

CAROLINA CENTINEL.

[VOLUME IV.]

NEWBERN, N. C. SATURDAY, JANUARY 5, 1822.

[NUMBER 198.]

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED WEEKLY, BY

PASTEUR & WATSON,

At \$ 3 per annum—half in advance.

From a late European Publication.

BOTANY.

Of all the animate and inanimate productions of nature, flowers have the least reason to complain of the neglect or unkindness of man; Esop, Gay, and La Fontaine in conjunction, would find it difficult to discover a grievance for them which they could lay, with any justice, at the foot of Jove's imperial throne. In every age and every nation they have been honoured and cherished, loved and admired. In the olden time they graced the festivals, and adorned the altars, of the deities. A goddess, ever blooming and young, superintended their interests, and her marriage with the gentle Zephyrus must have singularly promoted the welfare of her delicate subjects. They have been showered on the heads of heroes, been twisted into the chaplets of Hymen, and chosen by Love as his most appropriate gifts, and most intelligible symbols. Affection has delighted to srew them on the graves of the departed, and poetry has sung their praise, till the wearied ear turns from the oft-told tale.

Who will assert that in modern days flowers are less honourably distinguished? who that has seen the Epargne laden with their mingled blossoms; the most dainty dishes garnished with their brilliant tints; or the splendid drawing-rooms and gay boudoirs, where they grow in tubs, or float in vases, or stiffen in saucers filled with moistened sand—who, above all, that has beheld them in bunches, bushes, and arborets mingling with the tresses, towering high above the heads, or, as in recent times, hanging confusedly about the throats of our most fashionable females?—“Flowers of all hues, and without thorn the rose.”

With how much care, too, do we tend “the firstlings of the year,” and endeavor to persuade them to expand their bright petals, and breathe their delicious scents a little earlier than the laws of nature permit. In the language of that exquisite poem, “The Flower and the Leaf,” the choicest offering which Flora's altars ever received:

“When buds, that yet the blast of Eurus fear,
Stand at the door of life, and doubt to clothe the year.”

we tempt them forth, and promise them our fostering protection. “Then, at our call emboldened,” the hyacinth, the narcissus, and the crocus burst their sheaths; we delight to deck our rooms with these children of early spring—we display them exultingly at our windows, and “Qui possit violas addere, dives erit.”

Faint, however, are the pleasures which flowers afford in cities, when compared with those which they bestow upon their admirers in the country. There, the florist rears them near his home, watches them, improves them by culture, takes a parental interest in their progress, and a lover's pride in their charms, while health and cheerfulness reward his labours.—There, the botanist explores the hedges, and traverses the hills in pursuit of some new addition to his herbal or his knowledge, and the barren heath and dull common acquire interest and beauty in his eyes.

“Oh! friendly to the best pursuits of man,
Friendly to thought, to virtue & to peace.”

are tastes and studies of this description, when cultivated as the amusement, not the business of life, and kept in due suberviency to higher and more useful pursuits.

Botany appears to be peculiarly adapted to the study of ladies, as it tempts them to the enjoyment of air and exercise, which though the best friends to health and beauty, the most effectual remedies for nervousness and ennui, are yet very generally neglected by the flowers of the human race. It is a science, too, within the range of female acquirement, and is repugnant to neither humanity nor elegance. Entomology is cruel; mineralogy and geology difficult and laborious; conchology expensive; but botany is both cheap and easy, healthful and innocent, open to the pursuit of all, and requiring only just so much study and attention as may awaken interest, and occupy without wearying the mind. It is favorable, also, to the acquisition of habits of inquiry and observation, and sends the eye constantly abroad on expeditions of discovery.

We know there are those who assert that the Linnæan system of botany is un-

fit for the study of innocence and modesty; but the accusation is a reproach to the mind of him who makes it, and savours of the spirit which in heathen days polluted the festivals of Flora. Those only who were already immodest could have first suggested the idea; for, to the good and pure, it sounds monstrous and unintelligible. But “the putrid spider converts that to poison which the bee works to honey;” and it is thus that man has, at different times, debased and injured all he has touched, and lowered the most glorious pursuits to the level of his own corruption. Music, fit amusement for angels, has ministered to voluptuousness; painting to the grossest impurity; poetry has forgotten its noble nature to sing of forbidden things; and even botany, a study which unfolds the wonderful economy of nature, displays its beautiful regularity, and is conversant with those lovely and harmless things, the flowers of the field, convey to some unhappy minds thoughts most unlike the pureness of the lily, or the sweetness of the rose. There are minds, however, of a different stamp, minds which adorn and enrich all they touch, which can learn wisdom from a flower, piety from a blade of grass, can find “sermons in stones, and good in every thing.” The man thus happily gifted, walks forth into the fields—the daisy, “wee, modest, crimson-tipped blossom,” the eye-bright, with its painted blossom, the golden tormentil, or the blue hare-bell spangles the turf on which he treads; while the hedges are covered with the clusterings of the wild rose, the garlands of the convolvulus and honey-suckle, or starred with the English geranium, the bright hypericum, or the fairy scorpiograss. Astonished by the profusion of beauty, the wantonness of ornament which meet him wherever he turns his eyes, he asks their use and design, his heart rises in wonder and praise to the throne of the Great Creator, and—he is answered.

