

COMMUNICATION

FOR THE REGISTER.

Messrs. Gates & Son.—The attitude of the Bible cause in the United States has, for some time, been peculiarly interesting. One thousand copies of the sacred volume have been daily published the past season by the American Bible Society, and there is a very general movement among the friends of the Bible throughout our happy and extensive country. Their present sublime and god-like object is, to place within two years from last May, the Holy Bible, "without note or comment," in every destitute family in the Union, that is willing to purchase or receive it as a gift.

It has been estimated that this grand enterprise will require eight hundred thousand Bibles, weighing four hundred tons, and costing more than fifteen tons of specie. But the amount of funds already secured for this object—the number of Bibles already prepared—and the deep and intense interest almost simultaneously excited in every section of the Union, afford the most cheering prospect of complete success. There is embarked in this cause an amount of talent, of wealth, of patriotism, of benevolence, and of enlightened piety, which will, it is believed, with the Divine blessing, surmount every barrier that may oppose its progress, remove every obstacle from its way, and never relinquish the work till it is finished.

In North Carolina, the Bible cause has just assumed a new and cheering aspect. The great meeting on the 18th ult. in the Capitol at Raleigh, will constitute a new era in the history of Biblical operations in this region. Since that meeting, the North Carolina Bible Society has ordered eight thousand Bibles and one thousand Testaments to the eastern and middle Counties, for the purpose of making, during the winter, a general effort in those sections of the State.

Four Agents have been appointed, viz: the Rev. Alexander McJor and the Rev. Francis Dutton, of the Presbyterian Church—the Rev. John Armstrong, of the Baptist Church, and the Rev. Thos. Hathaway, of the Methodist Connection. They will immediately enter upon the duties of their agency. Others will join them as soon as the Society shall be able to secure the services of suitable men. It is expected, that the Rev. Mr. Gould, of the Presbyterian Church, and the Rev. Mr. Dowd, of the Baptist Church, will act as General Agents, under the direction of the American Bible Society. Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! and unite their efforts, their charities and prayers, in promoting the dearest interests of their fellowmen, the glory of their Saviour!

Before we close this communication, we will make a few statements and calculations.

In two counties, Granville and Caswell, all the destitute families have been supplied with Bibles; and what is very creditable to these counties, after having accomplished the good work within their own bounds, they discover a readiness to afford liberal aid in supplying the whole State. Iredell county is nearly supplied, and full payment has been made for 1400 Bibles and 800 Testaments.—This county, it is believed, will afford its proportion of aid to the general cause. Wake county has nearly supplied its own wants, and has just resolved to raise \$1000, towards the supplying of the whole State.—So much of this liberal sum has already been secured, as affords every encouragement to hope the whole will, in due time, be obtained.

In Robeson, Orange, Guilford, Rowan, Mecklenburg, Burke, and perhaps a few others, considerable progress has been made in supplying their own wants. In Moore, Person, Pitt and Edgecombe, the good work has recently been commenced under favorable auspices.

Investigations actually made in several counties which we have mentioned, and which are not surpassed in wealth, intelligence and piety by any counties in the State, have brought to light an alarming destitution of the Holy Scriptures. From facts thus obtained, the number of destitute families in North Carolina has been differently estimated by different gentlemen. We fear the number does not fall much short of thirty thousand, i. e. one third of all our families. We are aware, that some persons have calculated the number at fifty thousand. This we believe is too high an estimate.

Some persons will probably be greatly surprised to learn the magnitude of the work which we have undertaken, and the important measures which have already been adopted, and from which we cannot now recede with honor. There is, however, we apprehend, no just cause for alarm, either as respects the final success of the enterprise, or the amount of pecuniary means which it may be necessary for individuals to afford. Under the smiles of a benign Providence, we rely for success chiefly on small sums which the friends of the Bible in moderate circumstances can give without inconvenience. Are there not in North Carolina, twenty thousand persons who will readily contribute each one dollar, to secure so noble, so glorious an object? Are there not a considerable number in the State whose ample means and benevolent feelings will prompt them to give their fives, their tens, their twenties, or even their fifties or hundreds? We know there are some of this description; and doubtless there are many others of whom we have no personal knowledge.

This is not a Sectarian work. It is the blessed Bible, "without note or comment," which we are invited to aid in giving to all our destitute families. It is not a "money-making business," for Bibles of "good paper, as beautiful print, and substantial binding," cannot be procured in the whole world, on as low terms as they are afforded

by the American Bible Society and its Auxiliaries.—But it is a work of extensive benevolence, commending its claims to the consciences of good men. A. Dec. 17.

