THE WESTERN CAROLINIAN.

—THE POWERS NOT DELEGATED TO THE UNITED STATES BY THE CONSTITUTION, NOR PROHIBITED BY IT TO THE STATES, ARE RESERVED TO THE STATES RESPECTIVELY, OR TO THE PEOPLE.—*Amendments to the Constitution, Article X.*—

B. AUSTIN & C. F. FISHER, EDITORS AND PROPRIETORS. | SALISBURY, N. C., NOVEMBER 1, 1838. | NO XXI, OF VOL. XIX. (NO. FROM COMMENCEMENT 959

To my late Patrons.

MY accounts are all in the hands of Messrs. Austin & Fisher, my authorized agents for collecting the same; and I once more urgently solicit all those indebted to me, either for subscription to the "Western Carolinian," Advertising, or Job Printing, to settle their accounts without delay, as I MUST HAVE MONEY. I have waited patiently until my accounts have become inordinate. Those at a distance are most earnestly requested to transmit what they owe by mail to Austin & Fisher. I hope this is my last call upon my friends.

JOS. W. HAMPTON,
Late Ed. West. Caro.

Salisbury, Oct. 25, 1838. tf

MISCELLANEOUS.

GEORGIA SCENES, CHARACTERS, AND INCIDENTS.

NEW SERIES.—SCENES III.

A FAMILY PICTURE.

I describe a Georgian family. It is a fair specimen of Georgian families generally, at the heads of which, are parents of good sense, good morals, and well improved minds. To be sure, there are in Georgia, as many notions about parental government, as there are in any other country, and the practice is as various as the opinions. Some parents exercise no government at all; others confine themselves exclusively to the government of the tongue; and others rule by the rod alone; but for the larger class, blend these several modes of government, and prefer the one or the other according to times and circumstances. To this class belonged Mr. and Mrs. Butler, the heads of the family which I am about to describe. Gilbert, was the christian name of the husband and Eliza of the wife. I was intimately acquainted with them both, before their union, and was ever afterwards admitted to their household, with the freedom of one of the members—indeed I was a connection of one of them.

They had been married about eight months, when a dull November evening found me at their fireside. In the course of the evening, the conversation turned upon raising children. 'By the way, Eliza,' said Gilbert, 'I have been thinking for some time past of interchanging views with you on this subject; and there never can be a better time than now, while Abraham is with us, whose opinions we both respect, and who will act as umpire between us.'

'Well,' said Eliza, 'let me hear yours.'

'If we should ever be blessed with children, (Eliza blushed a little,) let it be a fundamental law between us, that neither of us, ever interfere with the discipline of the other, either by word, deed, or sign, in the presence of the children.'

'To that rule I most heartily subscribe.'

'When a child is corrected by one of us, let not the other extend to it the least condolence or sympathy.'

'In that also you have my hearty concurrence.'

'Let us never correct a child in a passion.'

'The *propriety* of that rule I fully admit; but I fear that I shall not always be able to conform to its requisition. I will, however, endeavor to do so.'

'Well, if you will do your best, I shall be satisfied.'

'Let us, as far as it is practicable, introduce among our children, the universally admitted principles of good government among men.'

'That is a very indefinite rule, husband. I know very little of the principles of good government among men; and much less of those principles which are universally admitted.'

'Well, I will be a little more specific. I believe it is universally admitted that *laws*, should precede *punishment*: and that none should be punished who are incapable of understanding the law. In accordance with these principles, I would never punish a child who is incapable of distinguishing between right and wrong, nor until he shall have been forewarned of the wrong, and taught to avoid it.'

'These principles seem very reasonable to me,' said Eliza, 'but they never can be applied to children. If you do not correct a child until it is old enough to learn from precept the difference between right and wrong, there will be no living in the house with it for the first five or six years of its life and no controlling it afterwards.'

Gilbert received these views of his wife, with some alarm, and entered upon a long argument to convince her that they were erroneous. She maintained her own very well, but Gilbert had certainly the advantage of her in the argument. All he could say, however, did not in the least shake her confidence in her opinion.

