

who had left me convalescent, although I immediately relapsed, was, in the most strange and mysterious manner, snatched away from us not a week after he had reached his own house. He left considerable debts of his own, (produced as I have before explained to you,) and my father's whole estate was under mortgage for a heavy British debt. Unpractised in business, ignorant of the value of property, I made a compromise with the creditors, and saved much of the estate, that must otherwise have been sacrificed. On you and St. George my affections and hopes centered; and in you I had the sweetest companions, and most dutiful children. In 1799, chance threw me into public life.—The rest you probably know.

I omitted to state, that in the winter of 1792-3, I spent some weeks at William and Mary's College, and made a slight beginning in mathematics and natural philosophy.

These are but hints and dates, an outline that I will on some other occasion fill up. With this superficial and defective education, I commenced politician. I can truly say, that except from my mother, who taught me to read, I never learned any thing from one of my preceptors. I must make a further exception in favor of Cochrane, with whom I was for a few weeks only; I think not more than five or six. The little that I know has been self-taught, picked up from the most desultory reading, and chiefly from an intercourse with the world. When I took up my pen, nothing was farther from my thoughts than to dash off this loose and imperfect sketch. Take it as it is. Of the books that I have read with most pleasure, and profit too, I reckon Shakespeare, Milton, Pope's Homer, Don Quixote, Chaucer, and Robinson Crusoe. This last was, I believe, the second book I ever read. Voltaire's Life of Charles XII. was the first, and ought to have been named above. My mother pointed my attention to the Czar, and I may say, "Video meliora, etc."

Enclosed is a draft for \$300. May it afford you pleasure and profit. I wish it were a cypher more. I am as ever,

Your fond uncle,
JOHN RANDOLPH, of Roanoke.

Amy Robsart.—No person ever read the painfully interesting story of Kenilworth, without being deeply affected by the tragical fate of poor Amy Robsart. There are few perhaps, who, for days after, have not experienced an occasional shudder as the picture has occurred to their imagination, of the sweet and guileless victim of Vane's treachery, when the trap door gave way beneath her elastic tread, and instead of being caught, as her heart fondly anticipated, in the arms of her too tardy lover, she was precipitated from the lofty platform to the bottom of that deep and dismal vault; through the dim air of which the white dress that covered her lifeless body presented to the wretches peering over the ledge above, the appearance of a thin snow curl, which fluttered for a moment, and then was still forever. We know no scene of more painful interest than this—none which is perused with more intense attention, or which leaves such "an aching void" in the reader's breast. Indeed, so powerful was the effect of that story on us when we first perused it, that the following anecdote of the impression it created on the mind of its original publisher hardly strikes us as being exaggerated.

We copy the story from the last London Athenæum:—While the novel of Kenilworth was going through the press, a gentleman called on its printer, the late Mr. Ballantine, to settle some business, and found him in an agony of sorrow. It was some time before the visitor could extract an answer from the worthy gentleman, but at length he said "For God's sake, leave me alone. I have been so deeply affected by the death of poor Amy Robsart that I cannot attend to business to day."

N. Y. Evening Post.

Fire Proof Cement.—The French cement for the roofs of houses, to preserve the wood and protect it from fire, is made in the following manner:

Take as much lime as is usual in making a pot full of whitewash, and let it be mixed to a pail full of water; in this put two and a half pounds of brown sugar, and three pounds of fine salt; mix them well together, and the cement is completed. A little lampblack, yellow ochre, coloring commodity, may be introduced to change the color of the cement, to please the fancy of those who use it. It has been used with great success, and been recommended particularly as a protection against fire. Small sparks of fire, that frequently lodge on the roofs of houses, are prevented by this cement from burning the shingles. So cheap and valuable a precaution against the destructive element ought not to pass untried. Those who wish to be better satisfied of its utility can easily make the experiment, by using it on a small temporary building—or it may be tried by shingles put together for the purpose, and then exposed to the fire.

Rail Road Journal.

An Austrian officer has lately been condemned to three years confinement in a fortress, and to be struck off the list of the army, for having acted as a second to a friend in a duel.—*French Paper.*

[From the Raleigh Register.]
ON OUR STATE CONSTITUTION.
NO. IX.

