

THE MUSE.

FROM THE LONDON LITERARY JOURNAL.

If 'twere not for the splendid light That trembles from yon beauteous star, How dark would be the form of night, Careering in her dusky car.

'Tis thus enlivening Woman cheers Man's gloomiest hour with fond caress, When nought of kindred life appears To sooth the pangs of deep distress.

And yet how oft his reckless heart Neglects her in his reign of bliss, 'Tis only in affliction's smart We truly know what Woman is.

Then wherefore, Man, forget that friend When Fortune's brightest planets shine? Remember, when their beauties end, How dark the night that must be thine.

But liest thou the thoughtless roe That sports around the fountain's brink, Nor heeds the rill that glides below, Nor cares its limpid wave to drink.

Not so when 'mid the desert's heat She feels the pains of thirst begin: Oh! then the bitterest draughts were sweet To slake the fire that burns within.

So, when with grief and cares oppress, How soon we fly to Woman's arms, And, suppliant round her generous breast, Forget our woes for Beauty's charms.

THE RETORT COURTEOUS.

Two neighbor lawyers, clever fellows, One lack'd a book, and one a bellows. Their names perhaps you'd like to know: Elias, one—the other Joe. Joe sent a message to Elias, For Espinasse's Nisi Prius: This answer back Elias sent, His office books he never lent; But Joe might call if that would do, And in his office read it through. It chanced Elias on the morrow, To Joe his bellows sent to borrow. My bellows, tell my worthy friend, Says Joe, is what I never lend; But he may call, if he's inclined to, And blow all day, if he's a mind to.

EPITAPH,

On a gentleman whose name was HAWK. By death's impartial scythe was mown Poor hat—he lies beneath this stone; Yet him misfortunes oft did frown On him Hatt ne'er wanted for a crown; When many years of constant wear Had made his beaver somewhat bare, Death saw, and pitying his mishap, Has given him here a good long nap.

INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS.

FROM THE BALTIMORE REGISTER.

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 1823.

The Joint Committee of Internal Improvements, upon the Resolution instructing them to inquire into the expediency of retaining in the employment of the State the present Engineer, and the propriety of keeping up and sustaining the Board of Internal Improvements.

Report: That they are of opinion that economy, in the true signification of that word, should be closely adhered to in all Republican Governments, and unnecessary expenditures studiously avoided. But your committee are further of opinion, that the same considerations which should influence those to whose hands the people have committed their treasure, to guard it from the invasions of spendthrifts and knaves, should likewise prompt them to expend it with liberality upon all such objects as are evidently calculated to promote the prosperity and happiness of those whom they represent. Of all the objects to which the pecuniary resources of the State can properly be directed, your committee deem none so important as that of facilitating the trade and intercourse of its inhabitants by the improvement of its roads and rivers. This opinion is not the crude product of momentary reflection; but has been matured in the deliberations of the wisest heads, and has been reduced to practical use by almost every nation at all conspicuous in history, or at present existing upon the globe. The advantages resulting from Internal Improvement are so manifest as scarcely to be doubted by any one. If it is admitted, (as it must be) that enlightening the public mind is one of the most important duties which the Legislative body are required to perform, your committee believe that nothing can so speedily and effectually tend to the promotion of that desirable object, as the Internal Improvement of the State. The human intellect, like marble, is polished by attrition: nothing so effectually develops the latent powers of the mind, as intercourse with our own species; the faculty which it possesses of multiplying ideas, by combination and analysis, gives great importance to every species of informa-

tion which it can acquire, (no matter how humble,) and it must strike every one, with a moment's reflection, that if the inhabitants of each section of the State were brought as it were to each other's door, each would necessarily communicate to the other information upon a great variety of subjects. Almost every section of our country presents objects to the view not "dreamt of in the philosophy of another." Add to this the emulation which is naturally excited by association with our fellow-men. No man is willing to hold the lowest, and few contented with any thing short of the highest rank of intelligence among those with whom they associate. Enlarging a man's sphere of action must likewise increase the objects of emulation, and of course increase the stimulus to individual improvement. No one is ignorant of the effect of travelling, in improving the mind and manners, and no one of any observation but must have remarked the fact, how much better informed are the junior members, as well as the heads of families, residing on frequented roads, than other persons dwelling even in the same neighborhood, and possessing equal pecuniary advantages.

