# Devoted to all the In crests of The South, Literature, Educ viion, Agriculture, Hews, the Markets, &c.

VOL. III.—NO. 26.

SELECT POETRY

#### THE FIRST HOME.

Amid the city's idle, flaunting train, I stand, with drooping head and aching breast Men call me dreamer, and I strive in vain To render smiles and give the light-toned jest; I am now writing, this road had got the char-But some touch stirs the chord of memory, And I am wandering with the years gone by.

The years gone by-the guileless and the good! When a wild troop of careless children played Around a white-walled cottage home, which stood In a lone valley, 'neath the elm tree's shade; In that green vale arose life's morning star On us, whom time has scattered wide and far,

No hand of art had fashioned there fair bowers. To give us shelter from noon's fervid beam; But sweet elematis, with its pearly flowers, Hung from the alders, by the gentle stream; And to that quiet arbor we would stray,

In the moist meadow, 'neath the apple trees, The clustering strawberries were red in June; The robins chirped thanksgiving, and the bees Rocked in the clover tops, and hummed a tune That filled my brain with fancies sweet and wild, be true. And made me dream, even when a child.

And still the blue mist o'er that valley now Floats in the summer time, as when we strayed The world, the ungentle world, her hand hath roughfare.

And still the flowers we loved, spring fresh and

Year after year I visit it in dreams! . I sit beneath the elm trees, as of yore, Stringing red berries from the wild rose tree, The simple coral of my infancy.

If o'er the mountains or the seas I roam, My heart ne'er can forget one sacred spot,

That northern valley, with our childhood's himself being placed in the chair, as the great And my weak harp will swell more bold and

Oft as I weave its name within my song:

#### WAT ROBINSON: OR THE WINDERMERE GHOST.

Ah! dost thou think I fear the spectral crew Of ghosts and demons? All the host of hell, With thee to back them, giant as thou art,

Shall never scare me from my homeward path. The boy of Judah was a very dwarf. Match'd with Philistia's giant; but the strength Of mind, made perfect in the fear of God, Gave to the shepherd boy the victory O'er him who trusted in the arm of flesh.

aunt of mine, who has long been gathered to sinister glance of curiosity and inquiry. her kindred dust. She was a woman of singular talent, and in her youth had possessed great singular beauty. At eighty years of age, her very cold, bright black eyes were undimmed, she had not lost one of her fine teeth, and her cheeks retain- rising to his feet, and buttoning his great coat ed the bloom of the rose. What she had been up to his chin. "It is time I was on the road." in her early days might be gathered from the noble remains that time had touched so lightly, time, but, sir, if I were in your place, I would that her elastic mind seemed to bid defiance to never travel that road at midnight." decay. In the glory of her prime, duels had each other, to win from her an approving parts?"

If the term beautiful could be applied to an old woman, my aunt was a beauty still. The old lady was perfectly aware of the fact, and and triumphs of her girlhood. These reminis- the old saying, seeing is believing. cences of by-gone vanity, which it would have been wise at her time of life to have been buried in oblivion. I listened to her with clittle or hairy as a buffalo, with huge white horns, a long na interest; but her ghost stories and tradition- whisking tail, and cloven feet." ary lore, her legends of the wild and wonderful.

agencies; but they amused her, and she told my time already." ted with Mr. Lethwaite, one of the actors in the ceremony.

About a hundred years ago, there lived in Mr. Lethwaite, if that is your name.' the town of Kendal, Westmoreland, a man of gigantic stature and great strength, who followed the trade of a butcher. This person, who was called Wat Robinson, was noted for his quarrelsome, ruffianly disposition, which won for him the name of Bully Robinson, the big butcher of Kendal. Foremost in all scenes of riot and dissipation, he was universally feared and truly

hated. This man was very fond of practical jokes. but his jokes were like himself, and originated in the cruelty and malice of his mind. The pain he inflicted upon others afforded him the greatest pleasure. The grating tones of his coarse, brutal laugh, inflicted a deeper wound

than the most bitter of his biting jests. to give any countenance to this species of amusement, for, though the joke may be harmless in itself, a kindly person will derive no entertainings in another.

RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA, SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 1854.