The more we study, the closer we observe the operations and provisions of nature, the greater will be our wonder, the higher our admiration. Every separate plant has doubtless its own history, its distinct uses, its peculiar inhabitants; and, like St. Pierre's strawberry, may furnish a study too diffuse, too deep, for the life of an individual.

The physiology of vegetables is a most curious and entertaining branch of the science of botany; and, owing to the great improvement of our microscopes, may be pursued to an extent far beyond the most sanguine hopes of former students. In some recent experiments, the growth of wheat was actually rendered visible to the eye; a bubble of gas was seen to dart forth, carrying with it a portion of vegetable matter, which instantaneously formed into a fine tube, and one fibre was completed. In short, with instruments like our's, what may we not hope to accomplish in studies, unexhausted and inexhaustible as are those of nature. History, biography, geography, may no longer furnish scope for novelty; even fancy's wide domain may be filled to repletion; but the botanist, the chemist, and the geologist, have employment before them for centuries to come, and long, indeed, will it be ere they can have cause “to weep for new worlds to conquer.”

Our Saviour's words, “Consider the lilies of the field how they grow,” acquire additional force and peculiar beauty, when we remember that they were suggested by the sight of the splendid amaryllis lutea, a species of lily which abounds in the land of Palestine. Who does not feel their emphasis, when he imagines our blessed Lord standing on the mount, from whence his divine sermon was delivered, surrounded by an attentive and wondering throng, whom he is urging to lay aside unnecessary cares, and trust in the bounty of their heavenly Father; and then sees him pointing towards those glorious lilies which decked the surrounding plain, and deducing from their beauty, exceeding the pomp of kings' attire, lessons of simplicity in dress, freedom from vain or excessive cares, and dependance on Almighty protection.

MR. HURLEY, DENTIST,
Has the pleasure of offering his acknowledgments for the flattering encouragement he has received from the ladies and gentlemen of Newbern, and would inform such as may still require his professional services, that as he contemplates remaining in town but a short time applications to him should be made speedily.
Dec. 22, 1821.—96,

Legislature of North Carolina

SENATE.

Friday, Dec. 21.

Mr. Hatch, from a committee, reported a bill amending the act to incorporate the Clubfoot and Harlow's Creek Canal Company.—Read the 1st time.

Mr. Graves reported the following bills, which passed their first readings, viz: A bill concerning the duty of Sheriffs in the sale of land for taxes. Also, a bill to authorise D. Jarvis to erect a gate. He also presented the petition of the heirs of Micajah Thomas, praying for a land warrant.—Read and referred.

Mr. Spaight, of Craven, from the Judiciary committee, reported a bill to provide a further remedy to prevent suits from being brought in the county courts, when said courts shall not have jurisdiction. He also presented a bill to consolidate into one, the several acts relative to the appointment of Trustees of the University.

The Senate proceeded to the order of the day on the Revenue Bill, in committee of the whole, Mr. Person in the chair, and spent the remainder of the day in discussing it.

Saturday, Dec. 22.

Four engrossed private bills were received from the House of Commons, which passed their first, second and third readings, and were ordered to be enrolled. Thirteen other bills and three resolutions, which passed the House of Commons, were read the first time in this House.

Mr. Ruffin presented a bill concerning the 2d. regiment of Stokes; and

Mr. Bryan, a bill to authorise the employment of an Architect for the State. Read the 1st time.

The Senate resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Bryan in the chair, on the Revenue bill, after going through which, the committee took up the following resolution;

Resolved, That it is expedient to tax the tenement in which any banking operations are conducted, which are not authorised by a charter from the Legislature of this State.

After several hours' debate, the committee determined, by a majority of 5 or 6, to tax such tenements, \$50,000.