I was at length appealed to, and I gave judgment in favor of Gilbert.

'Well,' said she, 'I never was better satisfied of any thing in my life than I am that you are both wrong. But let us compromise this matter. I'll agree to this: if ever I correct a child before it is old enough to receive instruction from precept, and you do not approve of my conduct, I will then promise you never to do the like again.'

'Well,' said Gilbert, 'that is very fair. One more rule will settle the fundamentals, and we may safely trust all others to future adjustment. Let us never address our children in the nonsensical gibberish, that is so universally prevalent among parents, and particularly among mothers. It is very silly in the first place, and it greatly retards a child's improvement in the second. Were it not for this, I have no doubt children would speak their mother tongue as correctly at four years old, as they do at sixteen.'

Eliza smiled, and observed, that this was such a small matter that it had also better be left to future adjustment. To this Gilbert, rather reluctantly, assented.

About two months after this conversation, Gilbert was 'blessed' with a fine son; whom he named John James Gilbert, after the two grand-fathers and himself—a profusion of names which he had cause afterwards to repent.

Just fourteen months and six days thereafter he was 'blessed' with a fine daughter, whom Eliza named, Anna Francis Eliza, after the two grandmothers and herself.

Fifteen months thereafter, he received a third blessing, like unto the first; which he called George Henry, after his two brothers.

Thirteen months and nineteen days after the birth of George, a fourth blessing descended upon Gilbert, in the form of a fine son. This took the name of William Augustus, after two brothers of his wife.

Eliza now made a long rest of nineteen months, four days and five hours, (I speak from the family record,) when, by way of amend, she presented her husband a *pair* of blessings. As soon as his good fortune was made known to him, Gilbert expressed regret, that he had not reserved his own until now, in order that the twins might bear his name and mine. Seeing this could not be, he bestowed my name upon the first born, and gave me the privilege of naming the second. As I consider a '*good name rather to be chosen than great riches*,' I called the incomparable, after Isaac the patriarch, and a beloved uncle of mine.

In this very triumphant and laudable manner, did Mrs. Butler close the list of her sons.

She now turned her attention to daughters, and in the short space of five years produced three, that a queen might have been proud of. Their names, in the order of their births, were Louisa, Rebecca and Sarah. It was one of Mrs. Butler's maxims, 'If you have any thing to do, do it at once,' and she seemed to have been governed by this maxim in making up her family; for Sarah completed the number of her children.

John was about a year old, when I was again at Gilbert's for the evening. He was seated by the supper table with the children in his arms, addressing some remarks to me, when I called his attention to the child, who was just in the act of putting his fingers into the blaze of the candle. Gilbert jerked him away suddenly; which so disappointed and incensed Master John James Gilbert, that he screamed insufferably. Gilbert tossed him, patted him, walked him, and whistled to him; but he could not distract his attention from the candle.—He removed him out of sight of the luminary, but that only made matters worse. He now commenced his first lesson in the 'principles of good government.' He brought the child towards the candle, and the nearer it approached the more pacified it became. The child extended its arm to catch the blaze, and Gilbert bore it slowly towards the flame until the hand came nearly in contact with it, when he snatched it away, crying 'bunny finnies!' which is by interpretation, 'you'll burn your fingers!'—Eliza and I exchanged smiles, but neither of us said any thing.