There was a very lonely cross country road in the vicinity of Kendal, which formed a short cut to the beautiful lake of Windermere. The path was rocky and narrow and seldom frequented by any but pedestrian or equestrian travelers.-For some months previous to the period of which acter of being haunted. A hideous apparition

lowings and other diabolical noises. Many persons had been frightened into fits by the spectre; and one feeble old man had lost his reason by unexpectedly encountering the demon in one of the most lonely turnings on the

in the form of a hairy monster, with horns and

hoofs, obstructed the passage of travelers through

the lane, chasing them back with dreadful bel-

rocky road. This frightful phantom had been seen by so many respectable persons in the town and its vicinity, whose veracity, from the well known in-And leave our childhood's task for childhood's tegrity of their characters, the most skeptical could scarcely doubt, that the public mind became greatly agitated by the nightly recurrence of such startling facts. People were no longer laughed at for their credulity, in believing that which so many respectable witnesses declared to

The Windermere ghost became the general theme of conversation, and the road was abandoned by all who were acquainted with the tale Through the old path, although upon our brow, and could reach the lake by a more public tho-

One night a large party had assembled in a small public house, in the suburbs of Kendal, to drink their ale, and discuss the news of the day-And stars o'erwatch, as when our home was there. These were chiefly farmers and sheep-graziers, And catch the music of the mountain streams. were returning in a body to their lonely homes some time with the landlord. Or walk the deep-worn foot-paths, as before, among the hills. The centre of this group, and the big butcher of Kendal. He had been a No matter where kind heaven may cast my lot, large purchaser, and the jolly yeoman had flung back a few shillings from the money they had received, to furnish a general treat, big Wat

> man of the company. failed to abuse. As the fumes of the ale began to ascend into his head, he grew loud and quarrelsome, engrossing all the conversation to himself, while his blustering manner and ill-natured iokes so disgusted his companions, that one by chievous disposition of the man.

who had been a silent spectator of the scene, dressed in the gray homespun cloth of the coun- road by night again." try, and looked like a wealthy yeoman of the middle class. To Robinson he was a stranger, The story I am about to tell I had from an old and that worthy continued to eye him with a

The landlord entered to throw on a fresh billet of wood, for it was winter, and the night was

"Is the moon up, Lowther?" said the yeoman, "Yes, Mr. Lethwaite, she has been up some

"Why, what the deuce is the matter with the been fought for her, and wise men had vied with | road? Are you troubled with robbers in these

"No, sir, the road is haunted."

"Haunted!" exclaimed the yeoman, bursting

"Yes, sir, haunted, and by the devil, sir!" I'

"Humph! and what was the devil like?" "Like, sir? why nothing human. He was as fool, closed the door and went to bed.

"Oh, ho! the old story, I never saw the her long catalogue of extraordinary dreams and devil, and have no great wish to make his mysterious warnings, always afforded me the acquaintance to-night; but it is not an idle woman's tale that will prevent me from taking the of the steep, crooked hill, which had been be of small service to us, as the danger is al-Naturally of a strong and vigorous mind, my nearest road home. Pray order your man to aunt did not herself believe in supernatural saddle my horse quickly, for I have overstayed

these stories so well, that she never tired her The landlord hastened to give the necessary auditors. It is one of these tales that I am orders, and Robinson, who had been listening to about to relate. She had the facts from my the veoman, with a half sneer, now turning hasgrandfather, who was himself personally acquain- tily round, addressed him abruptly, and without

"You wish us to think you a very brave man,

"That is to me a matter of perfect indifference," returned Lethwaite, haughtily, and sureving the burly butcher with a stern glance; for the opinion of others."

like the fiery glance of his companion's eve; "but if you are determined upon returning to Windermere by the cross road, it is the duty of a friend to warn you of your danger."

"Danger! what, the idle tale I have just neard: none but a coward would turn from his path for a gossip's fable."

"Men as brave as you can be have sallied forth at nightfall, to bid defiance, as they said, to all It is impossible for a benevolent minded person, the powers of darkness, and have returned to their hearth at midnight as pale as the sheeted dead. There is not a man in Kendal," cried the excited butcher, striking his huge fist on the oak ment from anything that calls forth angry feel- table, until the glass upon it chattered and rang again, " that dare travel that road to-night."

"I am sorry to think that the descendants of it was not a beast, but appeared a shocking com-

good night, sir."

The young man smiled incredulously.

"Sir, vou disbelieve me?" "I think you very credulous."

chap like you."

