"CHARACTER IS AS IMPORTANT TO STATES AS IT IS TO INDIVIDUALS; AND THE GLORY OF THE STATE IS THE COMMON PROPERTY OF ITS CITIZENS."

FAYETTEVILLE, N. C., MAY 19, 1849.

VOL. 10-NO. 534. by the year or six months

Onesquare of twenty-or ines or less, for one insertion, 60 cents; every subsequent insertion, 30 cent: except it remain in for several months, when it will be charged \$3 for two months, \$4 for three, &c, \$10 for twelve months.

ADVERTISING

W Liberal deduction for large advertisement

CHEAP CASH AND BARTERING STORE.

THE Subscriber takes this method of informing his friends and the public generally, that he has taken a Store on Person street. two doors below Mr H. Branson's, and nearly opposite the Cape Fear Bank, where he is now opening a large and general assortment of

GROCERIES,

Suited to the Barter Trade. Also, Shoes, Caps, and Hats, Saddles, Bridles, and Collars, Crockery and Glassware, Hardware and Cutlery, Blacksmiths' Tools, in sets. 30 sides best Spanish Sole Leather. 5 tons Swedes and English Iron. 2 ditto Castings, of best quality. With many other articles, comprising a stock as complete a sany in this place. all of which will be sold at the very owest market prices for Cash, or given in exchange for all kinds of Country Produce. J. M. WILLIAMS. Sept. 23, 1848.

New Boarding Ho se. 4. H. TOOMER having taken the large building on

Court House square formerly occupied by Mrs Miller, is prepared to accommodate regular boarders, or transient persons, with good board and comfortable lodging. He solicits a share of public patronage. October 7, 1848.

The subscriber has just received his supply of GARDEN SEED. of the growth of 1848. Price 5 cts per paper.
Jan. 20. S. J. HINSDALE

HOTCHKISS' Vertical Water Wheel.

There are several hundred of these wheels in in operation in different counties in North Carolina. For proof of their great advantage over the common flutter wheel, or any other wheels now in use for saw mills, we confidently refer to those who have applied them to their mills. We can recommend them particularly for their superiority in cases of a low head of water, or back

We still keep a supply of Wheels, suitable for bern, Washington, Edenton, and Fayetteville. The wheels may also be had of E. A. Brevard, Lincolaton, and Uriah Wells, Petersburg, Va. Persons wishing to obtain the right to use the wheels, will be served on application to D. Mc-Neill & Co., Fayetteville, N. C. D. McNEILL,

A. A. MCKETHAN, D. J. MCALISTER.

Feb'y 3, 1849. y

vor salb. That beautiful residence on Haymount, formerly belonging to C. P. Mallett. Esq., near the residence of Mr Hale, is offered for sale. t has stables and out-houses of all kinds; and everything in camplete order. This residence is so well known, and in so commanding a site, overlooking the town, that fur-

A. M. CAMPBELL. AUCTIONEER.

ther particulars are unnecessary. Enquire at the Caroli-

ANDCommission Merchant,

CHARLES BLAKE.

No. 192 Baltimore Street, BALTIMORE, Md.,



April 20, 1849.

er in Gold and Silver WATCHES, fine and common Jewelry. Watch Tools & Materials of all kinds got up with care and at low prices. Wheels cut and jewels set in Watches.

My- Watches and Jewelry of all kinds carefully March 10, 1549.

THE DE ME All persons indebted to the firm of G & H McMillan, prior to January, 1849, will please call and settle their notes and accounts by the 9th day of June next, as further indulgence can-G. & H. McMILLAN.



The subscriber, intending to leave Fayetteville. from Town, on the Murchison Road. It is a desirable place, healthy and pleasantly situated. The lot contains 12; acres. Feb. 10, 1849. R. A. STUART.

Bank of Fayetteville.

Books of Subscription to increase the amount

subscribed to the Bank of Favetteville, will be

kept open in the town of Fayetteville until further notice. Those wishing Stock in that Institution will make application soon, as the Com-missioners design putting the Bank into operaiion at an early day.

Subscribers will make payment of the second instalment on or before the 1st day of May, as interest will be charged on all remaining unpaid after that date.

