

REPORT.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, November, 1840.

To the Honorable the General Assembly of North Carolina.

GENTLEMEN: The President and Directors of the Literary Fund of N. Carolina, respectfully report, that the accompanying account exhibits their receipts, investments, notes, cash on hand, and payments—in a word, the fiscal operations of the Board.

The accompanying report of Major Walter Gwynn, will show the progress made in Draining the Swamp Lands, and the probable value of the enterprise.

The Journal and Bill Book of the Board, will exhibit more in detail, their proceedings.

As the period has nearly arrived, when the term of service of the present Board will expire—your attention is particularly invited to an investigation of the management of the trusts committed to them.

Respectfully, I owe the honor, to be,

Your obedient servant, EDWARD B. DUDLEY, President Ex-officio Literary Fund.

Literary Fund, from 1st, to November, 1840, inclusive, with North Carolina.

Table with columns for 1839, DR., and amounts. Includes items like 'To amount then on hand', 'Appropriation to drain swamps', 'Interest received at various periods', etc.

Table with columns for CR. and amounts. Includes items like 'By investment in stock, Bank Cape Fear', 'Loans per amount of notes on hand', 'Amount per work draining swamp lands', etc.

FUNDS OF THE BOARD, VIZ:

Table listing funds: Stock, Bank of Cape Fear; Bonds, Bank of the State; Swamp improvement; Bonds in Raleigh and Gaston R. R. Co.; Do. Wilmington and Raleigh R. R. Co.; Cash on hand; Cape Fear Navigation Company; Roanoke do. do.

Raleigh, Nov. 1st, 1840. E. B. DUDLEY, President ex officio.

REPORT OF MAJ. GWYNN ON THE DRAINING OF THE SWAMP LANDS.

To the President and Directors of the Literary Fund of North Carolina: GENTLEMEN: I have the honor to report to you the result of the operations since the drainage of the swamp lands was committed to my charge.

The feasibility of the undertaking has been so fully and clearly established, by former statements to the Board, (particularly by the report of Mr. Shaw,) as to render any comment from me unnecessary on the present occasion. I shall therefore proceed to the subject immediately before me.

The only tract of land, owned by the State north of Pamlico Sound, sufficiently elevated to afford a fall for its drainage, is situated on the high grounds which divide the waters that flow into the Albemarle from those that run into Pamlico Sound, lying between the angles formed by the meeting of the boundary lines of Washington, Hyde and Tyrrell counties, near lake Pungo, which it embraces: it extends to the west shore of Alligator lake and five miles to the south of lake Pungo; on the north it includes a portion of lake Phelps, and contains, exclusive of the area of the Lakes, 64,500 acres. A reference to the map herewith submitted, will give a more perfect idea of its location, and exhibit, both in plan and profile, the main and lateral canals by which it is proposed to drain it. This tract is a portion of a swamp containing about a hundred thousand acres, an idea of the formation of which may be had by conceiving it to form, what in reality it does, a large basin, filled with decomposed, putrescent vegetable matter, saturated with water, confined and prevented from running off by an impervious subsoil & an embankment, or elevated strata of clay and sand extending nearly all around it, not sufficiently dry for tillage at the extremities and higher parts at any season of the year. When oversaturated, as is the case in the winter and spring and sometimes in the summer, the surplus water flows into Alligator and Pungo Lakes, and into Lake Phelps from the south—towards Alligator the descent of the surface from the south is three feet and a half from the verge of the swamp or basin. The redundant water, after filling the lakes to overflowing, is discharged into Alligator, Pungo and Supperrong Rivers over the surface and by percolation. In dry weather, the loose, spongy soil of the surrounding swamps draws the waters again from the lakes; and so great is this attraction upwards as well as horizontal, that the very surface of the swamps is kept wet during the greatest drouth and hottest summer sun—thus through the medium of this filaceous soil, the lakes and swamps reciprocally supply each other with water as there may be a preponderance in either; or, to render the description still more plain, this swamp (and so nearly all of the swamps in the State) may come under the denomination of Land-locked Bays or Morasses, such as are neither produced by water rising in themselves, nor by that of springs in the adjoining banks, but become wet by an accumulation of rain water stagnating on an impervious subsoil through which it can have no descent, and being

surrounded by higher ground through which there is no vent or natural discharge for the water.