The happiness of a people is intimately connected with their Intelligence, and therefore the Internal Improvement of the State, by tending to enlighten, must likewise tend to promote the happiness of its inhabitants. But its effects in increasing the happiness of the State would not stop here. Man, either as an individual or as a community, is measurably happy in proportion to his independence. If our system of Internal Improvement was properly pursued, no portion of the globe would approach a state of independence more nearly than ourselves. North-Carolina, the fifth State in population, is scarcely third in internal resources; but from the want of public spirit to call her resources into exercise, she who might lift her head among the proudest, is compelled to sit in humility, the subject of scorn and a bye-word.

But your committee feel an honest pride in looking back upon the exertions of our Legislature, for several years past, and with the most pleasing anticipation of those which are to follow, for the removal of this evil, so galling to their pride, and so mortifying to their patriotism. Your committee have with pain remarked, and with shame acknowledge, that there is an unfortunate jealousy subsisting between the eastern and western sections of the State, calculated to mar the happiness and prosperity of the whole, and which your committee confidently believe will entirely vanish when the system of Internal Improvement shall have been completed. Habits of daily intercourse will produce a fraternity of feeling between the inhabitants of the different sections, and the silver cord of interest will bind them to each other. But your committee are perfectly satisfied that none of these considerations would be sufficient, if nothing could be said upon the score of pecuniary interest. Mammon is the god of this world, and he must have his offering. And your committee think that even he will have no reason to object to the Internal Improvement of the State. It is true that present expenses must be incurred, and much time may elapse before a very large gain can be realized. But is not this the case with every individual scheme for money making? And does it not generally happen, the larger the sum invested, and the greater the ultimate gain, the more distant is the period of harvest? It is unnecessary to enter into any process of reasoning to shew the vast pecuniary advantages that would result to the State from the completion of our scheme of Internal Improvement: with those who do not see it, it is vain to reason, and with those who do, reasoning is unnecessary: it must be manifest to all, that the influx of State and individual wealth, upon the consummation of this most desirable object, is beyond all calculation. And that the works were all practicable, no man whose eye has penetrated beyond the fogs which hover over his own corn field, can for a moment doubt. If he does, let him take up any history, and there see recounted what has been done by man hitherto: let him converse with any traveller, and hear him tell of the mighty monuments of human skill and power which he has witnessed, and his doubts must vanish. When the immortal Washington had retired to his

native State from the toils and honors of the Revolution, we had almost said, in first act was to unlock to her this inexhaustible source of wealth and national respectability; and she has not permitted it to be opened in vain. De Witt Clinton has immortalized himself by connecting his name with the Internal Improvement of New-York; and certain it is, that the Internal Improvement of New-York will rise her to a state of national influence and splendor, sufficient to excite the envy of some of the proudest monarchies in Europe. And we would ask, what is there to hinder our pursuing the same course, and which will unquestionably end in the same result? With such inducements and such examples, why should we hesitate? Your committee appeal to the good sense, liberality and State pride which characterize their legislative brethren, to say whether they would be satisfied that your committee should recommend them to abandon, at this time, a system promising such golden fruits? Whether they would wish us to say, that the State of North-Carolina shall return to the Egyptian darkness with which her prospects have been so long beclouded, and relinquish all hopes of ameliorating her condition? Whether they would wish to pronounce the money already expended by the State a dead loss; that we shall make no use of the experience it has purchased for us, and relinquish our undertaking at the very moment we are prepared for its accomplishment? We think we hazard nothing in saying they would not.

If, then, Internal Improvement is not to be abandoned, shall we put out of our hands the only means of prosecuting it with effect? If the Civil Engineer is discharged, who is to superintend, examine and value the work and materials at the Pias below Wilmington? The State has entered into a contract with Messrs. Taylor and Williams for \$15,000, to accomplish this work; they are not bound to finish it till November next, and whether superintended or not, the State will have to pay the money. Who is there, then, but the Civil Engineer who made the contract, within our knowledge, able to decide upon its literal fulfilment? Who is to superintend the completion of the Clubfoot and Harlow Creek Canal? The work the Civil Engineer found in a bad state; money and labor wasted, (as upon all other works not under his superintendance.) He informed the Company at once that it would take \$25,000 to finish their work. They supposed that \$15,000 would do. Three-fifths of the work has been done, and \$10,000 more are wanting: this tests the accuracy of the Civil Engineer's calculations, (as is observed by the Board of Internal Improvements in their last annual Report.) This Company ask \$5,000 more of the State, which we doubt not will be granted. If the Civil Engineer is discharged, this sum will most probably be wasted; if he is not, there is no question it will be worth more to the State than so much Bank stock.