"Real courage cannot be tested by mere ani- ner. mal strength," said Lethwaite, calmly. "David was a dwarf to Goliah, but mental courage and the fear of God conquered his gigantic foe. I do not wish to quarrel with you, sir. You believe in ghosts, I do not. Good night."

"Ah! quoth the butcher, shaking his huge fist after him, "the Windermere ghost shall punish you well for your disbelief."

Lethwaite's foot was in the stirrup, when a shivered in every limb. sudden thought seemed to strike him: "I am money about me; the Windermere demon may cried out in a stern voice, be a poor devil, whom the love of plunder may tempt to do a deed of violence. It will be as well to examine the loading of my pistols."

He returned with the landlord to the house, a leaden ball!" and both were not a little pleased to find the A wild unearthly yell was the only answer the fatlings of their flocks at the market, and butcher gone. Lethwaite continued chatting he got to his threat; and the demon was now

a man of no small importance among them was said. If such a spectre has really been seen, de- echoes of the place, and the huge, hairy mon-

"Ah! Mr. Lethwaite, sir, you are only temp- till he reached the door of the public house. but then he was always a half-witted creature, his door, and a man's reason is not his money. Did I "It is I, Lowther; it is Richard Lethwaite; one they all rose to depart, dreading, by word or not see the horrid thing myself, I, who, God get up and let me in directly." action, to rouse into active operation, the mis- forgive me! had made game of it, and those "Ah! ah! I thought how it would end," The guests at the "Holly Tree" had all drop- ment,-I saw the monster with my own eyes; door; and he called up the groom to relieve ped away, until the butcher and one young man, and how I escaped from it I never could tell. I his guest of his tired horse. the men who had so lately filled the table, was and have taken good care never to tread that You look like one just risen from the dead."

winds around the foot of the hill, by midnight." examine and identify the corpse." That lonely spot is the demon's favorite haunt."

tis a frightful gloomy spot, with steep banks, company him and Mr. Lethwaite to the lane, and high rocks on either side. Dark almost at They believed the latter had seen the ghost; noon-day, and doubly dark at the noon of but as to killing it, that was a sort of waking

Then, whistling an old border song, to keep the supernatural wonders of a dream. would recount with great glee, the conquests saw him with my own eyes; and you know, sir, landlord listened for a few minutes to the click- word to any.

pointed out to him as the favorite haunt of the ready past."

either side hid the open space, and presented to do that." until he reached the bottom of the glen, when Lethwaite; "suppose it was the big butcher of the delusion vanished: Stunted holly trees had Kendal himself." sprung up among the crevices of the rocks, and "Now, God forbid!" said several voices at

the deep hollow below. "It is an ugly spot," thought Lethwaite, as he checked his horse to tread at foot fall the bottom of this hill the riddle will be solved." the man who has faith in himself cares little the steep descent. "Murder may have been committed here in the olden time, but pooh, "No offence," said Robinson, who did not pooh, there are no such things as ghosts, but if mountains; and his first beams glanced upon ever there was a spot more capable of inspiring the hill tops, without penetrating the gloomy such a dread than another, it is surely this."

The side of the road to his left was in deep shadow. The very spirit of darkness seemed to little party wound down the hill. One man brood over the gloomy recess, while the moon tried to hum a tune, another to whistle, while gilded with a wan and spectral light the oppo- a third talked very loudly about his own coursite wall of rock. Lethwaite, in spite of his age, in reality, possessing very little; but all enboasted courage, felt a sudden chill creep through | deavored to dissipate the fear to which they inhim as he approached the awful spot.

"God of heaven!" he murmured, in a tone ed the dreaded spot. below his breath, "what can that be?" as a horrid shape slowly and distinctly rose before him, and became stationary in the centre of his A dark, indistinct mass lay huddled up in the

the bold Kendal archers can have degenerated pound of both. Imagine a creature upwards of into such a flock of geese," said the yeoman. "I six feet high, covered with shaggy black hair, have lived too long among the hills to be fright- the head that of a bull, with huge, white, wideened by shadows. My horse is at the door- ly-extended horns. The sinewy bare arms of a man extended above this ghastly head, grasping "You are stark, staring mad," cried the butch- a burning brand, which emitted a thin cloud of er, placing his huge person in the door-way, "to pale blue smoke. The lower part of the body attempt that road to-night; you will return to was so enveloped in shade, that it only presented the "Holly-Tree" before morning, half dead with a dark, undefined, shapeless mass.