"All political power is vested in and derived from the people only."—*Bill of Rights.*
To the Editors: I do not think that I could profitably add any thing to what has been said in the Address of a Committee, on the other points of objection to our Constitution. I have concluded what I had time to write on the inequality of our basis of representation—the evils of too much legislation, and the other bad effects of having a Legislature to consist of 200 Members save one—and their annual Sessions. I have incidentally noticed the Borough representation. For myself, I cannot hesitate in admitting however that those towns which have much trade and a population of any reasonable size might, in my judgment, be allowed to retain their right of representation if they desire it. But according to the present census this rule would exclude all the boroughs excepting *Newbern, Fayetteville and Wilmington.*

Some complaint has been made to me by a correspondent, that the proposed alterations are confined to the *white population alone* as a basis of representation, but a careful reader must observe that this is a mistake. The proposed basis is combined of *taxes and white population*, and he who will take the pains to calculate it, must perceive, that this is very favorable to the slave owning counties—much more so than to combine 3-5ths of the slaves with the free population. But the large counties concede still more. Many of the counties whose population and taxes do not together entitle them to elect one member, are yet offered that privilege, and some whose population and taxes in strictness entitle them to more than 2 Commoners, concede that right.

I will conclude my series by presenting to the public a proposition for amendment which has reached me through a friend who complains that I have not published the *federal population* of each county. The proposition is worthy of much consideration, and certainly recommends itself to the notice of those who shall undertake the office of framing the amendments to our constitution. That the reader may be able at a glance to see the operation of this plan, I have prepared a table of Federal Population and marked out the present Congressional Districts. He says:

Let the State be divided by Counties after each Census, into as many Districts as she is entitled to elect members to Congress, and let these districts be as nearly equal as may be practicable according to *Federal population*, and let each District elect three Senators, making a Senate of 39."

"Let the House of Commons be composed of 92 members, one to be elected by each County, one by each of the Towns following, viz: Wilmington, Newbern, Fayetteville and Raleigh; and let the remaining number be elected, one each, by the Counties containing the largest federal population."

Table of Federal Population and Congressional Districts in North Carolina.

District	Federal Population
1st District.	
Currituck	6,746
Camden	5,909
Pasquotank	7,568
Perquimans	6,318
Gates	6,407
Chowan	5,185
Hertford	7,957
2d. District.	
Bertie	9,580
Martin	7,232
Northampton	10,289
Holifax	12,822
3d. District.	
Washington	3,878
Tyrrell	4,182
Hyde	5,401
Pitt	10,012
Edgewomb	12,104
Beaufort	9,287
4th. District.	
Greene	5,165
Craven	11,873
Carteret	5,970
Jones	4,392
Lenoir	6,085
Johnston	9,482
Wayne	8,918
5th. District.	
Warren	8,948
Franklin	8,681
Nash	7,010
Granville	15,681
6th. District.	
Onslow	6,556
New Hanover	8,560
Duplin	9,601
Sampson	10,195
Brunswick	5,285
Bladen	6,553
Columbus	3,711
7th. District.	
Cumberland	12,821
Robeson	8,369
Montgomery	10,000
Richmond	7,902
Anson	12,171
Moore	7,081
8th. District.	
Wake	17,174
Orange	20,910
Person	8,255
9th. District.	
Rockingham	11,202
Camell	12,615
Guilford	17,713
Stokes	15,060

District	Population
10th. District.	
*Rowan	18,316
*Randolph	11,816
*Chatham	13,455
*Davidson	12,652
11th. District.	
*Lincoln	20,642
*Mecklenburg	17,218
Cabarrus	7,894
12th. District.	
*Buncombe	15,591
Haywood	4,477
*Burke	16,284
*Rutherford	16,195
Macon	5,207
13th. District.	
*Surry	13,727
*Wilkes	11,353
*Tredell	13,766
Ash	6,793

By the plan of my correspondent, there will be 30 Senators and 92 Commoners. Each county will elect one commoner, and each of the counties in the list marked with a (*) will, according to the present Census, elect two Commoners.