It appears satisfactory to your committee, and will no doubt to the Legislature in general, that it is to the interest of the State to subscribe to the Roanoke Navigation Company, a further sum to enable them to unite the Canal at Weldon's Orchard with the river. It is very important that this work should be done with skill. The present Civil Engineer has already saved to that Company a large sum of money, and your committee think that the propriety of doing any thing more for it, will materially depend upon the fact, whether or not the money is to be applied under the direction of the Civil Engineer. The General Assembly is aware that the Board of Internal Improvements had contracted with a gentleman for improving the navigation of Broad River, that the contract has been violated and is considered at an end. A settlement must take place with that gentleman; his work must be examined and valued, and this can only be done by a person possessing proper qualifications. There are likewise three important roads to be laid out, viz: the turnpike road from Ashville to the Tennessee line; the road from Ashville by the Hickory-nut Gap to Rutherfordton; and the road from Huntsville by Gap Civil to the Virginia line. Besides these, there will probably be other works, all requiring some skilful person to lay out, superintend and value. We have already had ample evidence in our past experience, of the folly of placing works in

the hands of men who know nothing about it. Has not the incredible waste of money, and the general failure of our schemes, arisen from that very thing? There is no species of talent or education more rare than that which qualifies a man for the important duties of a Civil Engineer.

All the expenditures to any amount made in Internal Improvements were previous to the arrival of the Civil Engineer; since that time no appropriations have been made, and his time has been occupied in making surveys and taking other measures preparatory to the prosecution of the works; hence it is that the community sees so little done. The State is now ready to do something effective; and can it be policy for us to return to the very path which has hitherto led us to ruin and to disappointment? But your committee would further remark, that if the policy of retaining the Civil Engineer were more doubtful than they believe it to be, the State is bound by her contract with Mr. Fulton, to give him six months notice of her intention to discharge him; which will be half the time intervening between this and the next session of the Legislature; at which time a fairer experiment of his utility will have been made, and the Legislature can act with more propriety upon the question. Mr. Fulton felt this article of his agreement with the State obligatory upon him, and absolutely refused the same salary from the State of Virginia which he receives from us. This fact also goes to shew to the State, that the professional merits of Mr. Fulton are not overvalued by us; for it is to be borne in mind, that Mr. Moore, the late Civil Engineer of Virginia, and Mr. Fulton, had an interview on Roanoke, and on the death of Mr. Moore, (and doubtless from the manner in which Mr. Fulton had been spoken of by him) the State of Virginia offered the vacant situation to Mr. Fulton, with the same salary which he received in this State. Mr. Fulton declined; and shall it be said that the State is less bound by her contract than an individual? that she will for the paltry consideration of \$3,500, do an act which an individual spurned at? Your committee beg leave to call the attention of the General Assembly to the reduction in the expenses of the Board of Internal Improvements, by the resignation of Mr. Brasier, the Assistant Engineer.

Your committee cannot forbear to express their high confidence in the wisdom and prudence of the present Board of Internal Improvements, which they think will afford us ample security against the recommendation of any measures not within the compass of the means provided by the General Assembly for that body.

Your committee respectfully recommend to the General Assembly the propriety of the State's persevering in her liberal and enlightened policy of Internal Improvements. That for that purpose, the Legislature proceed to the election of a Board of Internal Improvements, with power to employ a Civil Engineer.

Your committee having turned their attention to this all-important subject, confess themselves unable fully to express their deep sense of its vital interest to this State: They therefore pray their Legislative brethren to give the system a fair trial. Let it not be said that the Legislature of 1823 came like a blight upon the opening prospects of their State; that they with Vandal hands pulled down the foundations of that fair edifice which their predecessors had been rearing with so much care and solicitude. Spare the system one year longer: if nothing is done during the present year, then may you with more propriety lift up your voice against it. We look upon this as a crisis in the affairs of our State; if any thing is now done to retard the course of Internal Improvement, we believe it would be long ere it would recover from the stroke; an experiment of one year more, would, we think, satisfy us all, that our temporary expenditures will ultimately produce incalculable gain.