The plan of drainage is, therefore, obvious, and consists in cutting through the high grounds or elevated strata that surround the swamps and pen up the lake waters; drains, of sufficient capacity to draw off the surplus rain water which in this great basin, or laboratory of nature, has contributed, and, indeed, from its agency, in a state of stagnation, in nourishing, we may say generating those aqueous plants and trees from the decomposition of which the earthy matter of the swamps is entirely composed, may be said to be the cause of their formation. In accordance therefore with this plan two canals, denominated main drains, have been laid out, one leading from Pungo Lake to Pungo river, the other leading from Alligator Lake to Rutman's Creek, a tributary to Pungo River. The former, which we will call Pungo Canal, is six miles, seven hundred and seventy-four yards in length, with an average width, at bottom, of twenty-two feet, an average depth of six feet, and a fall in the bottom of twelve and a fourth feet. The latter, the Alligator Canal, is five miles, fourteen hundred and fifty six yards long, an average width, at bottom, of thirty feet, an average depth of seven feet, and a total fall of ten feet. These canals will reduce the waters of each lake four feet, and are of sufficient capacity and fall to draw off all the water that may be thrown into them by the lateral canals traced on the map as necessary for the farther facility of draining; the immediate effects of these canals will be to render a belt of land adjacent to them, as well as the land around the lakes, susceptible of thorough drainage and cultivation.

At the time I took charge of the work, in April, 1839, the season for hiring hands by the year had passed, and the competition for labourers, by the month, from the Wilmington and Raleigh and the Gaston and Raleigh Rail Roads then in rapid progress, rendered it impossible to procure a sufficient force to prosecute the work with the energy that was desired. The two main canals were, nevertheless, put under contract and commenced; but owing to these causes, not much progress was made during the past year. At Christmas, the season for procuring labourers, the contractors were enabled to obtain a large force, and the work has since progressed steadily and rapidly, uninterrupted even by sickness of any kind. Nearly one half of the Alligator canal has been completed. The tributaries have been commenced, and on the 20th of October the water of Pungo lake was let into Pungo canal. All the effects which were anticipated of drainage on its borders and reduction of the lake water, have been realised: enough has already been accomplished to inspire confidence and to remove all doubts and apprehensions (if any exist) as to the success of the work. There are now ready for sale 8000 acres of land, bordering on Pungo lake, on the west and north west. This tract is covered with a heavy growth of cypress and maple, and has been pronounced, by competent judges, unequalled by any lands in the State; and such also is my opinion, after having contrasted it with the rich lands of Pasquotank and Perquimons, and with those of lake Phelps and Mattamuskeet. In addition to this, there are 7000 acres of Prairie land (the growth formerly cypress now cane and bamboos bordering on the canal, and on the northeast side of the lake, that may also be offered for sale. In confirmation of the productiveness of these lands, of which no one acquainted with them entertains a doubt, I would observe that similar lands in the neighborhood, but of inferior quality, subjected to the most ruinous system of cultivation for more than sixty years in succession, are still productive, yielding when the seasons are favorable to the imperfect plan of drainage, (which with but few exceptions prevails every where) from six to eight barrels of corn per acre. I would respectfully recommend some immediate action towards bringing these lands into market—the first step, that of laying them