Lethwaite, who never expected to behold a real edition of the Windermere ghost, felt his hair stiffen, and his teeth slightly chatter, as he suddenly reined in his horse, and forced himself Fellow, do you take me for a coward?" re- to look steadily upon the ghastly phantom. plied the butcher, the red blood rushing into his | The horse, possessing less self-reliance than his bloated face. "You had better mind what you master, plunged, snorted and reared, as with a say. With one blow I could annihilate a puny hideous yell the apparition advanced, brandishing his fiery weapon in a very threatening man-

"Steady boy, steady," cried his master, in a soothing tone, shamed out of his fears by the terror of his steed. "If this be the devil, stand still, and let thy master face him like a

Reassured by the well-known voice and the caress of the well-known hand, the noble animal did as he was commanded; but he shook and

Lethwaite had by this time drawn a pistol not afraid of ghosts, Lowther; but I have some from his belt, and riding towards the spectre, he

> "Miserable impostor, throw off your disguise, or you are a dead man; for, by the God that made me, I will see if your body is proof against

within ten paces of his horse. The sharp re-"I do not like this ghost story of yours," he port of Lethwaite's pistol woke up all the lonely pend upon it that it is some deep contrivance to ster fell heavily to the earth with a smothered hide worse danger. I wish, for the good of the curse; and the yeoman, yielding for a moment community, that I may be lucky enough to fall to uncontrollable fear, turned the head of his terrified steed, and never slackened his speed

ting Providence when you talk in that careless | After a few moments of breathless suspense, This was an honor the burly butcher never way. The ghost is a real ghost; for though it his loud, hurried knock was answered by the has frightened many, and myself among the landlord, who thrusting his head out of the garrest, I never heard of any person being robbed. ret window, demanded, in no very gentle tone, Old Dodson, the lame beggar lost his senses; the cause of such an unseasonable attack upon

who believed in it, just as you do at this mo- said the landlord, as he descended to unbar the

run so fast that I never felt the ground under "The ghost has driven you back faster than alone occupied the chimney corner. This person, my feet, while it pursued me with the most you went. This is to disbelieve the word of who was vastly superior, in his appearance, to frightful yells. I kept my bed for a week after, honest folks. Why, man what have you seen?

"I fear I have sent one to dwell with the "It is strange!" said Lethwaite, musing; dead a little before his time," said Lethwaite, some truth must be mingled with this fantastic drinking off the glass of brandy proffered to him error! What time of night does this spectre by his host at a draught. "I have shot the ghost; whether man or devil, it was not proof "It has been seen at all hours, from twilight against powder and ball. I am more distresuntil the gray dawn of day. It was about nine sed at this event than if I had encountered all o'clock in the evening when it appeared to me. the hosts of hell, with satan himself to back It is near eleven now, sir. You will just reach them. Call up your people, for I can no lonthat black, crooked turning in the road, which ger go alone to that infernal spot, and let us

It was daylight before Lowther could per-"I know the place," said Lethwaite. "Yes, suade any of his servants or neighbors to acnight-mare, something too incredible even for

up his courage, the yeoman dashed the spurs | Many were the questions put to Lethwaite into his fine horse, and rode off at a quick pace, by the little band of men; but he walked on and in a few minutes was out of sight. The silently and thoughtfully, without speaking a

ing of his horse's hoofs striking against the fro- "Way did you not call up the big butcher, zen ground, and, thinking him a confounded Lowther?" said one of the party. "In any

case of danger that man is a host in himself." Lethwaite sped merily along. The moon "I have great doubts as to his courage," said shone bright and high above him in the cloud- Lowther dryly. "He is a great bully, and less sky, and the sharp cold wintry wind whis- these wordy men are all froth; they make a tled in his hair, and chilled his manly cheek, great noise but are very slow in action. If Mr. An hour's riding brought him to the brow Lethwaite has killed the ghost, big Wat would

" Killed the ghost !" said the first speaker At the foot of this hill, the road took an with a sneer; who ever heard of mortal man abrupt turn, and the high rocks projecting on killing a ghost; it is not in flesh and blood to

the traveler the appearance of a huge cavern, "But suppose the ghost was a man," said

their dark foliage cast a sepulchral gloom into once; "the man is a devil but not bad enough

"We shall soon know," said Lethwaite, "at They had now reached the brow of the steep hill. The sun was just rising above the distant recess which still lay buried in dense shadow.