The child construed this into wanton teazing, and became if possible, more obstreperous than ever. Gilbert now resorted to another expedient. He put his own fingers into the blaze, withdrew them suddenly, blew them, shook them, and gave every sign of acute agony. This not only quieted, but delighted the child, who signified to him to do it again. He instantly perceived (what was practically demonstrated the minute afterwards,) that the child was put in a most dangerous interpretation upon his last illustration. He determined, therefore, not to repeat it. The child not satisfied with the sport, determined to repeat it himself; which the father opposing, he began to reach and cry as before.—There was but one experiment left; and that was, to let the child feel the flame a little. This he resolved to try but how to conduct it properly was not so easily settled. It would not do to allow the infant to put his hand into the blaze; because it would either burn it too little, or too much. He therefore resolved to direct the hand to a point so near the flame, that the increasing heat would induce the child to withdraw his hand himself. Accordingly, he brought the extended arm, slowly towards the flame; the child becoming more and more impatient with every moment's postponement of its gratification, until the hand came within about an inch of the wick, when he held the child stationary. But John would not let his hand remain stationary, nor at the chosen point. He kept snatching at the candle, till finding all his efforts fruitless, he threw himself violently back, gave his father a tremendous thump on the nose with the back of his head, and kicked and screamed most outrageously.

'You little rascal,' said Gilbert, 'I've a good mind to give you a good spanking.'

'Give him to me,' said Mrs. Butler.

'You'd better not take him.' said Gilbert, in an under tone, 'while he is in such a passion.'

'No danger,' said she; 'hand him to me.'

As she received him, 'hush, sir!' said she sharply: and the child hushed instantly and was asleep in a few minutes.

'Strange,' said Butler, 'how much sooner the mother acquires control over a child than the father.'

'Not at all,' said Mrs. Butler. 'You would have controlled him as easily as I did, if you had given him the same lesson beforehand that I gave him. He got in just such an uproar the other day, and finding nothing else would quiet him, I spanked it out of him; and I have had no trouble in quieting him since.'

"I begin to think Butler," said I "that Eliza was in right the only points of difference between you, touching the management of children.—I observed that you addressed the child just now in the gibberish which you so much condemned before you became a father: and though it seemed ridiculous enough, especially in you, I think it would have appeared still more ridiculous, if you had said to a child so young, 'John, my son, do not put your fingers into the flame of the candle, it will burn them.' And your experiment has taught you the absolute impossibility of governing children of very tender years, by prescribed rules."

"I am half inclined to your opinion;" said Butler. "Eliza's discipline has performed several good offices It has relieved us of John's insufferable noise: it has taught him to control his temper at its first appearance, and it has learned him the meaning of a word, (hush,) which will often supply the place of correction, and always forewarn him of desires unlawful. However, this case, is an exception to my rule, rather than a refutation of it. After a child gets old enough to understand the language of instruction, he should always be premonished before he is punished."

Eliza again joined issue with him, and an argument ensued, in which Gilbert silenced his wife as before; but with no better effect upon her judgement. The matter was referred to me, and I decided this time in favor of the wife; rather upon the doctrine of changes than of dialetics.

Gilbert now squared himself for an argument a little more obstinate than that from which he had just come off victorious. After waiting a reasonable time, 'well,' said he 'proceed.'

'Proceed where?' said I.

'With your reasons.

'I've got no reasons,' said I 'except that your wife thinks so.'

'Well really,' returned he, 'that is very profound; and proves you to be the best judge for the decision of my wife's controversies that she should select.'

'There may be more sound philosophy in it,' rejoined I, 'than at first sight appears. Your wife has already proved herself to be a better judge of these matters than both of us put together; and I think I understand why it is so. She has had ten times the experience in them that we have had. Her habits of life have been domestic; she has seen children of all ages, and under all circumstances; and from sixteen to twenty three she supplied her mother's place in her father's family.'

'A pretty handsome retreat,' said Gilbert.

Long before the second son arrived at the *reasoning age* Gilbert *abdicated*, unreservedly, in favor of his wife; contenting himself with the subordinate station of her ministerial officer; in which he executed her orders in cases requiring more physical strength than she possessed.

Passing over the intermediate period, I now introduce the reader to this family, after most of the children had reached the 'age of reason.' In contemplating the scene which I am about to sketch, he will be pleased to turn his thoughts occasionally to Gilbert's 'principles of good government.'