By order of the Commissioners, JAMES KYLE, Ch'n. April 14, 1849. 529-tf

BOOKBINDERY. R. W. Hardie, has resumed the bookbinding business at the new store next door to Mr Beasley, Jeweler, faithfully used according to directions. ill receive and execute binding in any style de-

New Establishment. The Subscriber has opened a Shop on Person

street, nearly opposite Liberty Point, at the stand recently occupied by Simpson & McLaughlin, for the manufacture of

SADDLES, BRIDLES, HARNESS,

be glad to see persons in want of such articles.
He is prepared to do any work in the way of
TRIMMING, that may be entrusted to him.

Clear of them, but since he commented to do the preparation, has entirely recovered and is now becoming quite stout.

Respectfully thy friends, Particular attention paid to repairing, &c. J. D. CALLAIS, Agt.

NEW SPRING AND SUMMER GOODS.

G. & H. McMillan

Are now receiving from New York and Philadelphia, a large and splendid stock of STAPLE and FANCY

DRY GOODS,

Consisting in part of Superior wool-dyed French & English Cloths, Doe's Skin Cassimere, Fancy French & English do. Satin and Silk Vestings, French, English and American Prints. Ginghams and Gingham Lawns, Printed Cambrics and Muslins, Black and Pink Chambrays, Look and Swiss Muslins, Jaconet and plaid do. Muslin and thread Edgings, cheap, Organdy and embroidered Muslins. bl ck and colored Silks, ; to ; wide, Drap d'Ette and Cashmerette, Wellington Cord and Croton Coating, Granadians and Tissues, Silk and watered do. Black and colored Kid Gloves, do. Silk Mitts and Gloves, White Kid Gloves, for ladies and gentlemen,

Silk and cotton Hose and half Hose, Linen and Cotton Sheeting, Linen Cambric Handkerchiefs, very handsome, Silk and Cotton Handkerchiefs, Black and fancy Cravats, (40 inches,) Linen and cotton Coatings, Brown and white Linen Drillings, Grass and Marseilles Skirts, Black and satin-striped Chally and Bereges,

Needles and Pins, Canvass and Padding, Silk and worsted Serge, Marshall's and others Thread, Linen and cotton Diaper, Irish Linen and Shirting, Sewing Silk and Twist, Scissors and Combs, Florence and Pammella Bonnets. Pearl and colored L. ce do. New style Silk and Satin Bonnets, Bomb izines and Alpaccas,

Bonnet and Cap Ribbons, Neck and Belt Ribbon. Panama and Leghorn HATS, Moleskin and Beaver do. BOOTS and SHOES of every description, and many other articles too tedious to e numerate. As the above goods were purchased very low, they will be sold uncommonly cheep to those who pay Cash, or to "short-time-buyers," All those in want of cheap goods will please give us a call before purchasing elsewhere.

NEW GOODS.

Fayetteville, March 31, 1849. 527-tf

Clasps, Tassels, Rings, Ladies' Curls, and a gen- are always accompanied by Dr. Sherwood's valeral assortment of fancy articles in his line. H. ERAMBERT.

No. 4 Green Street.

RUMOVAD.

Mrs. E. WALTON, MANTUA-MAKER & MILLINER,

HAS received, and will open the 22d instant, at the White Brick Store next door north of that lately occupied by Messrs John Huske & Son, Green street, her

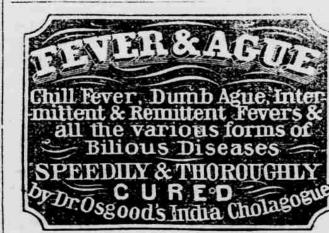
SPRING & SUMMER MILLINERY including Ribbons and Flowers of a superior quality, Gossamer Bonnets, Plack and Drab Straws, and other teshionable BONNETS of various kinds. Straw Bonnets cleaned and altered to the pre-

Gratlemen's Hats cleaned and pressed. Orders from the country will be promptly at-Favetteville, March 21, 1849.

JAS. G. SMITH, BE BEEF BE HAIR DRESSER,

FAYETTEVILLE, N. C., Has taken the shop in the Favetteville Hotel, where he intends carrying on his business in a superior manuer, and desires a continuance of public patronage.

WANTED .- An intelligent white boy is wanted as an apprentice to the above business.



Extract of a letter from Edward Bingham, Esq., Druggist of Detroit.