Slowly, and with evident signs of fear, the voluntarily became the prey, as they approach-Lethwaite, who had lingered behind, now

walked briskly forward and headed the party. centre of the narrow road. All drew back .-It was not the form of a man, and certainly Lethwaite stepped up to it and remained sta-

tionary, beckoned with his hand for the others to advance. They did so; but what was the surprise and astonishment of all, to find in the supposed spectre the dead and bleeding form of Wat Robinson, wrapped up in the hide of a bull, his naked arms bare, and a club smeered with phosphorus still grasped in his stiffened hand.

" He deserved his death," said Lowther looking down upon his ghastly corpse. It was a cruel thing of him to adopt this hideous disguise, in order to frighten his friends and neighbors." "It was just like the man," said another; "he

was so full of spite and malice, he could not bear to see others happy." "He has paid a heavy price for his folly," said Lethwaite. "His melancholy fate should be a solemn warning to all persons who engage

in such wicked jokes. Come, my friends, let us carry him hence; I am sorry that he got his death by my hand."

## MISCELLANEOUS

### PREACHING FOR THE TIMES

We copy the following extract from a letter ritten by a gentleman at Bullard's Bar to the editors of the Sierra (California) Citizen. contains sentiments which, though intended for the Pacific section of the Union, are applicable o every quarter:

California wants preachers—preachers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, preachers whose hearts are big and brave, full of the warmth of Christ's love for men, who are willing to work and preach and pray out of a geniune Christian zeal. Are there any such? California wants preachers who can withstand something, who can take hold of men's hearts here, and fill them with early memories, and kindle the hopes of godness wellnigh dead, and renew the longings of by-gone times, when the heavens seemed full of good spirits, wooing them to purity-preachers who can not only reprove in a loving spirit the sins which all acknowledge, but give a chance to us poor devils to grow better. We don't want, when now and then we get into a church, to be made to feel that we are utter devils-fairly shocking to the tender sensibilities of the amiable minister. who thinks his best plan of drawing us to a better life is by painting, in the highest coloring the iniquities for which we are already sorry, and

"I know I am a great sinner; I never go to church to learn that. But when I am edified by half an hour's painting of all my worst faults and many which are neither mine nor any body's else, it would be pleasant to have something said which would appeal to what little good there may be crowded down into the bottom of a soul by the weary burden which has somehow gathered over it during a hard life. How often a man is forced to wonder at the ignorance of very smart preachers! How little they know about men! Is it because their religion separates them so far from us? May i not be that they intrench themselves so closely within professional walls, that they know noth ing beyond them? Do we not (I put it to sinners like myself) unconsciously treat the few oreachers we meet, as if, as a matter of course, they know nothing of the world? Are we not utterly surprised, and inexpressibly pleased, when we happen upon a man who can be talked to just like other men, although he is a preacher? How eagerly we listen to such a man; how gratefully we listen to his counsel, though, alas, we may not follow it: how our hearts warm toward his goodness; how we wish we were Christians like him; and how we tell our ungodly cronies about him-always remembering to say the has got common sense."

Thrilling Incident.—At a temperance meeting in Philadelphia, some vears ago, a learned clergyman spoke in favor of wine as a drink, demonstrating it to his own satisfaction to be spiritual, gentlemanly and healthful. When the elergyman sat down, a plain, elderly man arose and asked the liberty of saving a few words,-Permission being granted, he spoke as follows:

"A young friend of mine (said he) who had long been temperate, was prevailed on to the joy of his friends, to take the pledge of entire water. abstinence from all that could intoxicate, he kept his pledge faithfully for some time, though the struggle with his habit was fearful, till one evening, in a social party, glasses of wine were handed round. They came to a clergyman present, U.S.N., the main bar had decreased to fourteen feet, who took a glass, saying a few words in vindica- and the New Inlet bar had increased to fifteen (15) feet. tion of the practice, "Well," thought the young man, "if a clergyman can take wine and justify Inlet Bars had both decreased to thirteen (13) feet. it so well, why not I?" So he took a glass. It In the year 1858, according to Reports of Pilots to the instantly rekindled his flery and slumbering appetite; and after a rapid downward course, he died of delirium tremens—a raving madman!" The old man paused for utterance and was just able to add-"That young man was my only son, and the clergyman was the Reverend Doctor who has just addressed this assemblage."

and cents is the only theme that keeps up its interest. Just as if, by becoming a millionaire you could eat more than three meals a day with at a time. What good, then, is it to have heaps of the dirty stuff laid up to terrify you with the of dollar and cent bubbles that spring up .-Enough is enough, and all else is vanity and

CONSCIENCE is the best friend we have; without it all other friends are of no use to us.

## INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT.

### THE BAR CONVENTION.

A Convention of Delegates from different Counties of the State, to consider the improvement of the Cape Fear Bar and Harbor, me: at the Court House in the town of Wilmington, on Thursday, May 25th, at 11 o'clock.

On motion of Col. James T. Miller, of Wilmington, the Convention was temporarily organized by calling Major Owen R. Kenan, of Duplin to the Chair, and by the appointment of Allmond A. Mc-Kay as Secretary. The Secretary proceeded to call the roll of counties, when the following delegates appeared and took seats in the Convention: (We omit the names of the delegates for want of

space, and give the number from each county.) Wake 29; Warren 10; Sampson 22; Wayne 4; Cumberland 6; [a large number of delegates from Cumberland were prevented from being present on account of the accident to the Steamboat Ferry,] Duplin 23; Mecklenburg 3; Moore 1; Guilford 3; Alamance 1; Brunswick 12; Halifax 4; Johnston 8; New Hanover 60; Chatham 3; Orange 4; Northampton 6; Bladen 4; Columbus 8; Lenoir

8-in all 219 delegates. On motion of George Davis, Esq., the President appointed a Committee of three, consisting of Geo Davis, Robert Strange and David Reid, Esq., to wait upon His Excellency, DAVID S. REID, Governor of this State, and to request him to take a seat

in the Convention. On motion of Robert Strange, a Committee of one from each of the counties represented, was appointed by the President to recommend permanent officers for the Convention.

On motion, by Capt. S. L. Fremont of Brunswick, the Editors of the Wilmington Press were requested to take seats, and participate in the deliberations of the Convention. den, all persons present from the counties which

had sent delegates, were invited to take seats in The Committee on nominating permanent officers for the Convention, through their chairman.

Dr. C. J. Fox, of Mecklenburg, made the fellow-

For President-His Excellency, David S. Reid. Governor of the State of North Carolina. John C. Washington, Lenoir, Stephen W. Davis, Mecklenburg. Dr. Win. McKoy, Sampson, John Burgwin, Northampton, Henry Harris, Warren, Dr. A. J. DeRosset, Jr., N. Han, David Reid, Duplin, A. H. Van Bokkelen, N. Hanover, A. C. Williams, Mecklenburg, S. L. Fremont, Brunswick, Secretaries. Allmond A. McKoy, Sampson,

Governor Reid was conducted to the Chair, and on taking his seat as President, addressed the Convention in a very happy manner, expressing himself fully alive to the necessity of the work now under consideration, and giving the same his ap-

John C. Blocker, Cumberland,

On motion of Robert Strange, Esq., the Report of a committee appointed at a previous meeting of the citizens of Wilmington, to report to this Convention was read by their Chairman, George Da-

## vis, Esq., of Wilmington.

REPORT Of the Committee upon the past and present condition of the Cape Fear Bar; the duty of

the Government to improve it, &c., &c. The Committee to whom it was referred by a meeting of the Citizens of New Hanover county "to make a Report to this Convention, embodying such facts and statements as are best calculated to show the propriety and importance of the improvement of the Cape Fear Bar by the General Government," have had the same under careful consideration, and ask leave to submit the follow-

In order to present the subject more clearly, we have

thought it necessary and proper to enter into a brief history of the Cape Fear River and Bar, to show as far as we can, their past and present conditions, the changes which have taken place, and the causes which have operated to produce, hasten, or modify those changes. The earliest information which we have in our possession is furnished by the Chart of a Hydrographic survey

at which time the main bar of the River afforded a depth of nineteen (19) feet of water. In the year 1738, as appears from a chart published by ames Wimble, the depth of water upon the main bar

made and published in the year 1733 by Edward Mosely,

had increased to twenty-one (21) feet, In the year 1797, as appears from a chart published by Joshua Potts, the depth of water upon the main bar had decreased to twenty (20) feet. Upon this chart for the first time as far as we can ascertain, is shown a second opening in the River at a point about nine miles above the main outlet, and forming what is now known as the New Inlet. The date of the opening of this Inlet has been fixed at about the year 1780; and its depth of water, at the date of this survey, at about seven (7) feet at high

