

not every where at once, we have effected, comparatively nothing, and it is to be feared that few facilities to trade exist now that did not exist before the commencement of our improvements. And what, but the one before assigned, can have been the cause of the failure of our works? We have for several years had the services of an able Engineer, who has explored our rivers, pointed out the various obstructions to their navigation, and given instructions in what manner they were to be removed; a zealous and intelligent Board of gentlemen have been watching over every project, and pushing them forward by all the means in their power, and still our progress is so gradual as to be almost imperceptible.—The reason is obvious.—We have not concentrated our money in sums sufficiently large to effect the object to which they have been applied. If a remedy is still within our power, it is for your wisdom to devise and apply it. I have already said more than I had intended, designing only to call your attention to the subject. The interest which I feel in improving the condition of the people, the sovereignty and strength of our country, will, I trust, claim your forbearance, and excuse the freedom and candour which I have used. The report of the Board of Internal Improvements will shortly be submitted to your honorable body, which will afford you every information with regard to our public works.

Before we leave the subject of Internal Improvements, suffer me to call your attention to a subject which has hitherto been too little regarded, and to which some of the foregoing remarks have reference. I mean the opening and improving of our Roads. While we are expending the public treasury in improving the navigation of our rivers, we owe it to those who live remote from navigable streams, and who, in many sections, find it necessary to go to market by land, to open Roads which may intersect and unite at convenient points, and lead to good markets. By this means, too, we should keep in our own state a great deal of produce, which at present enriches other states, and draw capital to our market towns, which our own produce has helped to centre in theirs. Although it is desirable that every man should have a convenient channel to carry his surplus produce to market, even though he should be adding to the wealth of another state, yet it is but justice to ourselves, that while we expend the public wealth, we should, at least, give our own markets a fair competition. While our treasure is employed in public improvements, it is surely desirable that those improvements should be so directed as to repay us. It is, therefore, of the highest importance, while we open rivers which lead into other states, and give the farmer inducement to carry their produce away, that we should likewise make roads to our own market towns, give our merchants a fair competition, and add to our wealth, and this is still more desirable, when we consider that it would be to the manifest advantage of the planter, by giving him a choice of markets. I might point out particular roads which seem to claim your prompt assistance, but the circumstance that some of you come immediately from them, and are, therefore, much better prepared to explain and enforce their importance, renders it useless. Your own discernment will follow the subject throughout its extensive bearings, and your wisdom and attachment to the common weal, are a sufficient guarantee that you will give your mature deliberation, and adopt such measures as are practicable and conducive to the great ends in view. The improvement of roads and rivers would soon enable our citizens to get out of debt, and would be the surest means by affording a strong motive to industry, of keeping them from the ruinous and visionary schemes of speculation. Talk not of Banks—of an increase of circulating medium, as a means of extricating them from their embarrassments. It will only "put off the evil day" of payment. Our citizens, taught in the school of sure experience, begin to see the wisdom of economy, and to feel the necessity of retrenchment. They are in the very situation, then, to return to habits of industry and morality; and they will do it, and will soon rid themselves of debt, if you will offer them every inducement, and every facility in your power. They will presently get into the good old ways of certainty and safety, and will be content with a more moderate increase of wealth.

By a judicious and well conducted plan of Internal Improvements—by opening, so far as our resources will permit, our roads and rivers, always taking care to begin with such works as are of the most general utility, the effects of which would be most extensively experienced, we should go far towards accomplishing another most important object of state policy, viz. the improvement of the agricultural condition of the country. The plowing community are the very strength and sinews of the government, and in proportion as they are suffered to languish, must the government become feeble and inoperative, and all other objects of public utility experience a depression. The effect of roads and navigation on agriculture will always be mutually felt, and if the Legislature would give to agricul-