What is now called the East, in designating parties, will compose six districts, the West six, and district No. 8 is central.

In the House of Commons, the East will elect 41 county members and 3 Borough members; making together 44.—The West will elect 45 county members, and the Central county, (which has always voted with the East) 2 county members, and one Borough member. Those in the East therefore, who think it essential to us at the present distinctions of party, are met here on their own ground; and the West may accede to this compromise, is the plain reason, that the change will destroy party influence and representation will be put upon a fair and equitable basis.

For myself, I am not particularly attached to any specific plan of Reform. I think a Reform is necessary and just, and it ought to be based on mutual concessions. Both of those which are here referred to, are commended by that consideration, and my correspondent gives some cogent reasons for preferring his plan, but these I have not time to send you.

This number concludes my series. Recurring to my earlier numbers, I find, that I promised to discuss the manner of making these amendments: but I have been anticipated by other writers and particularly, by the correspondent of the *Carolina Watchman*, "Ritron" and by the address of a Committee which I have before referred to. I conclude therefore, by thanking you for the publication of my essays. Farewell. SENE.

ALI PACHA.—The use of military costume, to support or assume the character of a soldier, is not uncommon among very peaceable travellers on the continent. It once happened that a party, chiefly military men, aware of the better reception which a red coat would obtain at the court of Ali Pacha took their uniforms. One of them, a young man, who could not boast of any regimental except what he had worn in one of the London companies of volunteers, took these for want of better. At Yanina they were received by Ali Pacha with much courtesy: and upon addressing the young traveller, Ali said to him, "Where have you served?" This would have been a poser to most men in the same situation; but he won more honor by his wit than he had done by his sword; for his ready answer was, upon "Wimbledon Common." Ali had too much tact to betray his ignorance of the battle or the place; and our city hero passed with the tyrant for a distinguished warrior.—*Illustration of the Life and Character of Lord Byron.*

Affection of Birds.—The following curious facts may suggest a thought for the naturalist. A young robin was last year caught and domesticated by Mr. Eaton, living a few doors from us, which has ever since been kept in a cage. A few weeks since, one of his boys thoughtlessly captured and brought home a whole nest of small young robins, three in number, less than half grown; and placed them in the cage with the old robin who at first seemed startled and alarmed at this unceremonious intrusion, but soon became reconciled to the little strangers: and as if pitying their helpless condition, soon began to feed them as her own. One of the three was smaller and more feeble than the rest. With this she commenced her charities and confined them to this alone for one or two days, feeding it with whatever food she was supplied with herself. She then adopted the whole as her own, and seems to manifest the same anxiety and care for them, as she would have done, had they been hatched by her, always imparting food to them before partaking of it herself, and evincing towards them maternal fondness.—*Lynn Record.*

A Steel Trap.—A gentleman who had long been subject to the nocturnal visitations of thieves in his orchards, wishing to preserve his property without endangering any one's life, procured from a hospital the leg of a subject, which he placed one evening in a steel-trap in his garden, and next morning sent the crier round the town to announce, that "the owner of the leg left in Mr. —'s grounds last night, might receive it upon application." He was never robbed again.—*Eng. paper.*

From the New-York American.
MAJOR DOWNING'S OFFICIAL REPORT ON THE U. S. BANK.

Published "By Authority,"
RIP RAPS, Aug. 4th, 1833.