Sarah was about two years and a half old, when Gilbert invited me to breakfast with him one December's morning near the Christmas holidays.—It was the morning appointed for his second killing of hogs: which, as the southern reader knows, is a sort of family carnival in Georgia I went, and found all the children at home, and Gilbert's mother added to the family circle. John and Anna had reached the age when they were permitted to take seats at the first table; though upon this occasion John being engaged about the pork did not avail himself of his privilige; the rest of the children were taught to wait for the second table. Breakfast was announced, and after the adults and Anna had despatched their meal, the children were summoned. As they had been taught not to seat themselves at the table until they were bidden, as there were some few preparatory arrangements to be made, they all gathered round the fire, clamorous with the events of the morning.

'By Joky,' said William, 'did'nt that old black *barrah* weigh a heap!'

'Look here young gentleman,' said his mother, 'where did you pick up such language as that?—Now let me ever hear you *by-jockying* or *by*-ing any thing else again, and I'le by jocky you with a witness I'll warrant you.'

'But the black barrah,' said George, 'did'nt weigh as much for his size as the bob-tail speckle, though.'

'He did'

'He did'nt.'

'Hush your disputing—this instant stop it—you shall *not* contradict each other in that manner. And let us hear no more of your hog-pen wonders—no body wants to hear them.'

At this instant William snatched a pig-tail out of Isaac's hand.

'Ma,' said Isaac, 'make Bill gi' *me muh* tail.'

'*You* William give him his—thing. And, if I was near you I'd box your ears for that snatching. Mr. Butler, you really will have to take that fellow in hand. He's getting so that I can do nothing with him.'

'If he don't behave himself,' said Butler carelessly, 'just turn him over to me; I reckon I can manage him.'

'Ma,' said Bill,' he took my *blatha*——

'*Hush*!'

'I did'nt,'

'You did.'

'*Don't* I tell you to hush your disputing.

'Well ma, uncle York gave it to me.'

'He did'nt; uncle Monday gave it to me.'

'He did'nt.,

'He did.'

Here the mother divided a pair of slaps equally between the two disputants, which silenced them for a few moments.

At this juncture, Miss Rebeca cried out with a burnt finger; which she received in cooking another pig-tail. The burn was so slight that she forgot it as her mother jerked her from the fire.

'You little vixen,' said the mother, 'what possesses you to be a fumbling about the fire! Mr. Butler I beseech you to forbid the negroes giving these children any more of these poison pig tails. They are a source of endless torment. And now young gentlemen—one and all of you—the next one of you that brings one of those things into this house again I'll box his ears as long as I can find him.—Now remember it. Come along to your breakfast.'

In a little time after some controversy about places which was arrested by the mother's eye, they were all seated; John who had dropped in, in the mean time, taking his father's seat

'Is s-sp!' said William, '*sassidges*, that's what I love.'

'Hoo!' said Isaac, 'Spare-ribs!' that's what I love

'Well cease your gab, and eat what's set before you without comments. No body cares what you love or what you dont love.'

'Souse,' said Abraham, 'I dont love souse—I would'nt *eat* souse ta'nt fitten for a dog to eat.'

'Get up sir: right from the table, and march out of the house until you learn better manners.—I'll be bound if I say you shall eat souse, you eat it. Do you hear me sir.,

Abraham raked himself lazily out of his seat, and moved slowly off, casting a longing look at the many good things on the table which he thought fitten for a prince to eat.

'Ma, said he as he retired, 'I wish you'd make Bill quit laughing at me'

'William, 'I've as great a mind as I ever had to do any thing in my life, to send you from the table, and not let you eat one mouthful. I despise that abominable disposition you have, of rejoicing at your brother's misfortunes. Remember sir, what Solomon says: 'he that is glad at calamities shall not be unpunished.'

'Ma,' said Abraham, 'may'nt I come to my breakfast.'

'Yes, if you think you can now behave yourself with decency.'

Abraham returned; and they all broke forth at once.'