ture even a small share of direct aid and encouragement, there is no doubt the effect would be reciprocated in a much higher ratio. With the increase of agriculture, indeed, every thing else is made to flourish. Wealth, knowledge, and virtue conspire to make us happy, and perpetuate the inestimable boon of freedom and independence.—Contentment smiles in the cottage, and wealth diffuses its genial influence to all around.—There is an insuring beauty and harmony in the aspect of a well cultivated country, which seem to be reflected from the countenance of the people; and I never presented to my imagination a more delightful image than that of flourishing fields, cultivated by free and happy people. Born in the country and raised a planter, I have always felt a degree of enthusiasm in contemplating this subject, bordering, perhaps, on extravagance. But its importance is by no means diminished by the coolness of deliberation; its consequence, indeed, is the more obvious and home-felt, for its practical and universal necessity goes into every man's door, and is experienced alike by all classes of society. Why our agriculture has been so long neglected by the Legislature, and is so far behind hand with respect to some of our sister states; and whether it be not high time that you should extend to it your fostering care, appear to me to be inquiries well worthy your attention. Their solution I leave to your own wisdom, and the remedy or remedies your own judgment, far better than mine, will suggest. If the reclaiming of our exhausted lands could be commenced by offering premiums, or by any other better means, the beneficial results, I apprehend, would very soon appear. Could you induce farmers to make experiments on their lands, in new methods of cultivation, and the introduction of articles not of common growth, and which have been found to be profitable, not only as valuable articles of produce, but as enriching the soil, a very great improvement would, without doubt, be thereby effected. But to you, gentlemen, with confidence and with pleasure, I submit the subject, without pretending to dictate to your wisdom, or believing that I can add to your zeal for the common good.

In connection with this and the subject of education, to which I must beg leave to invite your attention at the present session, I would mention one defect, which appears to me to exist generally in the education of our young men of liberal advantages: They know little or nothing of agriculture, and are not taught to hold it in proper estimation. The consequence is, that they nearly all devote themselves to the learned professions, and leave the calling of husbandry, equally as respectable and more useful, to those whom they consider their inferiors. By this defect, and these consequent mistaken notions, we lose the talents and influence of many a young man, who lays and withers in one of the professions, when he might be an ornament and guide in the quiet walks of agriculture, and constitute one of that most excellent and useful class of society, good citizens. It is truly melancholy to witness the crowds of drones that hang upon the rear of the learned professions, burdens to themselves and burdens to society, because they are useless; and many of them—perhaps I might say a large majority—men of talents, but unhappily misapplied. I trust, if they are beyond the saving influence of the Legislature, that you have it still in your power to prevent their accumulation, and to diffuse the talents of our state into more extensive usefulness. Should the Legislature even practically unite in the important truth, that it is of the last moment to the stability and security of our republican institutions, that all kinds of useful knowledge should be extended to our youth, the poorest as well as the richest, it is to be hoped that they will not overlook the article of agriculture; and in the present flourishing state of our University, when its wealth has received such an addition in western lands, its number of students such an increase, its buildings receiving such improvement and extension, and its able Faculty and Trustees are so zealous and indefatigable in raising its reputation, and extending the sphere of its usefulness, it appears to be an auspicious period to introduce the subject of agriculture within its walls, and lend it your aid. Were you even to devote a considerable sum of money to this purpose, how manifold would be the interest which the people would receive in its advantages? Young men of liberal education would leave our University with proper ideas of the dignity and usefulness of agricultural avocations, and with much useful knowledge relating thereto. They would go into the different parts of the state, and devote themselves to agriculture, and associate in Societies with men of more limited opportunities, where their knowledge and their influences would be widely diffused, and give a life and vigor to agriculture, of which we can easily form some conception. But I would not have you suppose that this subject is altogether neglected in our University.—We have there a professorship of chemistry and mineralogy, which bear an intimate relation to agriculture; and it gives me much pleasure to state, that I have been informed that the gentleman who

has charge of that department of instruction, takes a lively interest in the improvement of the agriculture of the country, and devotes a part of his course of lectures to that subject alone, and loses no opportunity of imparting to his pupils every article of knowledge which will be of service in the business of life. I am happy that I have it in my power to make known the fact, that our University is not confined to those studies which, though of the highest importance in a liberal education, have no immediate relation to the concerns of life. I have said the more on this subject, because it derives additional importance from the fact that we are, and, from our geographical situation must continue to be, an agricultural rather than a commercial people. I trust that this fact, and the intrinsic importance of the subject, will lead you to a serious investigation of it, and (for it is surely practicable) to give it your aid and protection.