STATE LEGISLATURE.

IN SENATE.

Wednesday, Dec. 16.

Mr. Meares, from the Judiciary Committee, to whom was referred the resolution instructing them to enquire into the expediency of passing a law to make the Journals of the General Assembly competent evidence on the trial of Defendants on indictments in certain cases, reported that such a law would conflict with the Constitution of the State, and asked to be discharged from its further consideration.

On motion of Mr. Wellborn, Resolved, That the committee of Finance be instructed to enquire into the expediency of amending the Revenue Laws of this State in a particular manner, in relation to large entries of land, say from 30,000 to 500,000 acres, on which grants have issued to citizens of other States, and where for the space of thirty years, said land has never been given in nor sold for the taxes agreeably to law, these dormant titles having slept ever since the year 1796.

Mr. Meares, from the Judiciary Committee, to whom was referred a Resolution on the subject of establishing a Superior Court of Law, in Macon county, made a report asking to be discharged from its further consideration.

Mr. Brower presented a bill accompanied by a petition, to prevent obstructions in the runs of Big and Little Pole Cat creeks in Randolph county. Read the first time.

Mr. Mosely, a bill to authorise Nathan G. Blount to erect a spiral wheel on Neuse River.

Mr. Saunderson, a bill to compensate the Board of Wardens for the county of Hyde—which bills passed their first reading.

Mr. Miller presented the petition of James Moore of Duplin county. Referred.

Mr. Martin submitted a Resolution, that no private or public bill shall be introduced, after Monday next, which on motion of Mr. Spaight, was postponed indefinitely.

Thursday, Dec. 17.

Mr. Mitchell, from the committee on Internal Improvement, to whom was referred the bill to amend an act passed in 1827, to amend an act passed in 1824, giving the assent of North Carolina to certain acts of the Tennessee Legislature, returned it to the Senate and recommended its rejection. Concurred in and rejected.

A balloting took place for Brigadier General of the 14th brigade and 8th division, but no choice was effected.

Mr. Pool presented a bill to amend an act passed in 1827, to prevent persons from obstructing the passage of Fish, up New-begun creek in the county of Pasquotank. Read the first time.

Mr. Williams of Martin, from the committee of Propositions and Grievances, to whom was referred the bill to establish a new county, from the counties of Cumberland, Moore, Wake and Chatham, together with the petition on the subject, made a report recommending the rejection of the bill which was concurred in.

On motion of Mr. Sneed, Resolved, that the committee of Finance be instructed to enquire into the nature and extent of the duties imposed upon the Comptroller since the session of 1827, and ascertain whether the proper discharge of those duties requires the aid of a clerk or not.

Mr. Wellborn presented a bill to restore to credit, Joshua Pennell of Wilkes. Read the first time.

Mr. Hinton of Beaufort, presented a bill declaring certain offices incompatible with the office of Justice of the Peace.—Read the first time. (The offices alluded to are County Register and County Surveyor.)

The engrossed bill to incorporate Bethmont Academy in Orange county, was read the third time and ordered to be enrolled.

Mr. Moore presented the resignation of Abraham Vannoy, Lieut. Colonel of the second regiment of Stokes county Militia; and Mr. Williams of Martin, presented the resignation of James Burney, Lieut. Col. of the Columbus Militia, which were read and accepted.

EVENING SESSION.

The following bills from the House of Commons passed their first reading, viz: To authorise John V. Sumner, late sheriff of Gates county to collect the arrears of taxes due him in said county, for the year 1827. To alter the times of holding elections in the 6th Congressional District.—To extend the provisions of an act passed in 1826, to appoint commissioners to build a new Court-house in Surry county—appointing Commissioners to run out and mark the dividing line between the counties of Anson and Mecklenburg.—To repeal an act passed at the session of 1828, authorising the courts of the counties of Ashe and Wilkes to keep in repair a road by Jefferson, by the imposition of tolls on said road.

Mr. Allen presented a bill to remove the elections for members of the General Assembly &c. from the Warm Springs in Buncombe to the house of Col. Alfred Hinton on the French Broad River. Read the first time.

The following engrossed bills passed their second and third readings and were ordered to be enrolled, viz: Further to amend an act passed in 1818, to authorise the County Courts of Craven and Cumberland, to appoint special Justices of the Peace &c.—To incorporate the Philadomic Association in Halifax; and the bill to attach Captain Alexander's Company of Iredell Militia.

