40 or 50) were examined on both sides at Rutherford, which brought out a train of circumstances, going to confirm and corroborate the statements of Robins.

On the trial at Burke, the testimony was substantially the same on the part of the State; but the prisoners examined no witnesses.

The testimony of Robins, in both trials was substantially as follows:

He, witness, was a young man about 23—raised in the county of Randolph—had a brother somewhere in the western part of the State—last November was a year, started out to hunt him—found him (after travelling a good deal) in the county of Rutherford—a very poor man—concluded to stay with him a while and work—they were both blacksmiths. This was in the neighborhood where the prisoners lived. This brother being a drinking man, witness got to drinking some to—had abstained before, and for a year or two, entirely—soon began to associate with the prisoners—Some disagreement started up between him and the prisoner Hardin. They fought a time or two—both stout strong men—witness was rather too much for Hardin. After going on in this way for some time, Hardin proposed to be friendly, bury all their differences, and they became intimate in the spring of 1836. Witness continued much in the company of the prisoners Hardin and Haney, who at length made some advances to him on the subject of stealing negroes—said they could put him in a way to make money much faster than he was then doing, if he would be true to the club, intimated that the "Poney Club," as it was called, was very extensive. The subject at first struck him with horror but became more familiar on further consultation.

On the 4th Sunday in July 1836, witness was at meeting at the High Shoal Meeting House in or near the neighborhood where he lived. John Haney took him to one side—asked if he knew where Hardin was, and whether he would see him that evening—promised to see him—told him, witness, to tel-

Hardin he had a fine boy in market—come up this morning just before day; and that he wanted him, witness, and Hardin to meet him that night about an hour after dark at Webb's old field, and he would show them the boy. Witness saw Hardin accordingly and told him—whereupon they went to the place appointed. Haney soon came, and after a little conversation, made a shrill whistle, and up came a large likely young negro man. They all sat down upon the ground, and had a good deal of conversation about taking the boy away to sell; and he, witness, was pitched on to perform that part of the service. Haney told him there was no kind of danger, for the boy came from Mrs. Davis', that she was an old widow woman, and could not pursue, and that her sons had no energy; and there was no danger but it would be a safe trip. The next enquiry was, how to procure a horse for the expedition. Hardin remarked that John Williams had a horse that he thought might be had, but he did not know whether it would be safe to let Williams into the secret. Hardin was however to see W. and try what could be done.—This was on Sunday night, and the start was to be made on the following Tuesday. Witness saw Williams himself on Monday; and asked him if he had any notion of taking that trip they had been talking of—alluding to an excursion round through the edge of South Carolina to hunt work—one smithing and the other ditching. Williams answered he would take the trip as leave as not. The night previous, witness stayed in the woods with the negro near Hardin's house and Hardin brought victuals to them in the morning. Haney called the name of the negro Will. His true name was Eli.

On Tuesday witness started on foot, and was soon overtaken by Williams, on horseback—they travelled on together till they came to a bush in the road, which had been placed as a signal for witness to call up the negro—he did so, and up he came. He then observed to Williams that he had traded for that boy and was going to sell him. He said this not knowing whether Haney and Hardin, or either of them had let Williams into the secret. He then asked Williams for his horse to ride—observing he would go on and sell the negro, and return immediately, and meet with him again. W. observed that the horse was borrowed, and he could not let him go. Towards evening, W. lagged behind. Witness and negro went on to one Morgan's and stayed all night—offered the negro for sale at \$800—next morning early W. came up—he and witness appeared to be entire strangers, tho' from North Carolina—witness calling his name William Izard, and Williams calling his name Wesley. They left here together with the negro. As soon as they had got completely past Morgan's, witness remarked that they must travel differently, for he discovered Morgan was suspicious of them—that he must have the horse or else he must turn back. Williams told him to take the horse, observing he is not mine—"if you return well and good; if not I'll work him out like another negro"—and then left the road—witness and negro went on to or near Greenville in South Carolina; where he sold the negro to one Duncan for \$900—then returned directly and met with Williams again before he reached North Carolina, and paid him \$100— he had previously told him he should never lose any thing by letting him have the horse: They returned to Rutherford County; in a few days he saw both Hardin and Haney and paid them their proportions of the money. And thus the matter ended for the present.

The case appeared to elicit great popular excitement, both in Rutherford and Burke; and was managed by counsel on both sides with zeal and ability.

Mr. Solicitor Gwinn, assisted by J. Mc D. Carson appeared for the Prosecution; and the prisoners were defen-

ded by J. G. Bynam and M. Hobe Esquires.

Williams was found *not guilty* by the jury, on the ground that the participation he had in the transaction could not be proved to have taken place in this State. It was near the State line where they started, and the most of the trip was performed in South Carolina.