Dear Sir—I have just got here after examining the Bank; and it was the toughest job I ever had in my life. The General was so bent on my doing it, that I had to "go a-head," or I'd sneaked out the first day.—I was nigh upon a week about it, fingerin and siferin all the while. Mr. Biddle see quick enuf it was no fool's journey I come on, and I made some of his folks scratch their heads I tell you. I gin 'em no notice of my comin, and I jump'd right in the thickest on em there one day when they were tumblin in and shellin out the munny like corn.—"Now," says I, "my boys, I advise all on ye to brush up your multiplication tables, for I am down upon you with aligation, and the rule of three, and vulgar fractions, and if I find a penny out of place, the General shall know it. I'm no green horn, nor member of Congress, nor Judge Clayton, nor Mr. Cambreleng, neither," says I. As soon as Mr. Biddle read the letter the General sent by me, says he, "Major, I'm glad the General has sent some one at least that knows something, and can give a strait account;" and with that he call'd all the Bank folks, and tell'd em to bring their books together.—"Now," says he, "Major which eend shall we begin at first." "It makes no odds which," says I; "all I care about is to see if both eends meet; and if they don't, Mr. Biddle," says I, "it's all over with you and the Bank—you'll all go hook and line,"—and then we off coats, and went at it. I found some of them are fellows there plagy sharp at siferin. They'd do a sum by a kinder short Dilworth, quick as a flash. I always use a slate—it comes kinder natural to me; and I chalk'd her off there the first day and figur'd out nigh upon one hundred pretty considerable tul' sums. There was more than three cart load of books, about us, and every one of em bigger than the Deacon's family Bible. And such an eternal batch of figerin I never see, and there wasn't a blot or scratch in the whole on em.

I put a good many questions to Mr. Biddle, for the General gin me a long string on em; and I thought some would stagger him; but he answered them all just as glib as our boys in Downingville do the catwalk, from the chief "eend of man" clean through the petitions.—And he did it all in a mighty civil way too, there was only one he kinder tried to git round, and that was—how he come to have so few of the General's folks among the Directors until very lately?—"Why," says he, "Major, and Major," says he (and then he got up and took a pinch of snuff and offered me one) says he "Major, the Bank knows no party; and in the first go off, you know, the General's friends were all above matters of so little importance as Banks and Banking. If we had put a branch in Downingville," says he, "the General would not have had occasion to ask such a question," and with that he made me a bow, and I went home and took dinner with him. It is plagy curious to hear him talk about millions and thousands; and I got as glib too at it as he is; and how on earth I shall git back again to ninepences and four-pencehappenies I can't tell.

After I had been figerin away there nigh upon a week, and used up 4 or 5 slate pencils, and spit my mouth as dry as a cob, rubbin out the sums as fast as I did them, I writ to the General, and tell'd him it was no use; I could find no mistake; but so long as the Bank was at work it was pretty much like counting sheep in a fall day when they are just let into a new stubble—for it was all the while crossing and mixing, and the only way was to look up all the Banks, and as fast as you count em, black their noses.

"Now," says I one day to Squire Biddle, "I'll just take a look at your money bags, for they tell the General you han't got stuff enuf in the Bank to make him a pair of spectacles, 'none of your rags,'" says I, "but the real grit;" and with that he call'd 2 or 3 chaps in Quaker coats, and they open'd a large place about as big as the "east room," and such a sight I never see—boxes, bags, and kags, all full, and I should say nigh upon a hundred eord. Says I "Squire Biddle what on earth is all this? For I am stump'd"—"O," says he, "Major, that's our Safety Fund,"—"how you talk" says I.

"Now," says I, "is that all genuine?" "Every dollar of it," says he; "will you count it Major?" says he. "Not to-day," says I; "but as the General wants me to be particular, I'll just hussle some of em; and at it I went hammer and file. It raly did me good, for I did not think there was so much real chink in all creation. So when I got tired, I set down on a pile, and took out my wallet, and began to count over some of the "Safety Fund" notes I got shaved with on the grand tower. "Here," says I, "Squire Biddle, I have a small trifle I should like to barter with you, its all "Safety Fund," says I; "and Mr. Van Buren's head is on most all of em." But as soon as he put his eye on em, he shook his head. I see he had his eye teeth cut.—"Well," says I, "it's no matter,"—but it lifted my dander considerable.

"Now," says I, "Mr. Biddle, I've got one more question to put to you, and then I'm through. You say your bills are better than the hard dollars; this puzzles me, and the General too. Now how is this?" "Well," says he, "Major, I'll tell you: sup-

pose you have a bushel of potatoes in Downingville, and you wanted to send them to Washington, how much would it cost to get them there?" "Well," says I, "about two shillings lawful—for I sent a barrel there to the General last fall, and that cost me a dollar freight." "Well," says he, "suppose I've got potatoes in Washington just as good as yours, and I take your potatoes in Downingville, and give you an order to receive a bushel of potatoes in Washington, wouldn't you save two shillings lawful by that?" We sometimes charge," says he, "a trifle for drafts, when the places are distant, but never as much as it would to carry the dollars;" and with that we looked into the accounts agin, and there it was. Says I, "Squire Biddle, I see it now as clear as a whistle."