With regard to education, although we have been considering an important part of it, you are by no means to stop here. Our constitution has made it your duty to encourage and promote every kind of useful learning. Its wise and patriotic framers, who were about to burst from the thralldom of oppression, and who were sensible of the enslaving influence of ignorance, ordained it to be their own duty and the duty of their sons, to whom they were soon to bequeath the inestimable legacy of freedom, to diffuse learning among the people—and they no doubt looked forward, in pleasing contemplation, to the period when their posterity should have schools and academies erected among them; when knowledge, at least of the more ordinary and indispensable kind, should be within the reach of the child of the poorest citizen—when "all useful knowledge should be duly encouraged and promoted"—the people acquainted with their rights, sensible of their national blessings, and therefore determined to perpetuate their institutions; and to keep the soil which their fathers had purchased with their blood and treasure, "the land of freedom, and the asylum of the oppressed." I fear, gentlemen, if those venerable fathers were to rise from their tombs, they would reproach us with supineness and neglect, and would not listen to our plea of want of power. We shall never know what power we have until we exert it, and it holds in political as well as physical strength, that it is increased by exercise.—To all these subjects, then, which appear to me, I am sure, in a far more important light than my limits or language will allow me to express, let us give heed, and timely heed. Let us do something, however little—it may prove in time "a grain of mustard seed."

But whilst we are sedulous to attain these grand objects, we should not lose sight of the fact that these and all our blessings and privileges are liable to invasion from abroad. We have experienced the injustice of foreign nations before, and we have no reason to conclude that this is never to be the case again. It is therefore important that we should direct our attention to the training of our militia. Our militia system, as you well know, is still very defective. Let us ever recollect the advice of our Political Father, to prepare for war in time of peace. By far the most important part of this preparation consists in training up a body of men that will always be ready, in case of war, to send into the field an efficient force. It seems to be the policy of the general government to reduce the standing army of the United States, as being too expensive and dangerous to the Republic. Whether this be sound policy or not, it certainly increases the importance of having a well organized militia. At present it is difficult to discover what advantage is derived from our system and practice, except in a few remarkable instances, where individual exertion and spirit present a cheering prospect amid the surrounding gloom, and show what may be done by proper endeavors. This is a subject of no small moment, and I trust will receive a share of your deliberations. It is to be hoped that we may never become a nation of soldiers by profession; or neglect the delightful arts of peace, while we pay some regard to those of war. And while we prepare for our enemies, we should cherish towards them generosity and forbearance, adopting the sentiment, "be able for thine enemy rather in power than use."

By an act of the General Assembly, passed in the year 1819, it is made the duty of the Governor to procure places of deposit in the towns of Edenton, Newbern and Fayetteville for such arms as belonged to, or might become the property of the state, and to cause such arms to be collected and removed to one of those places. Since the adjournment of your last session, I have received a letter from the War Department of the U. States, stating that the small arms, accoutrements and artillery procured during the last six years, agreeably to an act of Congress, passed in the year 1808, for arming and equipping the whole body of the militia of the United States, were ready for delivery, and would be delivered so soon as returns of the militia of all the states should be made; by which they would be enabled to distribute the relative proportions to the respective states and territo-

ries, agreeably to the said act. By the law of this state above mentioned, they will be deposited at one of the places designated, unless otherwise directed by the General Assembly.