In 1820, as is shown by a survey made under the direction of Col. Kearney, Top'l Engineers, the depth of water upon the main bar had decreased to fifteen and a half (15 1-2) feet, and that upon the New Inlet Bar had increased

to eleven and a half (11 1-2) feet. In 1839, according to a survey made by Capt. Glvnn. In the year 1852, according to a survey of Lt. Maffitt, attached to the U. S. Coast Survey, the Main and New

Commissioners of Navigation, for the Town of Wilming-

ton, they had both decreased to eleven and a half (11 1-2) In 1854, in a letter from the Sup't Coast Survey to Hon. Geo. E. Badger, printed by order of the U. S. Senate, Feb. 13th, it is stated that the depth of water upon

the main bar had decreased to nine (9) feet. It is also proper to remark that, from the earliest period of which we have any information, there have existed two channels to the original outlet of the River-one crossing the main bar, of which we have given the changes above, ALWAYS UPPERMOST.—The subject of dollars and another running close along the Oak Island shore, and designated upon all the Maps as the Western Channel. As early as 1733, this channel is shown upon Mosely's Map with a depth of fourteen feet of water upon the bar. One hundred and six years afterwards, in 1839, a relish, or wear more than one suit of clothes it is shown by Capt. Glynn's survey with precisely the same depth upon the bar, and in 1851 it is shown by Lt. Maffit's survey with a depth of only, twelve feet. Since that time, according to the Reports of Pilots it has failure of bands, and the bursting of all kinds gradually increased, and affords now a depth of fourteen feet. It will be seen from this statement, that this channel has for the last three or four years been the only channel at the original entrance, which could be used by the larger class of Vessels trading at our port, the main bar being comparatively useless to us; and (2d) that although the depth of water which is afforded to our commerce has been frequent and slight, and have not tended all in one way as the case with the Main and New Inlet WHOLE NO. 130.

Bars. The conclusion which we arrive at, therefore, is, that these variations have been caused by the shifting of sands, and have had no material effect to the injury of the

In pursuing this investigation, it must be constantly borne in mind that the main bar is the natural, original outlet to the River; and that the injury done to our Commerce by the shoaling of this bar cannot be repaired to us, until this bar is restored to its former state, or until ome other bar is opened which will afford the same depth of water (21 feet) which the main bar originally afforded. For the convenience of reference we have reduced the facts above stated, which comprise all the information in possession of your Committee, to the follow-

ing table-remarking that the figures all refer to high Surveyor's names. Date Main Bar. New Inlet Bar. Edward Mosely, 1733 19 feet no existence. James Wimble, Joshua Potts, 151/4 " 111/4 " 14 " 15 " Col. Kearney, Captain Glynn, 1839 14 Lieut, Maffit, 1853 1134 " 1114 Senate Doc

A careful examination of these facts have led us to the ollowing conclusions: 1st, That the main bar, if left to itself, would have exhibited no material decrease of depth from the date of Wimble's survey. It would have been subject to variations, as was the Western Bar ; but these variations would have been temporary and slight, caused by shifting sands, and would not have injuriously affected the Commerce of the Port. It might even have continued to increase, as has been shown that it did, between the time of Mosely's survey, and that of Wimble. 2de That the opening of New Inlet, and the consequent diminuation of the volume of water which passed out at the main entrance had a tendency necessarily to diminish the denth of water upon the main bar: and that the main bar continued to decrease, with some slight variations, according to the increase of the New Inlet. 3d. That this continued to be the state of things up to the period of Capt. Glynn's survey in 1839, at which time the New Inlet had attained its greatest depth, having reached a formation of rock which prevented any further increase. Since the year 1839, the New Inlet has not increased ions caused by the prevailing winds. A gale from the north-east, for instance, washes the sand from the cape, and deposits it about and upon the rock of which its bottom is formed, while a gale from the south-west is equally certain to wash it from the rock, and carry it out again to the Ocean. These facts have been established by accurate soundings made by the Pilots, and by the operations of the U. S. Coast Survey; and render it certain that, subsequent to that period, the New Inlet has exerted no influence towards the shoaling of the main bar. It has also been shown that the variations in the depth of the Western channel have been so light, never increasing in depth over one half foot greater than is shown by Glynn's survey, as to be unable to cause any material injury since that date, whatever its effects may have been previously. But still the shoaling of the main bar continued; and latterly has increased the rapidity of its action to such an extent as to render this entrance useless for the larger class of vessels; thus indicating the operation of some new and powerful cause to produce the re-