In behalf of the committee of Internal Improvements, JAMES MEBANE, Sub-Committee, ROBT. STRANGE.

UNITED STATES LAWS.

[BY AUTHORITY.]

AN ACT authorizing the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund to purchase the seven per cent. stock of the United States, in the year 1824.

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund be, and they are hereby, authorized to purchase, during the year one thousand eight hundred and twenty-four, any stock of the United States, bearing an interest of seven per centum per annum, not exceeding the sum of eight millions six hundred and ten thousand dollars, upon such terms as they may think proper, not exceeding the following rates above the principal sum purchased, that is to say: For all such stock as they may purchase before the first day of April next, at a rate not exceeding two dollars for every sum of one hundred dollars, in addition to the interest which would have accrued on that day upon the said stock;

For all such stock which they may purchase between the first day of April and the first day of July next, at a rate not exceeding seventy-five cents on every sum of one hundred dollars, in addition to the interest which would have accrued on the day last mentioned;

For all such stock which they may purchase between the first day of July and the first day of October next, at a rate not exceeding, on every sum of one hundred dollars, the amount of interest which would have accrued on the day last mentioned; and

For all such stock which they may purchase between the first day of October next and the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-five, at a rate not exceeding the principal and the interest which shall have accrued at the day of purchase.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That the said Commissioners are hereby authorized to make such purchases, under the foregoing restrictions, at such times and places as they may deem most expedient, out of any moneys in the Treasury, heretofore appropriated for the redemption of the public debt, or out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated.

H. CLAY, Speaker of the House of Representatives. JOHN GAILLARD, President of the Senate pro tempore. Washington, Jan. 22, 1824. Approved: JAMES MONROE.

AN ACT making a partial appropriation for the year one thousand eight hundred and twenty-four.

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the sum of two hundred and sixty-five thousand one hundred and forty dollars be, and the same is, hereby, appropriated, for the compensation granted by law to the Senate and House of Representatives, and to the officers, clerks, and servants of both Houses of Congress, and for defraying the contingent expenses thereof; and that the same be paid out of any moneys in the Treasury, not otherwise appropriated. Washington, Jan. 19th, 1824. Approved.

AN ACT further extending the term of half pay pensions to the widows and children of officers, seamen, and marines, who died in the public service.

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, in all cases where provision has been made by law for five years' half pay to the widows and children of officers, seamen, and marines, who were killed in battle, or who died in the naval service of the United States, during the late war; and, also, in all cases where provision has been made for extending the term for five years, in addition to the first term of five years, the said provision shall be further extended for an additional term of five years, to commence at the end of the second term of five years, in each case, respectively, making the provision equal to fifteen years' half pay; which shall be paid out of the fund heretofore provided by law; and the said pension shall cease, from the causes mentioned in the laws providing the same, respectively.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That from and after the passing of this act, the act, entitled "An act to amend and explain an act giving pensions to the orphans and widows of persons slain in the public or private armed vessels of the United States," passed March the third, one thousand eight hundred and seventeen, be, and the same is hereby, repealed: Provided, however, That nothing in this act contained shall be construed to prevent the payment of any pension already granted, until the full expiration of the period thereof; nor to affect or impair the rights of any person or persons which may have accrued during the existence of the act hereby repealed as aforesaid. Washington, Jan. 22, 1824. Approved.

THE WELL KNOWN JACK, DOLPHIN,

LATELY owned in South Carolina, will stand at the stable of the subscribers in the town of Concord, N. Carolina, every day in the week, Sunday excepted, throughout the season; the season to commence the 1st of March, and end the 20th of July. Dolphin will be let to mares at 10 dollars the season (but may be discharged with 8, if paid within the season,) 5 dollars the single leap, (to be paid down,) and 15 dollars to insure, the insurance money to be paid when the mare is discovered to be with foal, or is parted with by the person putting her. Particular care will be taken of mares left, in preventing accidents, &c. ASA THOMPSON, GEORGE URY. Concord, Jan. 25, 1824. 13102

Estate of Peter Eddleman, jr.

ALL persons indebted to the estate of Peter Eddleman, jr. dec'd. are requested to come forward and make payment to the subscriber, on or before the 15th of February; also, those having demands against said estate will please bring them forward, duly authenticated, for payment.

JOHN LINN, Administrator. Rowan court, Jan. 20, 1824. 3192

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