Monday, Dec. 24.

On motion of Mr. Outlaw, the committee of the whole, to whom was referred the Resolutions presented by Mr. Williamson, on the subject of a Convention was discharged; and on motion of Mr. Bryan, the Resolutions were indefinitely postponed 36 to 23.

Mr. Graves presented the petition of Joseph Stater of Surry, stating that he has obtained a patent for a method of removing blindness in horses, and offering to communicate the same on certain conditions. Referred.

By Mr. Seawell, a bill to amend an act passed in 1816, concerning the Navigation of Neuse River, and an act passed in 1812, for opening and improving the Navigation of Neuse River.

Mr. Spaight, from the Judiciary Committee, reported unfavorably on the proposition for allowing compensation to witnesses attending trials before Justices of the Peace.

The resolution reported by the Committee on Internal Improvements recommending the retaining the Civil Engineer of the State, was carried 32 to 25.

Tuesday, Dec. 25.

Mr. Spaight, from the Judiciary Committee, reported unfavorably on the proposition for making it the duty of the Courts to take up the State docket first at each term.

The following bills were presented:

By Mr. Marshall, a bill to regulate the County Courts of Anson;

Mr. Graves, a bill to incorporate the town of Huntsville, in Surry;

Mr. Hatch, a bill to authorise John Washington, of Lenoir, to erect a bridge across Neuse River;

Mr. Spaight, a bill further to regulate the Newbern Academy;

Mr. Seawell, a bill to alter the time of the sitting of the next General Assembly;

Which bills passed their first reading. The Revenue Bill, being under consideration, it was moved to be amended by Mr. Seawell, by adding to it a section taxing every tenement within this State in which shall be located or conducted any banking operations not authorized by a charter from this State, \$10,000.—This motion was negatived by the casting vote of the Speaker, there being 29 votes for it and 29 against it.

Mr. Alston, moved to add a clause taxing the tenements in Raleigh in which the operations of the State Bank are carried on \$10,000, but the proposition was negatived 40 to 18.

On motion of Mr. Outlaw, the committee of the whole to whom was committed the Bill to establish a Bank by the title of the Bank of North-Carolina, to provide a fund for defraying the expense of the Government and to lighten the burthens of the people, was discharged; when Mr. Williamson moved that the bill be indefinitely postponed which motion, was negatived 36 votes to 24.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Saturday, Dec. 22.

The following bills were presented:

By Mr. Stanly, a bill to enable infants, in certain cases, to make conveyances of property. He also presented a bill authorizing certain limitations of slaves by deeds. Also, a bill to explain part of an act of 1777, for establishing Courts of Law, &c.

Mr. Jeffreys, a bill declaring the effect of deeds and conveyances in trust, and to prevent fraud, &c.

Mr. Spencer, a bill to repeal part of an act of the last session, as respects allowances to Clerks and Door-keepers.

Mr. Burns, a bill to alter the time of holding the County Court of Carteret.

Each read the first time.

John Cowan of Wilmington, was elected Colonel of Cavalry, in the 3d. brigade.

Mr. Moore from a committee, reported in favor of removing the Library to the Conference Hall, and in favor of adding \$100 to the annual appropriation for its increase.

Monday, Dec. 24.

The following bills were presented:

By Mr. Stanly, a bill to incorporate a company to deepen the Swash called Blair's Channel in Pamptico Sound;

Mr. Strange, a bill in addition to the act appointing a Special Magistrate in Fayetteville.

Mr. White, a bill to establish Spring Grove Academy in Anson;

M. Blackledge, a bill to amend the act respecting a turnpike road from Pungo River to Plymouth;

Mr. Burton a bill to alter the name of Aaron Griffin and others.

These bills were read the first time, and the latter one rejected.

Tuesday, Dec. 25.

The following Gentlemen were elected a Board of Internal Improvements for the next year, viz. Isaac T. Avery, Bartlet Yancey, John D. Hawkins, Thos. Turner, Durant Hatch, jr. and Wm. J. Cowan.

The House unanimously resolved that the Public Treasurer be directed to pay Denison Olmsted one hundred dollars, to defray his expenses in making a Geological and Mineralogical Survey of the State.

EDUCATION.

Mr. Hawks, of Newbern said that he held in his hand a resolution, connected with a subject so vitally important to the best interests of North-Carolina, that he hoped the House would pardon him, should he trespass on its time by submitting a few remarks previous to the introduction of the resolution. The subject to which he adverted, was that of education. I have (said Mr. H.) called it important; and sir, in a government constituted as is ours, emphatically a government of the people, to dissipate the clouds of prejudice and ignorance, must be an object “devoutly to be wished.”