Detroit, March 23d, 1841. Dr. Charles Osgood, Dear Sir-I have the past year sold hundreds of bottles of the INDIA CHOLAGOGUE prepared by you, and have found it to give universal satisfaction in the cure of Fe-

E. BINGHAM. Extract of a letter from Messrs Scattergood.

Haverstick & Co., of Philadelphia. Philadalphia, 2d mo. 24th, 1842. Dr. C. Osgood, respected friend: We have had occasion to see the good effects of thy medicine in the case of a young man who had been troubled with chills a long time and could not get and all other articles in his line, where he would clear of them, but since he commenced taking a

> Respectfully thy friends, SCATTERGOOD, HAVERSTICK & For sale in Fayetteville by S. J. HINSDALE. March 31st, 1949.

DR. SHERWOOD'S

Vibrating Magnetic Machines. By recent improvements in these Machines, their power is doubled in cases of the same size, and the prices reduced to \$12 and \$14 each; the \$12 sizes being greatly superior to the \$12 sizes of other machines. They now run with more power and smoothness, and are better adapted for magnetizing patients than any other in use. Each case is accompanied with a Manuel (11th edition, p. 400, 32 mo.) in the English or French language, according to order, which contains clear and minute directions for the proper use of the instrument in the various diseases to which it is applicable, which are found to include many of the most peculiar and obstinate that are known to the medical profession. The Manuel also contains a synopsis of the different systems of medical practice, Allopathic, Homospathic, and Mag- Third District. nopathic, with a full glossary.

Physicians and others are cautioned against purchasing the imitations of these machines, as they will be found of comparatively little value. No premium has ever been obtained over these magnetic machines at the American or any other Institute, as is represented by the nanufacturers of interior machines.

(F) As I have become the Agent for the sale of the above Machines from a conviction of their usefulness in disease, and not from any desire to speculate on them; and am responsible to the ewner for them, they can only be obtained by the payment of the cash on the delivery of the Machine. I have deposited them with Mr Bayne at the Carolinian Office, who will show them, or deliver them on the payment of the cash price, and on no other terms.

CHARLES MONTAGUE.

April 7, 1849. 6m.

DR. H. H. SHERWOOD'S Compound Chloride of Gold,

FOR SCROFULOUS DISEASES. These remarkable medical remedies of the late eminent and well known Dr. Sherwood of New York, consisting of a preparation of magnetized CHLORIDE OF GOLD, compounded with vari ous other materials with great care and by a laborious process, and of a EITUMINOUS PLAS-TER, have been tested by an extensive practice of twenty-five years' continuance, and may now justly be considered as more successful than any other known remedy in the treatment of CON-SUMPTION in all its early stages, and of all Tuberculous or Scrofulous Diseases. For this class of complaints they are now extensively adopted by physicians in their own practice in various parts of the country. They are prepared by us under the direction of the Executrix of the estate of the late Dr. Sherwood, to whom, by Just received, a large assortment of beautiful his will, his medical recipes are intrusted in the and fine Candies, ladies' Steel Bead Purses and same manner in all respects as heretofore, and gram, Walter L. Steele, Alex. Little, all whigs: uable medical treatise upon the treatment of Chronic Diseases, a work which was the result of many years of labor and research, and which shows in the clearest manner the principles upon which the operation of his remedies is founded and their mode of cure. This work will enable any person to detect the nature and extent of scrofulous or tuberculous disease in himself or others, by pressure on the ginglions of the spinal nerves, on the spaces between the vertebræ along euch side of the spine

H. H. SHERWOOD'S Successors. No. 102 Chamber st., New York. Our Agent in Fayetteville, N. C., is CHARLES MONTAGUE. April 7, 1849. 6m

UMBRELLAS AND PARASOLS

Manufactured by steam, at the AMERICAN WHOLESALE WAREHOUSE & MANUFACTORY, No. 257 Pearl st., (near Fulton,) NEW YORK.

(Sign of the golden Umbrellas.) The subscribers have on hand, and are constantly manufacturing a superior assortment of the above goods, which they offer to merchants the best to be obtained; and experienced hostand dealers by the case or dozen, at very low prices, and on accommodating terms. The quality, variety and workmanship of their Umbrellas factory in the United States

ISAAC SMITH & CO. Feb. 17, 1848.

JOSPH S. DUNN offers his serices as undert ker and builder, to the citizens or o hers, disposed to contract for building or jobbi g. Terms liberal,

THE MOST EXTENSIVE

SHIRT ESTABLISHMENT IN THE UNITED STATES IS AT No. 179 Baltimore st., near Light, BALTIMORE, Md.