Very shortly after the publication of Capt. Glynn's survey, about the year 1840, the United States Government, for the protection of Fort Caswell from abrasion, constructed stone jetties upon the Oak Island shore, running out into the river, some of them to the distance of four hundred feet. The effect of these jetties was to change the course of the current, and to throw it upon Bald Head-the opposite shore-with such force and in such manner as to cause a material wash, while the sand from this wash, was carried out by the action of the curent, and deposited upon the main bar. This has been ascertained by the most accurate soundings made by scientific men; and affords the only possible reason for the continued shoaling of the main bar after the causes proceeding from the opening of New Inlet had ceased to operate. We have already shown that these causes have not, and could not have produced any material effect after the date of Capt. Glynn's survey in 1839; and, if we are correct in these conclusions, as we feel very positive that we are, then the Goveanment of the United States is directly chargeable with the construction of one cause which has operated very powerfully towards the injury

of our bar, and of our Commerce. Having thus endeavored to give a historical account of the Cape Fear River and its outlets, we proceed to examine the ground upon which the immediate undertaking and ultimate and speedy accomplishment of the improvement of our Bar, and a restoration of the original state of things, address themselves to the Government as a work peculiarly belonging to her, and demanded by the neces

sities of a portion of her people. When Government is appealed to, to do any particular work, it is an indispensable pre-requisite to success that it should appear that what is asked is in itself practicable. In answering this demand we congratulate ourselves and the Convention, that we are not left to rely upon our own reasoning and conclusions, but that a special commission appointed by the Secretary of War, composed of able oficers of the Engineer Corps and the Navy, with Prof. Bache at its head, has, upon the fullest examinations and explorations, made a report to Government setting forth the entire practicability of the work, and recommending "a plan for the improvement of the entrance based upon the gradual restoration of the circumstances existing when there was twenty (20) feet of water upon the Bar." and expressed an opinion with much confidence, that its execution will again restore that depth. Before the appointment of this commission, Congress had appropriated \$20,000 for this work, which sum has since been expended, together with a part of \$60,000 subscribed by certain citizens of Wilmington for the purpose of continuing operations until Government should make the necessary appropriation for it. Capt. Woodbury who has charge of these works in a report made to Gen. Totten, Chief of the Engineer Department, on the 20th of October 1853, states that the effect of what had been done. "is precisely what was expected and predicted in the report of the commission," and "according to present appearances the whole point" (Bald Head) will be effectually protected for less than the estimate of the commission. So that from the opinions of scientific men and from the actual result of works carried on in accordance with their recommendation, it may be safely said that the entire

practicability of the work is put beyond a question. No one will doubt that it legitimately belongs to the its rightful powers as they have long been understood and practiced in the country; and the only remaining point to be determined, is, whether justice and sound policy and a due regard to the interests of the nation, authorize the appropriation and expenditure of the sum of money which will be necessary for that purpose. Without noticing, in this place, the peculiar claim which this enterprise has upon Congress, it may be safely asserted that no like object in any State has been able to present more powerful or urgent reasons to secure a favorable consideration, or stronger and more conclusive grounds for requiring the interposition and aid of Government. Wilmington has for a ong time been justly considered the sea-port of North Carolina, and her exports for the past year, toreign and coastwise, amounted to upwards of six millions of dollars. Not only so, but she is entitled to rank in importance among the first class of Southern Ports; her clearance tonnage for foreign countries, for the year ending the 30th June, 1852, according to the report of the Secretary of the Treasury, having been greater than that of any port between Baltimore and New Orleans, with the exception of Charleston, Savannah and Mobile, and her vessels so leared exceeded some of them in number. But her clearances for foreign countries form but an inconsiderable part of her entire tonnage; a very large proportion of her export trade being domestic or coastwise, and the vessels engaged in that species of trade under coasting license are