It may have suited the temper and the genius of an earlier age contentedly to grope in the thick darkness which enveloped it; nay, sir, at this day, the vassals of a despot may hug their chains, nor once wish for a ray of light to shoot across the gloom of that prison-house in which their minds lie fettered; but among a people self-governed and free, these things should not be so. It was sir, part of the legacy left to a beloved country by the patriot whose portrait adorn these walls, that where public opinion gives force to the structure of government, to render that structure permanent, it is essential that public opinion should be enlightened. But, sir, our attention is called to this subject by a consideration far more important than any I have mentioned. That Constitution which we have sworn to support, enjoins it on us “to establish free schools for the convenient instruction of youth;” to be indifferent, therefore, in this matter is to be criminal.

Let it be remembered, too, that in our land, we recognize not the odious distinctions created by birth or wealth, but that the son of the humblest and poorest individual may attain to the highest offices in the state, if he can produce those noblest of all recommendations, integrity and intelligence.

I believe, sir, that we are called to the adoption of this resolution by the solemn obligation of an oath, by considerations of justice, and by the important reflection that we are enlightening those who are to be among the future legislators of North-Carolina.

Resolved, That a standing committee be appointed, whose duty it shall be to inquire whether the injunction of the Constitution, requiring the establishment of schools by the Legislature for the convenient instruction of youth, has been properly respected by the Legislature; that said committee report, from time to time, such plans for carrying said requisition into effect as they may deem expedient and within the power of the state.

Mr. FISHER, of Salisbury, said, he was much pleased the other day, when the gentleman from Newbern, (Mr. Hawks) introduced a resolution, raising, in this House, a standing committee on the subject of education. Indeed, it was, to him, a matter of surprise that the subject had been so long and so shamefully neglected by the Legislature, to whose care and attention it is recommended by an injunction of the Constitution. Mr. F. said, the importance of educating the youth of the country is too generally known, to require any illustrations from him; but, notwithstanding its acknowledged importance, what has North-Carolina ever done for it in a public way? Much has been done by the liberal spirit of individuals—nothing by the State. While thousands have been expended in surveying the rough banks of our rivers, and in other works of improvements, what has been done by the Legislature towards removing the obstructions of ignorance, and to let the light of knowledge in upon the great mass of the people? Surely it is as much the duty of the Legislature to bring into action the moral and intellectual capacities of the people, as to develop the natural resources of the state.—Every wise government, that ever existed, has been mindful of the education of its youth. We see even the present governments of Europe, where ignorance among the people is safety to the rulers, fostering learning and literature. If, in such governments, it is proper, how much more so here, where the wisdom of our laws, depends upon the intelligence of the people, and the stability of our government on their virtues? How humbled in the dust must we feel, when we compare what we have done with what has been done by some other of our sister states!

Mr. F. said, he held in his hand a few statements of the appropriations made by several of the states for the purposes of education and learning. The example, on this occasion was worthy of imitation.

By an official report, made in 1818, it appears that the library fund of Virginia exceeded 1,114,000 dollars, and that, when completed the annual income from it will equal 90,000 dollars. This large income is intended for the establishment of primary schools, and to the education of the poor.

The literary fund of Connecticut is still larger than that of Virginia—that of New-York is yet more magnificent. The aggregate amount of her school and literary funds exceeds 1,434,000 dollars.

Besides these, the greater number of the old states, and all the new states, have large funds set apart for the purposes of education. But what has North-Carolina done? or, what is she doing in this important work?

Mr. F. said, he made these statements in order that the House might contrast the high and liberal policy of these our sisters in the Union with that of our own. Surely it is time for us to start in this race of intellectual improvement—time to shake off an indifference on a subject so nearly connected with the future character and prosperity of our State. Under feelings of this kind, he would submit to the House a resolution which he held in his hand. It proposes an inquiry into the propriety of creating a school and literary fund. If we cannot at once do much, we may, at all events make a beginning, and prepare the way for future exertions.

Resolved, That the committee on education be instructed to enquire into the propriety of setting apart the proceeds from certain objects of taxation, for the purpose of creating a fund, to be called “The Literary and School Fund,” which shall be applied exclusively to the support of schools and academies; and that said committee also inquire what will be proper objects of taxation for that purpose, and how the fund so accruing should be invested until it grows sufficiently large to be applied to the objects for which it is created.

The resolution was adopted.