When I got back to Washington, I found the General off to the "Rip-Raps," and I arter him. One feller there tell'd me I couldn't go to the "Rip-Raps"—that the General was there to keep off business; but as soon as I told him who I was, he ordered a boat and I paddled off.

The General and I have talked over all the Bank business; he says it is not best to publish my report, as he wants it for the message; and it would only set them *Stork-fish* nibblin agin in Wall street. I made him stare when I tell'd him about the dollars I saw there; and once and awhile he would wrinkle his face up like a ball of rawline; and when I tell'd him Biddle wouldn't give me any of his "Safety Fund" for any of Mr. Van Buren's that I had with me; the General took out his wallet, and slung it more than 5 rods into the brakens.

We are now pretty busy, fitting and jamming the beams and rafters of the message, and if Mr. Van Buren don't git back before we begin to shingle it, I guess his Safety Fund will stand but a poor chance.

The General don't care much about being his head for a sign board; but says, "Major, when they put my head on the eend of a Bank Bill, and Mr. Van Buren's on tother eend, and I promise to pay Andrew Jackson," and then blow up, it's too bad—won't allow it—it shant be." The General says, if he allows Amos Kendle to make his report about the State Banks, it is but bad to let me published mine about Squire Biddle's Bank. So I am getting wise ready.

We have a fine cool time here, and ain't bothered with Office seekers; we can see em in droves all along shore, waitin for a chance. One fellow swam off last night to get appointed to some office—the General thinks of making him Minister to the King of the Sandwich Islands, on account of his being all good swimmers there.

Yours, eternally,
J. DOWNING, Major Downingville Militia, 2d. Brigad.

Ellis' Polynesian Researches.—We have been much gratified with the perusal of the first volume of a work entitled "Polynesian Researches, during a residence of nearly years in the Society and Sandwich Islands, by William Ellis," published in New-York by J. & J. Harper. This work is intended to give a history of the origin, progress and results of the missionary enterprise during the last thirty years in that interesting portion of the world; and to place the success of the laborers more in relief, the author has given a most intensely interesting account of the manners and customs, the strange superstitions, the painful and bloody religious rites and ceremonies of the natives before the introduction of civilization and christianity, and has marked the progress of light and the retreat of mental shadows. The work before us is original, not made up of the "reports" and contradictory statements of foreign and home travellers, and we have reason to believe that the four volumes will constitute one of the most interesting works to which modern research has given occasion. The mechanical execution of the volume before us is beautiful. The engravings, cuts, printing and binding, all deserve praise. U. S. Gazette.

Liberty and Knowledge.—The Congress of the United Mexican States have appropriated thirty thousand dollars for the purchase of periodical publications—almost all of which are, of course, to be imported from foreign countries. The bill, as passed by the House of Representatives, appropriated \$25,000; but on being increased by the Senate, was adopted with their amendment. Our countrymen will believe that the Mexicans are in earnest in the pursuit of national happiness, by the only means, viz: the improvement of the people, when they see the Government adopting measures that reflect so much honor upon their judgment and their feelings.

Married, in Alexandria, on the 16th ult. by the Rev. T. W. Newman, Mr. Andrew Sale, to Miss Lucy Fortune, of Prince Edward county, Va.

In "auld lang syne, fu' well I ken,"
There was na muckle siller,
For a' your goods and chattels then
Ye'd scarcely get a dillor.

But now the penes are munny mair,
To buy folks never fail—
Then banish a' your thoughtfu' cares,
Miss Fortune's found a Sale.

Zeba Smith, Esq. the Editor of the Portland Courier, a gentleman of fine talents, is the reputed author of the *real* Major Downing Letters.