Where 500 persons are employed, and a stock of 1000 dozen shirts always on hand. Merchants and others visiting Balt, more are invited to call and examine the largest and best gentlemen's Hats, and color them. stock of SHIRTS that has ever been offered, consisting of all sizes and qualities, for men and boys, which for style and workmanship cannot be surpassed. More than usual efforts have been made to render the assortment complete and desirable in every respect.

T. W. BETTON. March 10, 1849. 1 y

I. O. O. F.

Where may be found the most extensive assortment of the latest styles of Fringes, Gimps, Buttons, Cords, Tassels, &c. &c. Also, Masonic, Odd Fellows, Red Men, Sons of Temperance, Sons of Liberty, American Mechanics, Beneficial, and all other Societies' REGALIA AND TRIM- Also, pants, vests, shirts, drawers, MINGS are kept on hand and made to order. LAGS and BANNERS made up in the latest and most approved styles. G- All orders from the country attended to

with dispatch. JEWELS.
Odd Fellows and Sons of Temperance Jewels, a full assortment always on hand, and at prices

less than any other establishment. SPRIGG & MESEKE.

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS. The following are the Congressional Districts of this State, as they stand under the famous Raynermander of 1846-'47.

Sixth District.

Franklin,

Warren,

Halifax,

Johnston.

Nash.

Edgecombe,

Seventh District.

Wake,

First District. Cherokee, Macon, Haywood, Buncombe. Henderson, Rutherford. Burke, McDowell. Yancy, Cleaveland. Caldwell.

Cumberland, Robeson, Columbus, Second District. Bladen. Ashe. Brunswick, Wilkes, New Hanover, Surry, Sampson, Davie, Duplin, Rowan. Onslow. Iredell, Eighth District. Catawba. Wayne,

Greene, Lincoln. Lenoir, Gaston, Jones. Mecklenburg, Craven, Union, Carteret. Anson, Beanfort, Pitt, Stanly, Cabarrus, Hyde, Montgomery, Washington, Richmond. Tyrell. Moore.

Ninth District. Fourth District. Martin. Stokes. Bertie, Rockingham, Heriford, Guilford, Northampton, Randolph, Gates, Davidson. Cho van. Fifth District. Perquimans, Granville, Pasquotank, Caswell, Camden. Person, Currituck. Orange,

In the late Congress they were represented as follows: T. L. Clingman, Nathaniel Boyden, D. M. Barringer, A. H. Shepherd, A. W. Venable, J. R. J. Daniel, James J. McKay, R. S. Donnell and David Outlaw .-- Stondard. CANDIDATES.

Chatham.

First District .- Hon. Thos. L. Clingman, whig. Third -Gen. Alfred Dockery, Sanders M. Inand Hon, Green W. Coldwell, dem. Fifth.-Hon. A. W. Venable, dem.

Ninth .- Hon. David Outlaw, whig. Second .- Joseph P. Caldwell, whig.

FAVETTEVILLE FAYETTEVILLE, N. C.

This building, the largest and handsomest Hotel in North Carolina, has been lessed by the ing in specie. The following is an abstract of subscriber for a term of years, and is now open her intelligence: for the reception of travellers, visiters, and

All the furniture and fixtures about the building are entirely new, having been purchased within the last month. The accommodations in all respects will be as good as can be found in the State. The single rooms are provided with every necessary convenience; and the double rooms for ladies and families, are large and fitted up All the substantials and delicacies afforded by

the market and the seasons, will be supplied at the table The servants have been selected from among

lers have charge of the stables. The bar is kept by a gentleman of experience and Parasols is not to be surpassed by any Manu- of the best quality required by travellers or maining at Gæta until the revolt is suppressed. his own-- I mean of devotion to the inter-The lessee, with some years experience in this vocation, will make every exertion to give satis-

faction to the patrons of the House. ANN BROWN. May 5, 1849. 532-1y

Mrs. E. McINTYRE

Returns her most sincere thanks to her country patrons for their many years' past favors, and hopes still to merit a continuance of their patronage. She will, as she has always done, spare no pains to give general satisfaction. She has received from the North a handsome assoriment of BONNETS; and a great variety of artificial Flowers.