Agreeably to the act of the last session of the General Assembly, authorizing the sale of so much of the Cherokee lands as had been surveyed and remained unsold, I gave notice, according to law, of the time and place of holding said sales, and appointed Col. John Patton, of Buncombe county, commissioner to superintend the same. I expect to have it in my power, in a short time, to lay before you the report of the commissioner, which will, doubtless, give you all the information you may require. It is made the duty of the commissioner, by the act of Assembly, to ascertain and report to the Public Treasurer what lands are in dispute between the Indians claiming under the treaties and persons holding under the state; and the Treasurer is directed not to proceed in the collection of bonds due for such lands until the controversy is properly settled; and, in the event of the claimants under the state being ejected, to refund to them such sums as they have paid to the state, with interest from the time of payment. It is recommended to your consideration whether it would not be to the advantage of the State to adopt some method of extinguishing the Indian claims, and satisfying our purchasers, who, from the uncertainty of their titles, are kept from settling on and improving their lands, while the state is lying out of the purchase money. It is thought that a sum of money, for under the value of the lands in dispute, would be sufficient to buy out their claims, and prevent all further litigation; and, if this be the fact, it is surely of the highest importance that it should be effected.

Before I conclude, I cannot deny myself the pleasure of expressing the very high gratification which I have received from the superior taste and judgment which have been displayed in the progress of our State House to its present neat state of completion. It is with satisfaction I can testify, so far as my observation has gone, to the diligent endeavors of Mr. Nichols, to have it completed by the present session; but the sickness with which we have been visited, during the summer and fall, and from which but few have escaped, together with other unforeseen events, has prevented. Although neglect ought not, in any shape, to receive your sanction, yet I feel confident you will not withhold your indulgence where it should be extended. Of the talents of the Architect, I need say nothing, when you have such an elegant specimen before you; but I cannot omit to say, that while we are furnishing the representatives of the people with a commodious and elegant building, suitable to the dignity of their body, it is surely a source of pleasure that we are, at the same time, giving encouragement to genius and attainments in one of the fine arts, which have hitherto been so little known, or properly estimated, among us. Should it be necessary to make an additional appropriation for the finishing of the House, the propriety of making it, is submitted to your consideration. It was thought that the sum appropriated at the last session would be sufficient; but in the progress of such a building as the one under view, additions and alterations will occur, so that it is impossible to calculate, exactly, what sum will be required, especially when so much remains to be done as did at the close of the last session.

Accompanying this communication are the resignations of such justices of the peace and field officers of the militia as have been received during the recess, together with my letter books, and such letters and documents as it is proper should be laid before you.

With the highest respect and consideration,

I have the honor to be, gentlemen,
Your very obedient servant,
GABRIEL HOLMES.

Legislative Proceedings.

SENATE.

MONDAY, NOV. 18.—This being the constitutional day for the meeting of the Legislature of our state, a large majority of both Houses appeared, (7 only being absent in this House.)

After the qualification of the Members, on motion of Mr. Glisson, Bartlett Van-ces, Esq. was unanimously chosen Speaker of the Senate.

On motion of Mr. Glisson, Gen. Covington was appointed Clerk, and Col. Clark Assistant Clerk of this House.

TUESDAY, NOV. 19.—Messrs. Glisson and Barringer, of the Senate, and Mr. Fisher and Mr. Blackledge, of the Commons, were appointed a committee to wait on his Excellency the Governor, to inform him of the readiness of the two Houses to receive any communication he might think proper to make. This committee reported that his Excellency would make a communication to-morrow at 12 o'clock.

The two Houses proceeded to ballot for three Engraving Clerks, fifteen gentlemen being in nomination. It resulted in the election of Thomas T. Armstrong, of Stokes, and Samuel F. Patterson, of Wilkes.

THURSDAY, NOV. 21.—The following resolutions were adopted:

By Mr. Cameron—
Resolved, That a select joint committee be appointed, to whom shall be referred all bills and other propositions relating to the Judiciary.