During the ensuing year, Alligator Canal will be completed, and also some of the tributary canals, and before the expiration of two years, we expect to complete the entire system of drainage in reference to this extensive tract of land. My estimate for the accomplishment of this object will consume the whole amount (\$200,000) appropriated for this purpose, and unless some further appropriation is made, the only fund applicable to an extended system of drainage will be the proceeds of the sales of the lands—which, if for cash, would be ample (together with the amount of sales accruing from time to time on account of other lands prepared for market) to drain all the swamp lands which the State owns. This will more readily appear from the following estimate, based upon prices considerably lower than those affixed to the lands by some of the most competent and experienced judges who have examined them. Under this view, preferable to exciting expectations that would not be fully realized, I will assume the low price of \$6 per acre, and the number of acres which the present appropriation of \$200,000 will drain to be 60,000, and even at this low estimate, we have a sum exceeding the cost of drainage by \$160,000. Applying this ratio between the cost of draining and the income arising there to the from million of acres owned by the State, the sum although enormous would fall short of the realization. This result, so beneficial and cheering, in itself, calculated to inspire confidence and recommend a steady and vigorous prosecution of the work to the end, is only one among the many beneficial effects which will grow out of its completion. Some of the effects to which I allude, and confidently calculate upon, have been caused by precisely similar operations in Great Britain, and are so applicable, although referring to land in a partial state of tillage, that I beg, in lieu of my own words, to substitute those of the Engineer appointed by the British Parliament to report upon the mosses and marshes of that country. He says the climate is rendered more healthy and genial to both animal and vegetable life, by the removal of stagnant water, and the prevention of those noxious exhalations arising from large tracts of moss and marshy ground, where the herbage gives but little nourishment and only promotes disease. Since the introduction of drainage into this country, the health of the inhabitants has been greatly improved; agues and other distempers being now comparatively unknown, that were formerly so frequent, occasioned by the humidity of the soil, and consequent impurity of the atmosphere, producing that miasma which so often proves fatal. The produce of the harvest, formerly precarious on such land, becomes, by drainage, ample and productive in quantity, and the quality of the grain is improved also. If land that is in tillage remains wet, every manure that is applied to it loses its effect to a certain extent, and fails to produce that abundant crop which a less quantity would yield, if such land were laid dry. In wet land, seasons of tillage are lost, the labour is greater and the return less. The produce is always scanty and inferior in quality; but when land is properly drained, every exertion of good husbandry is attended with success, and the farmer thrives where his predecessor was ruined. By drainage alone, it is wonderful to see the verdure that soon takes place; a bog of the worst kind after being thoroughly laid dry (without any other amelioration whatever) will spontaneously produce so many new and fine grasses, the seeds and roots of which hitherto laid dormant, owing to the superfluous moisture, but now spring forth and afterwards continues to flourish and increase. The rushes that formerly occupied the whole surface, soon decline, and better grasses arise in abundance. In addition to these many beneficial effects, the advantage of draining the swamp lands that lay scattered over the whole of the eastern portion of the State, from the Roanoke River to the Waccamaw, and from the Falls of the river to the seaboard, are of great importance in other respects.

No scheme has been or can be devised, that will so effectually stay the tide of emigration which flows like a mighty torrent from this portion of the State. The poor man who gains a scanty subsistence by the "roundshave and broadaxe," who hovers around the home of his nativity, until he exhausts the last pine tree, and is finally driven off penniless to the far West to seek a home among strangers, will here find an asylum; all his dreams of wealth and plenty can be realized in his own beloved State. A few acres of the land which from his childhood he has looked upon as a wilderness, a fit abode only

for ferocious wild beasts and disgusting reptiles, now invite his labour and will reward his industry.

The health and the morals of the people will be improved, the coffers of the State filled, the community will be benefited by a greater supply of useful commodities—in short, the benefits that will result from a general and complete system of drainage, to the agricultural and general improvement of the State, are so many that the few instances (if any there be) in which they are neither seen nor acknowledged, can only proceed from prejudice.

I herewith present a map of the State lands in Carteret County, which exceed in quantity and are equal in quality to the tract we are operating upon, and can be drained at a less price than perhaps any other lands of the same extent in the State.