Friday, Dec. 18.

Mr. Meares from the Judiciary Committee, made a report, asking to be discharged from the further consideration of the Resolution, to provide by law, for a more durable authentication of divisions of real estates. Concurred in.

Mr. M. from the same committee, to whom was referred the bill for the relief of debtors whose real estate may hereafter be sold by execution, reported the same without amendment and recommended its rejection. Concurred in.

Mr. Williams of Martin, from the committee of Propositions and Grievances to whom was referred the bill to annex a part of the county of Jones to Lenoir county, together with a petition, made a report, recommending the rejection of the bill and petition. Concurred in.

Mr. M'Entire, from the select committee, to whom a petition on the subject was referred, reported a bill to provide for the better organization of the county Courts of Rutherford. Read the first time.

The report of the committee of Propositions and Grievances against the petition of Jones Clark was taken up. Mr. Davidson made an unsuccessful attempt to reverse it. The Report was concurred in.

Mr. Hinton of Beaufort, presented a bill for the better regulation of the town of Washington. Read the first time.

The remainder of the sitting was occupied in the consideration of the Bank Bill.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wednesday, Dec. 16.

Mr. Polk presented a bill to authorise Thomas L. Cowan of Rowan county, to erect certain Gates therein mentioned, which passed its first reading.

Mr. Murchison, presented the petition of W. Barrell of Moore county. Referred. The bill concerning Commissioners of Public Works &c. passed its third reading and was ordered to be engrossed.

The following bills received from the Senate, had their first reading, viz: Concerning the fees of the standard keeper in Rutherford, and vesting the right of electing Sheriffs in the free white men of the State.

Mr. Nash, from the Judiciary Committee, reported a bill prescribing the manner in which the Sheriffs shall give bonds. Read the first time. The resignation of Lunsford R. Cherry, Major of the 2nd Battalion of the 2d Regiment of the Edgecomb county Militia was read and accepted.

The engrossed bill concerning the first regiment of Stokes Militia and the bill to amend the third section of an act passed in 1810, relative to the passage of fish up the Pedee & Yadkin rivers, were read the second and third times and ordered to be enrolled.

Thursday, Dec. 17.

Mr. J. Murphey, presented a bill prescribing the sum hereafter to be paid for licence to retail spirituous liquors.

Mr. Bethell, a bill to disqualify individuals holding a seat in the General Assembly, from the enjoyment of any lucrative office.

Mr. Wiseman, a bill to amend the act passed in 1827, providing for the incorporation of the town of Lexington, in Davidson county—which bills passed their first reading.

Another unsuccessful balloting took place for Brigadier General of the 12th Brigade.

The following bills from the Senate, passed their first reading, viz: To secure to Martha W. Patrick, such property as she may hereafter acquire; and a bill to provide for the establishment of a public road from Lincolnton to Rutherfordton.

Mr. Neil, from the select committee to whom was referred a resolution directing them to enquire into the reports of the Commissioners on the Hickory Not Gap Road, and whether the money heretofore appropriated for that purpose has been faithfully expended, reported that the money had been properly applied by the Commissioners. Concurred in.

Mr. Wyche, from the committee of Finance, made a report, asking to be discharged from the further consideration of the Resolution referred to them, proposing a tax on incomes held by citizens of this State, in incorporated Companies, not chartered by the State—such tax being deemed inexpedient.

The remainder of the sitting was consumed in the discussion of the bill for the erection of a new county. See Raleigh head.

Friday, Dec. 18.

Mr. Wyche, from the committee of Finance, to whom was referred the bill to amend part of the 4th section of an act passed in 1822, to provide a Revenue for the payment of the Civil list and contingent charges of Government, reported it without amendment and recommended its rejection. Concurred in.

Another unsuccessful balloting took place for Brigadier General of the 12th Brigade.

Mr. Jordan presented a bill to authorise the securities of William Gregory, late Sheriff of Pasquotank county, to collect arrears of taxes, for the year therein mentioned.

Mr. Barnard, a bill to authorise the county Court of Curriuck to provide for the erection of Public buildings and for other purposes.

Mr. Arrington, a bill to establish a Poor House in Nash county and for other purposes.

Mr. Campbell, a bill to alter the time of making the returns of tax lists for Brunswick county—which bills passed their first reading.