Haney and Hardin were both convicted, and sentenced to be hung—the former at Rutherford on the 23d inst. and the latter at Morganton on the 30th inst. But from this sentence, they have each taken an appeal to the Supreme Court.

There are some other facts and circumstances, which came out incidentally in evidence, and others believed to be true from rumor, which we feel not at liberty to publish until the cases are finally disposed of; if the Supreme Court should grant a new trial, the case must again be submitted to a Jury, and ought to remain unprejudiced by printed rumors, further than the facts have been judicially brought out in the regular course of evidence. For the same reason, we refrain from any general remarks on the subject, that otherwise might be proper.

Judge Pearson.—We lately had an opportunity of witnessing, for the first time the official demeanor of his Honor Judge Pearson; who has just completed his spring circuit, consisting of the Superior Court of Macon, Haywood, Buncombe, Yancy, Rutherford and Burke. He presides with high satisfaction both to the Bar and to the people. Out of Court, he is affable and familiar towards all ranks of society—just as a republican officer ought to be. On the Bench, he maintains the dignity of the Court; attempts justice with all the mild forbearance that the nature of the case, and a sagacious view to consequences permit. Towards the gentlemen of the Bar, he is not often, perhaps never captious; but uniformly exercises great firmness of purpose. Judge Pearson is particularly happy in his manner of charging the jury—always brief, and to the point; and is so uncommonly clear and positive in his positions of law, that an error, should he commit one, is easily detected and rectified.

Mr. Solicitor Gwinn has much to recommend him as a prosecuting officer. His official course seems to be directed with an earnest solicitude for the public good, and at the same time, with the highest regard for the rights of individuals.

The Catawba Country.—Never till our late excursion in that quarter, had we any thing like an adequate idea of the standing and importance of the South Western Counties in this State, particularly Lincoln and Rutherford. And we say this, not solely in reference to the situation and quality of the soil and face of the country, and its natural resources,—but we allude also to the character of the people, and the improved state of society. Believing as we do, that many of our readers are laboring under mistaken and contracted views with respect to a most important portion of our country, it is intended, as soon as we can make room, to publish a few sketches of men and things, as they appeared to us, in the counties of Rowan, Davie, Iredell, Lincoln, Rutherford, Burke, &c.

Burke Superior Court.—A prisoner by the name of John Adams was convicted last week at Morganton for the murder of a man of the name of Clark; sentenced to be hung on the 30th inst. We did not hear the evidence; but it was spoken of as a case of most atrocious *stabbing to death.*—Judge Pearson, in passing sentence of death on the prisoner, addressed him in a brief, but very touching expostulation. Pictured the heinous character of his crime; then called his attention to the absolute necessity of devout repentance, that he might appease the wrath of his offended Creator, and by religious faith, experi-

ence the benefits of the atoning merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of lost men.

TEXAS. We were recently favored with the perusal of a letter from the Texian Secretary of State to his brother in Lincoln; from which it appears that their prospects are brightening fast. They seem to be in but little dread of the long talked of invasion from Mexico.

We extract the following from two letters lately received from an intelligent acquaintance in the county of Orange. The letters were mostly written on private business; and no doubt for our own personal benefit; but as they contain valuable suggestions, applicable to every reader, the writer will please to excuse the liberty we take in publishing extracts from them:

11th May, 1837.

I am really pleased at your proposal to give Farmers, Mechanics, &c. an opportunity to exchange sentiments and information. I have mentioned the thing to several of my friends, and all seem to concur, that it will be highly beneficial both to your patrons and yourself. Your paper cannot give us in this section the Eastern news as soon as the Raleigh papers, and, on that account, they will be preferred; but in the other respect, your paper, giving information that other papers will never give, will be preferred. I have often heard it lamented that common business men had so little chance of exchanging their sentiments; and I cannot attribute their negligence in reading newspapers to any thing else. For instance, I have spent thirteen years of my life in a mechanical line, and have paid considerable sums, and been at much trouble to acquire information of men who wished to monopolise all they could from their information; and if I had have known that we had the liberty of enquiring through the medium of a Newspaper, I might have got the same knowledge almost without trouble or expense.—Indeed I shall think it one among the many strange things, if the honest working classes of this intelligent community cannot and will not support a paper which is their decided friend.