'Ma,' may'nt I have some *sassidge?*' Ma, I want some spare-rib.' Ma I a'n't got no coffee.' 'Ma, if you please ma'am let me have some hangravy, and some fried homony, and some egg, and ——,

'And some of every thing on the table I suppose! Put down your plates—every one of you. George what'll you have.'

'Some *sassidge*, and some fried potato.'

'Johe, help your brother George.'

[*To be concluded in our next.*]

THE "KEY OF DEATH."

In the collection of the curiosities preserved in the Arsenal at Venice, there is a key, of which the following singular tradition is related:

"About the year 1600, one of those dangerous men, in whom extraordinary talent is only the fearful source of crime and wickedness beyond that of ordinary men, came to establish himself as a merchant or trader in Venice. The stranger, whose name was Tebaldo, became enamored of the daughter of an ancient house, already affianced to another. He demanded her in marriage, and was of course rejected. Enraged at this, he studied how to be revenged. Profoundly skilled in the mechanical arts, he allowed himself no rest until he had invented the most formidable weapon which could be imagined. This was a key of a large size, the handle of which was so constructed, that it could be turned round with little difficulty. When turned, it discovered a spring, which, on pressure, launched from the other end a needle or lancet of such subtle finess, that it entered into the flesh and buried itself there without leaving external trace. Tebaldo waited in disguise, at the door of the church in which the maiden whom he loved was about to receive the nuptial benediction. The assassin sent the slender steel, unpercieved in the breast of the bridegroom. The wounded man had no suspicion of injury, but, seized with sudden and sharp pain in the midst of the ceremony, he fainted, and was carried to his house amid the lamentations of the bridal party. Vain was all the skill of the physicians, who could not divine the cause of this strange illness, and in a few days he died.

"Tebalda again demanded the hand of the maiden from her parents, and received a second refusal. They too perished miserably in a few days. The alarm which these deaths, which appeared almost miraculous, excited the utmost vigilance of the magistrates; and when on close examination of the bodies, the small instrument was found in the gangrened flesh, terror was universal: every one feared for his own life. The maiden, thus cruelly orphaned, had passed the first months of morning in a convent, when Tebaldo, hoping to bend her to his will, entreated to speak with her at the grate. The face of the foreigner had been ever displeasing to her, but since the death of all those most dear to her, it had become odious, (as though she had a presentment of his guilt) and her reply was most decisive in the negative. Tebaldo, beyond himself with rage, attempted to wound her through the grate and succeeded; the obscurity of the place prevented his movement from being observed. On her return to her room the maiden felt a pain in her breast and uncovering it, she found it spotted with a single drop of blood. The pain increased, the surgeons who hastened to her assistance, taught by the past, wasted no time in conjecture, but cutting deep into the wounded part extracted the needle before any mortal mischief had commenced, and saved the life of the lady. The state inquisitions used every means to discover the hand which dealt these insidious and irresistible blows. The visit of Tebaldo to the convent caused suspicion to fall heavily upon him. His house was carefully searched, the infamous weapon discovered, and he perished on the gibbet.

RARE HONESTY.

The following circumstances are related in an English paper:

A farmer called on Fitzwilliam to represent that his crop of wheat had been seriously injured in a field adjoining a certain wood, where his hounds has during the winter gone to hunt. He stated that the young wheat had been so cut up and destroyed, that in some parts he could not hope for any produce.

"Well my friend," said his Lordship, "I am aware that we have frequently met in that field, and that we have done considerable injury, and if you can procure an estimate on the loss you have sustained, I will repay you."

The farmer replied that, anticipating his lordship's consideration and kindness, he had requested a friend to assist him in estimating the damage, and they thought that, as the crop had been entirely destroyed, £50 would not more than pay him.—The Earl immediately gave him the money. As the harvest, however, approached, the wheat grew, and in those places of the field that were trampled, the corn was the strongest and most luxuriant The farmer went again to his lordship, and being introduced, said:

"I am come, my lord, respecting the field of wheat adjoining such a wood."

His lordship instantly recollected the circumstances.

"Well, my friend, did I not allow you sufficient to remunerate you for your loss?"