The bill amendatory of the laws relative to the pilotage at Occoock Inlet passed its third reading and was ordered to be engrossed.

The remainder of the sitting was spent in the consideration of the bill to erect a new county, from portions of Burke and Buncombe.

REPORTS OF THE SECRETARIES.

Accompanying the President's Message, were the Reports of the Secretaries of the different Departments, and other documents of interest, which we shall proceed to notice in order.

These reports are particularly interesting as explaining the principles, and developing the views, of the present Administration.

The Report of the Secretary of War speaks in high terms of the general good conduct and discipline of the Army. He reproaches the practice of enlisting men while in a state of intoxication and has ordered its disuse. Congratulating the country on the settlement of the question of brevet rank, he recommends, likewise, a settlement of some disputed points, with regard to the pay of certain officers—the Surgeon General, &c.—and suggests that certain fixed and definite salaries should be constituted by law. The report speaks favorably of the Engineer Corps; in addition, on this head, he adds—

"If it be the pleasure of Congress that the important Internal Improvements of the country shall continue, and a desire correspondingly is possessed that those authorised works shall progress creditably to the spirit that projects them, there is no plan to be suggested preferable to an enlargement of this corps, to the extent that the entire reliance of the Government for all such objects may be on their exertions. At present the number authorised is altogether insufficient to the objects requiring attention, to say nothing of the numerous and frequent applications from the States to be afforded the benefit of their services, and which the Department, owing to the paucity of their numbers, in repeated instances, have been constrained to refuse when every disposition was felt to accord to the request."

The Secretary speaks in high terms of the Academy at West Point, and replies to some of the objections that have been made against it: He recommends that ordinance be supplied to the Forts in the United States, and that instead of powder, the materials of which it is composed, be collected and laid up to be manufactured when necessary. He remarks that the Breakwater at the mouth of the Delaware, is not in as forward a state as we could wish. He suggests the propriety of increasing the number of surgeons and assistants, and of mounting some of the troops employed on the western frontier, and of revising the law concerning invalid pensioners. His views with regard to the Indians are the same as those expressed in the Message of the President.

The Report of the Secretary of the Navy commences with giving a detailed account of the service in which the different squadrons have been employed during the present year. He urges the same recommendation as appeared in the Message concerning ships in ordinary. He objects to the Commandants of the Yards preparing ships for service, to the discharge of seamen in Foreign ports, and to paying the expense of their return to the United States. On the subject of lessening the number of Navy Yards he says:—

"The Navy Yards established and now in operation in the United States, are located at the following places: Portsmouth, New-Hampshire, Brooklyn, New-York, Pensacola, Boston, Philadelphia, Washington and Norfolk. There is scarcely any part of the expenditure for the establishment of a Navy which has contributed so much to exhaust the general fund intended for its support, as that which has been applied to objects connected with the building and maintaining of Navy Yards. It appears from the report made to Congress by the Secretary of the Navy for 1828, that the permanent expenses under this head, including Naval, Ordinary, Hospital and Civil, amount, annually, to \$268,744. The great expense incurred in the support of these numerous establishments, makes it proper to inquire, whether it may not be materially diminished by a reduction of their number, without affecting injuriously, other important interests of the Navy.—The opinion entertained by those most conversant with such subjects, seems to be, that the number now in operation is greater than the public service demands; that the reduction of them would effect an important diminution of expenditure; and that, by concentrating the means and materials for building, repairing, &c. at two or three points most favorable for such purposes, it would tend greatly to promote the general objects of these establishments."

The Secretary then speaks of the value of the live oak belonging to the United States, and proposes that instead of agents stationed on the coast, a marine force should be employed for its protection. He informs the Executive that experiments as to the value of cotton sails and cordage have been, and will continue to be made. The establishment of naval schools, the revision of the laws concerning pursers, and a regular system of compensation to the officers, are recommended. The Secretary concludes his report with the following observations:—

"The present Naval Corps of the United States is believed to be more numerous than is required for the wants of the service, and more than can be advantageously employed, with reference to their own advancement in the knowledge and practice of their profession."

It is now twenty-eight years since a judicious pruning was given to the Navy; a period sufficient to admit some useless suckers to repose under the shade of its virtue and its valor. The time would, therefore, seem to have arrived, to correct some of the evils of the service by a Peace Establishment; and which it would go far to effect, by ridding it of the useless and insubordinate portion of its materials. The remainder would be preserved in more correct views of the service, and their management become more easy to the Executive Department."