By Mr. Baker, of Gates—
Resolved, That so much of the Governor's Message as relates to the repairs of the State House, be referred to a select committee.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Mr. Pugh moved that John D. Jones, the Representative from the town of Winton, be appointed Speaker of the House of Commons; and Mr. Hill from Stokes, moved that James Melane, one of the Representatives from Orange, be appointed. Whereupon a ballot took place, and Mr. Jones was reported as being elected, 65 votes to 55.

Pleasant Henderson was appointed Clerk, and Wm. B. Lockhart, Clerk Assistant.

THURSDAY, NOV. 21.—Lewis D. Henry, of Cumberland, and John L. M'Mullan, of Bladen, appeared and took the seats.

On motion of Mr. Melane, Resolved, That so much of the Governor's message as relates to the sale of the Cherokee lands, be referred to a select committee. Messrs. Melane, Brickell, Carson and Baird, form this committee.

On motion of Mr. Fisher, Resolved, That so much of the message as relates to the expenditure on public buildings, be referred to a select committee. Messrs. Fisher, Graham, Leary and Williamson, form this committee.

On motion of Mr. Barringer, Resolved, That so much of the message as relates to the militia and public arms be referred to a select committee. Messrs. Barringer, Graves, Boykin, Henry and Shepard, form this committee.

On motion of Mr. Melane, Resolved, that a select committee be appointed on the Judiciary. Messrs. Melane, Henry, Brickell, Thornton and Golebra, form this committee.

On motion of Mr. Melane, orders that a message be sent to the Senate, proposing to appoint standing and joint committees of Finance, Propositions and Grievances, Claims, Education, Internal Improvements and Agriculture. The State have not yet acted on this resolution. These committees will be stated next week.

Mr. Shepard presented a bill to repeal the second section of the act of 1823, respecting the Supreme Court. [This bill contemplates repealing that part of the act which gives the Court power to grant new trials upon matters of fact.]

INTELLIGENCE.

We come, the herald of a new world,
News from all nations bounding at his beck.

FROM HAVANA.

CHARLESTON, NOV. 16.—By the schooner Sarah Ann, capt. Build, arrived yesterday we have received from our attentive correspondent, files of Havana papers to the 6th inst. They afford us later intelligence, both from Old and New Spain, than had been previously received. It appears, from these data, that some degree of quiet had been restored in the Peninsula; while the emperor of New Spain was just beginning to experience the cares and troubles necessarily attendant upon the office which he has usurped. Some translations will be found below.

Addresses had been presented to the emperor Ferdinand, from various public bodies in Mexico, complaining in terms of the oppressions experienced by the people under his government, and upbraiding him with having violated oaths, made in the most solemn manner in the presence of the congress of the empire. They represent the country fast sinking into ruin, and undisguisedly express their determination to restore to liberty, or perish in the attempt. We shall probably give a specimen of these addresses in a future paper.

Proposals of which the following is the substance, had been made to Senor Don Jose Davila, commandant of the fortress of St. Juan de Ulloa, by the council of Vera Cruz:—That as he did not possess powers from the Spanish government authorising him to surrender that fortress, he should nevertheless abstain from hostilities, and preserve the peace and harmony which ought naturally to exist between the two countries. They assure him in this event, that Spaniards coming to settle in Mexico, from the moment their arrival, should enjoy all the advantages of citizens, without being subjected to the time, &c. prescribed by Law for other foreigners. Spanish merchant vessels to have certain exclusive privileges allowed them. That in the mean time no hostilities should be undertaken on either side; but that the fortress and the city should continue the relations of amity. It was also stipulated, that the governor of Vera Cruz should pay the expenses of the garrison, while this state of things continued; it being understood that the commandant abstain from interfering with or exacting duties from vessels entering the bay, including those of Spain. Spanish men of war to be under the immediate control of the commandant of the fortress. Vessels belonging to the empire of Mexico to be allowed to enter the port freely, with their colors flying, and while in port, to be subject to the control of their own government only. No change of commanders or introduction of troops into the fortress to be allowed, during the continuance of this armistice.

These proposals were carried to the