I regret most sincerely that I am so incompetent to write my sentiments on important subjects; for I believe I do possess some mechanical information that might at least be useful to many of our fellow country men. Only be so good, Mr. Editor, as to notice the backward state of our country when you take a journey. Behold the many old fields that would make the most excellent pasture land lying out; or over-run with briars, and the proprietors hunting their lean cattle in the sterile woods, just for want of scattering the proper quantity of good grass seed on their fields, when they quit cultivating them. How many dwellings do you behold without even an ornamental fruit tree to shade them, when a few hour's labor and a few years patience, would furnish them with various kinds of beautiful and delicious cherries on stately and luxuriant trees? Instead of flocks you frequently see nothing but an unprofitable train of useless dogs. Can it be surprising that men emigrate from such scenes of wretchedness and degradation? I mean no disparagement to any person; but the fact is, we are all susceptible of improvement; my object is the improvement of all. Not being opposed to *men* but *measures*; and the measures which I wish to encourage are peace, liberty, and temperance. For in my estimation, he who presents only a crust of bread to the lips of hunger, is entitled to more respect than he who slays hundreds of his fellow men with the sword, or forges the manacles and fetters for thousands of human limbs.

Yours, in much hurry,

B. Swain, Esq.

J. S.

N. B. I shall some time shortly send you a few remarks concerning the beautiful May Cherry. J. S.

13th May, 1837.

Dear Sir:

I now proceed to redeem the promise I made some time past, concerning the propriety of some of our farmers and citizens making a little improvement in their dwelling groves and walkways, by the cultivation of ornamental fruit trees; and more especially the cherry, of which you, as well as every other intelligent gentleman, know there is a great variety. I shall at present confine myself principally to the May Cherry. This tree is well adapted to our soil and climate; its growth is vigorous and luxuriant; it blooms a little later than the common Black Morello Cherry, so common in this and the adjacent counties. Its bloom is snow white

and very large, exhibiting the most modest ornamental appearance. But this is not all; its fruit is hardy and very prolific; it is now getting ripe, exhibiting a far more ornamental appearance than when in bloom. I would be glad, sir, if you could be with me when they are in eating. I am sure you would be of opinion that such trees would be no disgrace to the walks in Ashborough. The fruit (notwithstanding the late frosts and cold dry spring) is abundant. It is considerably larger than the Morello, having smaller seed, covered with flesh of a rich yellowish red color; a sweet and exquisite taste, needing no sugar in making tarts, and is in eating at least two weeks sooner than the common Morello cherries. I would be extremely glad to furnish you with some of the scions, and if you regretted the room they occupied, I assure you your lady would not, especially in the time of their ripening. I am very anxious that improvements in every thing useful should be made, and would be sorry to induce any man to labor unnecessarily; but if any gentleman wishes to procure this fruit who does not already possess it, I would be richly paid for any reasonable portion of trouble by the dissemination of any thing of the kind that might prove beautiful to the community, or useful to my fellow beings. I rode a long journey and paid something for the scions I commenced with, and it is the last act of my life, temporarily speaking, that I have reason to complain of. For I would not give one Sabbath day's relaxation and repose under their ample summer shade, in the contemplation of the beauty, harmony, excellence and magnificent grandeur of the Great Creator, for a whole life's tediousness in the house of inebriation, revelry and debauch.

Yours, with the highest esteem,

B. Swain, Esq. J. S.

N. B. Please show this scribbled letter to Mrs. Swain, as I am inclined to think she will not forget to have scions planted at the proper season, if your hurry in public life should make you forget it. J. S.

CIRCULAR TO THE DEPOSIT BANKS.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

May 17, 1837.

Sir: As the painful information has reached this Department thro' the public press, that your bank has suspended specie payments, the object of this letter is to learn, officially, if that fact has happened; and to receive such explanations concerning the reasons for it, and the future course of your business as it will be apparent are so important for this Department to know, under the existing liabilities and relations between you and the Government.

While, on the one hand, it is deemed proper that such indulgences should be granted by this Department to its former fiscal agents, as they may request, consistently with the laws and with the present state of the Treasury; it must be apparent, on the other hand, that nothing can be granted which is likely to endanger the public funds, and other important public interests.

The imperative provisions of the act of June, 1836, make it the duty of this Department to discontinue ordering any further sums of public money to be placed with the deposit banks, after suspending specie payments. And hence, you are notified, that no more can be thus deposited in your institution, provided such a failure to redeem your notes has actually occurred.

It is also made my duty, as soon as practicable, to select other depositaries, and place with them the money of the United States in your possession, as well as the accruing revenue; but the Department will endeavor to draw out the funds in your hands by warrants, reasonable in their amount, and in the periods of their payment. Such warrants and transfers, it is trusted, you will at all times be anxious and able to meet, in a manner satisfactory to all concerned; not only with a view to fulfil faithfully your contract, and relieve the Treasury and its creditors from embarrassment and losses, but to exonerate yourselves and snarets from consequences equally injurious, inevitable, and unpleasant.