Also, a new style of different qualities of Russias, suitable for trimming dress caps, together with many other articles in her line. May 5, 1849.

READY-MADE CLOTHING. Samson & Worms

all fashionable colors, and of suitable materials, such as cloth, drab d'ete, bombazine, linen, &c undershirts, suspenders, cravats, stocks, and other ar-

mention. A beautiful assortment of Calicoes and Lawns and Muslins.

ticles too numerous to

SAMSON & WORMS. April 29, 1942. 531-ti

reading of that description, to the cost of \$500 at a time, for gratuitous distribution among his costituents. This does not occur once, but so frequently during a session, as to render it certain that Gen. McKay has distributed from Washington among his constiuents in the way of substantial and improving reading, more money than he has received from the treasury in the course of his long public service. Yet he passes for a very penurious man! The truth is, he is conscientious-believing that wealth is given him to be usefully employed for his race, not to be expended for

the gratification of his own or the appetites

THE FORREST AND MACREADY DIFFI-Gen. McKay is an orator after the fashion of Mr Vinton, but more terse, concise, and convincing. Take his speeches "by and large," I believe they fall with more House was taken possession of the preceding power, upon the House than those of any evening, by a mob, several thousand strong, whilst other member. I do not know that he has Mr Macready was playing to a fashionable auever raised his voice in favor of an approdience, and the building set fire to, that the military were ordered out, and a large number priation bill that has not passed. It, however, at times happens that the House enacts an appropriation which he has opposed. He is very laborious, and in the course of his long service at the head of the committee of ways and means, would not hear of an appropriation for a clerk to do his writing, because it would require a small expenditure of the public money. Sick or well, he has always discharged the duties of the position without a clerk, a a thing never before attempted by any other head of the same committee.

It will be remembered that last winter much unnecessary debate took place in the hall with reference to the mileage abuse, (for such it is.) The proposition of every other member who approached the subject was voted down sans ceremonie, he having previously given notice of an intention to move in the matter. Accordingly he brought in his mileage reform bill near the of those who were killed and wounded were not close of the session, which was passed in a very lew hours, and almost without a division. This goes to show the universal contwenty-seven persons had been killed, and nearly fidence of the House in his justice, discre-

one hundred wounded. The excitement was intion, and singleness of purpose. Gen. Mckay is the terror of all dishonest claimants and scheming claim agents. They dread him worse than "the seven years' ague." He makes it a rule to inform himself as to the merits of every proposition to expend the public money. The democrats of the House always feel secure with Gen. McKay at the head of the committee of ways and means, as they know that under his auspices not a dollar will be asked for an appropriation which cannot be justified as absolutely

necessary far the proper economy of the government. It is a luxury to hear Gen. McKay, speak, because his arguments are unanswerable. His points cannot be successfully met-at least such is the opinion of the reporters, who consider him the most effective speaker in the House. He is not. however, what is termed an agreeable speaker. Though fluent, he is very spar-

ing of his words, and has a sharp harsh The Cotton market has been without change voice, sounding in excellent keeping with since the departure of the America. Fair Up- his appearance. I do not believe that in lands and Mobile are quoted at 4%. The market the course of his long service in Congress has been dull for Breadstuffs : Wheat has declin- he has ever been seen to smile-at least, ed 2 a 3d; Flour has declined 6 a 9d per bbl. though I have attended the sittings of the Mercantile operations are dull, and considerable House year after year. I have never once depression exists throughout the manufacturing seen the muscles of his face relaxed. It is a common saying among the reporters who have been in the hall for over twenty years, France still continues to enjoy tranquility. that in all that time he has never been The expedition for the re-instatement of the known to laugh. Still, the man has a kind Pope set sail from Toulon on the 22d, and had heart-a just and truly generous heartarrived at Civita Vecchia, and would immedia- for it is filled with the sentiments so conest of the people. Holding that no man can inflexibly adhere to the duty of guarding the public purse as he would his own without being filled with a nobility of soul far above the considerations of a pitable Gen. Jas. J. McKay, of North Carolina, personal policy so apt to enter into the

> round oaths as long as your arm) fellow asks for six thousand dollars more for the

the cholera. To make man a villain, says some Philthat while he will not squander a sixpence motive, and he immediately becomes one. on a purely partisan speech, he hesitates Experience, alas! has too strongly proved not to order agricultual publications, and this assertion true.