The tract lying between Core Sound and Neuse River at their junction contains 65,000 acres; its elevation is 12 feet above Long and Nelson Bays, and other small streams, into which it can be readily drained. This tract is mostly an open prairie; the soil a deep vegetable mould. There are two other tracts which were surveyed; one containing 12,000 acres, situated in the Newport Pocoson, between Newport River and the Clubfoot and Harlow Canal. The other, 16,000 acres in extent, lays north of Lake Ellis, at the head waters of Hunter's Creek and Newport River. Both of these tracts are also of superior quality, and are susceptible of being drained at an expense that would amply repay the State.

But the improvement that offers more immediate benefits and direct returns than any other, is the drainage of Lake Mattamuskeet; and if the State's title to the flats can be established, it should, in my opinion, after the completion of the work in which we are engaged, be the first to command the attention of the Board.

I am gentlemen, very respectfully, Your obt. serv't. WALTER GWYNN, Civil Engineer.

Raleigh, 16th Nov. 1840.

W. J. RAMSAY, Watch and Clock maker, Jeweler, and Silversmith.

THE SUBSCRIBER respectfully informs his old customers and friends, and the Public generally, that he is prepared to repair all kinds of Watches, Clocks, Jewellery and Silver Ware, in a superior style. He has in his employ a skilful and steady workman, and will besides, also give the business his personal attention, and from his knowledge of all the different branches of Business, he flatters himself that he will be able to give general assistance. His shop is in part of the Store occupied by Mrs. Ramsay, as a Millinery Establishment. All work warranted to perform well. Persons visiting the City would find it to their interest to enquire where they can have their work done well and cheap. The highest cash prices given for old Gold and Silver. Raleigh, Oct. 29th, 1840.

NEW JEWELLERY STORE.

JOHN C. PALMER has commenced the above business in the new building lately erected by Mr. Richard Smith on Fayetteville Street, a few doors above his Store, where he intends to carry it on, in all its branches. In a few days he will receive from Philadelphia, a new and fashionable assortment of Jewellery and Watches and Cutlery, consisting of gold and silver Lavers and Plain Watches, Watch Chains, Keys and Seals, Ear Rings, Breast Pins, a fine assortment of Knives and Razors, and all other articles not necessary to mention, all of which he engages to sell as cheap for cash as any other establishment in the city.

During the long experience in the business, that he will be able to give satisfaction. He has in his employ first rate workmen. Watches and Clocks that can be made to keep time, will be warranted for twelve months. He hopes the citizens of Raleigh, always for new ones and allow whatever judges of the article may consider their worth, my object is not to make money on the second-hand Pianos, and would therefore either take them at their valuation, or sell them to the best advantage for their owners. I have now on hand a beautiful assortment of superior Piano Forsts, varying in price from \$75 to \$600. Those who favor me with their orders shall be pleased or no pay shall be required. E. P. NASH, Nov. 12 Book and Piano Seller, Petersburg, Va.

NEW AND BEAUTIFUL GOODS.

THE subscriber has just received his FALL AND WINTER supply of STAPLE AND FANCY DRY GOODS, which for variety, extent and elegance, will favorably compare with, (and in many respects surpass) any assortment he has hitherto had the pleasure of offering in the city of Raleigh. IN CLOTHS AND CASIMERE, SILKS AND SATINS, MOULIN DE LAINES AND SHALLES, FRENCH AND ENGLISH CALICOES, LINENS AND FLANNELS, HATS AND SHOES, BLANKETS AND CARPETING, he is particularly well assorted. Purchasers are therefore respectfully invited to call. B. B. SMITH, Raleigh, 16th November, 1840.

NEW MUSIC.

A collection of new and fashionable music this day received at the N. C. Bookstore by TURNER & HUGHES, Nov. 11th. 46 ff.

Steel Pens.