If, in pruning these excrescences from the too luxuriant growth of the Navy, some branches should be lopped off, which, in their day, have borne good fruit, let it be remembered that the Navy Pension Fund, with its ample stores, is open for their sustenance & support; and, it may be added, that the Navy Asylum, on the Schuylkill, is now so near its completion as to promise an early day to afford a permanent & comfortable residence to its disabled founders, and to such as, though not disabled, may have merited, by their bravery, or long and faithful services, the gratitude of their country.

The Report of the Post Master General is short and to the point. He gives the following brief account of the progress and improvement of his Department:—

The General Post Office was established July 26, 1775. There was then but one line of posts, extending from Falmouth, in New England, to Savannah, in Georgia; and the Postmaster General was authorized to establish such cross posts as he should think proper.

In October, 1782, the Postmaster General was required by Act of Congress, to cause the mail to be carried once a week to all the Post Offices; and by the same Act he was authorized to make provision for the transmission of newspapers by mail.

When the Federal Government was organized under the present Constitution, in 1789, the Post Office establishment was revised and perpetuated. There were then, and to the close of 1790, only seventy five Post Offices in the United States: And the extent of Post Roads in the United States, in 1790, amounted to 1875 miles. Now the number of Post Offices is eight thousand and four, and the Post Roads amount to 115,000 miles.

The first line of mail coaches in the United States was established in pursuance of an Act of Congress, passed September 7, 1785, extending from Portsmouth, in New Hampshire, to Savannah, in Georgia. The transportation of the mail in coaches amounts, at this time, to 6,507,818 miles in one year, and from the first day of January next, it will be increased to 6,785,810 miles. The whole yearly transportation of the mail in coaches, sulkies and on horseback, amounts to about 19,700,000 miles.

His statement of the financial concerns of the Department is explicit. The Post Office Department is in a prosperous condition. He mentions several changes that have been made in the transportation of the mail in the Southern and Western States, and gives a statement of the manner in which several regulations have been adopted in the settling of accounts, &c.

Internal Improvements.

The general meeting of Delegates and Members from the County Committees, and of all other persons friendly to Internal Improvements, will be held in the Conference Room in the Capitol, on Tuesday evening, the 23d inst. at 7 o'clock. 35

State of North Carolina, Greene County, November Term, 1829.

Blake Little, Original attachment. Ditto v. Several persons summoned as Benjamin Miller Garnishees.

It appearing to the satisfaction of the Court that the defendant, Benj. Miller, is not a resident of this State: Ordered therefore, that publication of the pendency of the above named suit be made in the Raleigh Register for six weeks successively, so that the said defendant may appear before the said Court on the 2d Monday of February next, at the Court-house in Snowhill, and reply, &c. Witness, Wm. Williams, Clerk of said Court at Office, the 2d Monday of Nov. 1829. 35 WM. WILLIAMS, CLK.

State of North Carolina, Greene County, November Term, 1829.

James Westbrook, Original attachment. Le v. vied on land, &c. & Ab. Gray Westbrook Garnishees summoned.

It appearing to the satisfaction of the Court that the defendant is not an inhabitant of this State: Ordered that publication of the pendency of the above named suit be made in the Raleigh Register for six weeks successively, so that the said defendant may come forward at our next Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, to be held for said county at the Court-house in Snowhill, on the 2d Monday of February next, and reply, &c. Witness, Wm. Williams, Clerk of said Court at Office, the 2d Monday of Nov. 1829. 35 WM. WILLIAMS, CLK.

State of North Carolina, Warren County, November Term, 1829.

John V. Gawthorn, Original attachment. Ditto v. Henry Cavthorn, & turned out on the Goodson-Cavthorn, & Lots in Warren County, & one Tract of Land, &c. &c. Thos. G. Johnson called the Rate Tract.

It appearing to the satisfaction of this Court that Th. G. Johnson, the defendant, has removed himself out of the limits of this State, so that the ordinary process of the Law cannot be served on him: It is therefore ordered that publication be made in the Raleigh Register for six weeks, that unless the said Th. G. Johnson make his personal appearance at our next Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions to be held for the county of Warren, at the Court-house in Warrenton, on the 4th Monday in February next, and reply, final judgment will be pronounced in favor of the plaintiffs. Witness, C. Drake, Clerk of our said Court, at Office, in Warrenton, the 4th Monday of Nov. A. D. 1829. 35 C. DRAKE, C.