Telegraphed for the Charleston Mercury The Hibernia arrived at Halifax on Thursday evening last with Liverpool dates to the 28th ult. She brings eighty-three thousand pounds sterl-

Wm. H. Bayne, Editor and Proprietor.

FAYETTEVILLE, N. C.

MAY 19, 1849.

CULTY.

Yesterday we received a dispatch from our cor-

respondent announcing that the Astor Opera

had been killed and wounded. Mr Macready, it

Another communication, received a short time

afterwards, announces that the fire was extin-

guished, and that a fight had taken place between

the military and the mob, of a desperate charac-

ter, and that the number of the military killed

and wounded were estimated at from thirty to

forty. The Military and Police finally gained

possession of the ground, and cannon were plant

ed, charged with grape shot, in front of the

Theatre. The city was in an uproar all Thurs-

day night, and the Military yesterday morning,

were throwing up entrenchments to resist any at-

tempts that might be made by the mob to dis-

Great excitement existed, and the mob were

hanging about the spot. It was rumored that

Mr Macready had been killed, but it was ascer-

tained that he had escaped unhurt. A number

It is said that up to three o'clock yesterday,

tense, and a further requisition on the military

The dwelling of the Mayor of the city, and

other officials obnoxious to the populace, were

in danger of being sacked. The excitement

against the military, who were engaged in re-

pressing the riot was intense, and it was feared

that the consequences would be of the most dis-

is stated, had to fly for his life.

lodge them.

engaged in the riot.

force had been made.

Telegraphed for the Charleston Courier.

NEW YORK.

districts.

FRANCE

and courtesy, who will furnish all refreshments tely proceed to Rome, the Pope meanwhile re- stantly on the lips of others, but never on

From the N. Y. Sunday Times. GALLERY OF PORTRAITS

Of past and present members of Congress. of late years, when the democrats have had calculations of all men in public life, I the majority, has been honored with the believe that it requires the exercise of a trust (the chairmanship of the committee species of generosity and self-sacrifice not of ways and means) now confided to Mr to be practised by a man without he is fill-Vinton, of Ohio .- Gen. McKay is a strange ed to the brim with the real soul, leading looking man. He is probably sixty years one inflexibly, under all circumstances, of age, of sallow and sun-burnt complex- to do unto others as he would be done by. ion, delicate frame, middle height, no flesh Gen. McKay has seen so much downright on his bones, sharp chin and nose, and fierce robbery of the public purse in his day, that and stern grey eyes, even when he tries to he has come to look upon every claimant seem in no unpleasant mood, which may as a swindler until after having satisfied be three times in a session. He is wrin- himself of the justice of his application. The will still alter and bleach Bonnets, kled all over the face, and generally wears How the claim agents hate and malign a very rusty, old-fashioned suit. In the him! They pray fervently that his increas-House he generally goes by the name of ing ill health may soon incapacitate him "Old M'Coy." John C. Rives, (of the from coming to Washington. One and firm of Blair & Rives,) who. in common all, their hands are against him ; and faith, with all other honest men knowing him as a general thing, he returns the compliwell, regards him as the most conscientious ment-for, if he had his way, all who public man living, says "in his eyes a dol- make a business of begging appropriations lar is as big as a cart-wheel;" yet he is a from Congress would be safely locked up man of very large wealth owning fine plan- in the District penitentiary. tations, hundreds of negroes, and stocks During the last war, a friend went to his ver and Ague, Chill, Fever, Dumb Ague, &c. &c. I may say, I think, without hesitation, that I have never known it to fail in cases which have come under my own observation, where it has been under my own observation and more in huge quantities.

No. 35 Baltimore st. BALTIMORE**, Md.**

No. 35 Baltimore st. BALTIMORE**, Md.**

No. 35 Baltimore st. BALTIMORE**, Md.**

No. 35 Baltimore st. BALTIMORE**, of a storm, sooner than spend a quarter on inquired his ailing. "Why," said he, a hackman. The boys (pages) never trouble this — (here followed a string of for copies of speeches. One of his looks is enough to send either of them, when canvassing near his desk, completely over to This request had griped the General as the other side of the hall. He lives for as though he was in next to the last stage of little money as any man can in Congress. Persons knowing his turn as a legislatorwho also know these his peculiaritiesconsider him mean. I, however, know osopher, it is only necessary to give him a