"Yes, my lord, I have found that I have sustained no loss at all, for where the horses had most cut up the land, the crop is the most promising, and I have therefore brought the £50 back again."

"Ah!" exclaimed the venerable Earl, "this is what I like; this is what ought to be between man and man."

He then entered into conversation with the farmer, asking some questions about his family, how many children he had, &c. His lordship then went into another room and returning, presented the farmer a check for $100.

"Take care of this, and when your eldest son is of age, present it to him, and tell him the occasion that produced it."

We know not which most to admire, the benevolence or the wisdom displayed by this illustrious man; for, while doing a noble act of generosity, he was handing down a lesson of integrity to another generation.

AGRICULTURAL.

HINTS SUGGESTED FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN N. CAROLINA.

It must be the cause of deep regret to every real friend of North Carolina to see the state of Agriculture among us reduced to the lowest ebb—thousands of acres of land are annually destroyed—and our best citizens are deserting their exhausted farms and emigrating to new countries.

Agriculture, instead of being pursued upon the rational plan of improvement—instead of being bro't into notice, respected, encouraged and patronized—is, on the contrary, followed upon principles destructive to the land and therefore, destructive to the strength and prosperity of the State, and remains neglected and degraded.

Why is agriculture thus neglected and degraded in North Carolina?—Our soil and climate, (generally speaking) are equal to those of any of our sister States—and are happily calculated to reward the labors of the husbandman in the most bountiful manner. Our State is intersected with numerous rivers, intended by nature as so many links to bind us more closely together in a friendly and commercial intercourse—and to encourage the cultivators of the soil to increase its various products, by affording them a quick and cheap transportation to market. In other States, enjoying no better natural advantages than we possess, we see agriculture flourishing—population increasing—every man bound and endeared to his native spot, because from it he derives ample subsistence, comfort and happiness.

Why is this not the case in North Carolina?—It may be traced to two causes—a neglect of internal improvement and to a want of knowledge among farmers as to the best modes of cultivating the soil—and a zeal and emulation to effect improvements therein.

Wise governments have, in all ages, bestowed particular attention towards internal improvement as being objects of the first importance; as they particularly promote the prosperity of agriculture, upon which the strength and independence of every nation must depend.

In all countries where agriculture has flourished, it has been found, that its prosperity was promoted in proportion to the increase of internal improvements. Nothing gives a more elastic spring to agriculture, than roads, canals, and interior navigation. They open new channels of communication—new fronts to property—and stimulate improvements, not only in husbandry—but to all branches of employment, to which labor and capital are profitably applied.

It has been stated that the wretched system of agriculture existing among us, was also owing to the want of information in farmers, as to the best modes of cultivating the soil, or of emulation and zeal to make improvements. To test the correctness of this opinion, we need only cast our eyes over the State, and observe thousands of acres of land completely worn out, washed into gullies, and turned out as a common—fields and farms in a state of wretched foulness—producing scanty crops hardly worth the labor of cultivation—the system of farming itself being one of exhaustion and impoverishment, instead of renovation and improvement—That the proprietors of the soil in this State, should have left the subject of agriculture so long in a state of almost total neglect and inattention, has always been to me, not only a source of poignant regret, but of utter astonishment. No landholders of our country exceed, and a great proportion do not equal them, in intelligence, education or mental acquirement. Yet they have suffered the cultivation of the soil, upon which not only their own subsistence and happiness depend, but that of their posterity, to remain without change or amelioration, from generation to generation.

To aid improvements, (in land) the grasses should be brought more generally into cultivation among us; they have hitherto been too much, or I might say, almost entirely neglected. By cultivating them, we should raise more bread and more meat; by cultivating them, in preparing meadows and well turfed standing pastures for stock, we should be enabled to exclude the tooth and the hoof from our arable lands, and thus rapidly facilitate their improvement under the inclosing system.

The present mode of supporting stock is principally from the corn house. By neglecting the culture of grasses, the stock is maintained (if well