Wentley's magnum bonum pen. The Royal "Diamond" Double reeded quaviter pen. India rubber spring Patent perfection. The above pens are warranted for elasticity and durability. For sale by TURNER & HUGHES, Nov. 11th. 46 ff.

State of North Carolina, Bertie County.

Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions—August Term, 1840. Bank of the State Original attachment.

Timothy T. Kinsam. It appearing to this Court, that the defendants are inhabitants of another State; it is therefore ordered that publication be made in the Raleigh Star, for six weeks, for the said Timothy T. Kinsam, & Co to make their appearance at the next term of our said court, or judgment pro confesso will be taken against them. By order of the court, J. S. TAYLOR, Clerk. 45 ff.

N. C. ALMANAC 1841.

Turner & Hughes' North Carolina Almanac, for 1841. This day published and for sale at the North Carolina Book Store. C. 16th.

Harpers Family Library No. 106.

A Personal Narrative of Lieut. ap. Fisk's Travels, &c. This day received by TURNER & HUGHES.

The American Almanac, and Cyclopaedia of useful Knowledge, for 1841.

This day received at the North Carolina Book Store, 43 October 29

The Cultivator's Almanac and Catalogue of Agricultural Knowledge, for 1841.

This day received by TURNER & HUGHES, 43 October 29

NOTICE

IS hereby given, that application will be made to the next Session of the General Assembly, to be held in Raleigh, on the third Monday of November next, for the passage of a private law, to regulate the regulation of the fisheries on the Cashie River, as to amend the law, now in force, prohibiting the hauling of seines on said river, between Sunday, 12 o'clock, and Monday, 12 o'clock, and authorizing the hauling of seines at all times, without license, except during the night time, viz. between sunset and sunrise.

W. M. HRYANT, HENRY L. WILLIAMS, ALFRED W. MOORE, Hertford County, October 29. 43-4f

Fifty Cents Reward.

HASAWAY from the subscriber, Henry Minnie, a colored boy who was bound to him by the County Court of Wake. He is a mulatto, nearly 20 years of age, and a stout, strong young fellow. I have all persons from harboring or employing him, and will give the above reward for his delivery to me. HUGHES A. HUGHES, Wake county, Nov. 24, 1840. 46 ff.

LEASBURG ACADEMY.

The exercises of this school will close, as usual, on the 15th December, to be resumed on the 15th of January next. In addition to the usual studies of the Grammar School in the English and classical departments, opportunities of instruction in Algebra, Geometry, Surveying, Rhetoric, Moral Philosophy and the French language, are afforded to such as desire it. Declaration and composition form important items in the exercises of the school.

A regular boarding house on an extensive plan, under strict rules of order, with comfortable apartments for students, and remote from the occasional bustle of the village, has been recently prepared on a lot adjoining the subscriber, and is subject to be taken on as necessary to his supervision. Board may also be procured at several respectable families in the village, and in the neighborhood at a reduced price. Leasburg is a small village of only ten or twelve families, scattered over a space of nearly half a mile in extent, and generally affording the advantage of retirement and quietude. It is situated on the regular stage route leading from Henderson to Danville, and comprises as many advantages in point of health, order and morality as any village with which the subscriber is acquainted.

Concerning the subscriber's qualifications, reference may be had to any of the travelling or stationery ministers of North Carolina. Connected to the faculty, and many of the graduates and students of Randolph Mason, and Chapel Hill. Rates of Tuition, in advance. For elementary English branches, \$10 per session. Ancient Languages, Mathematics, &c. \$15 do. Board, including bedding, washing and fuel, \$40 per session, half in advance. LORENZO LEE, October 30th, 1840. 45 ff.

The Standard; Newbern Spectator, and Danville Reporter, will give four insertions to the above, and forward their charges to the Editor of the Star.

DENTAL SURGERY.—Dr. W. R. SCOTT

respectfully informs the public, that he has returned to Raleigh, and may be found at the Eagle Hotel, November 31, 1840. 45

MILLINERY & HANTUA-MAKING.

Mrs. MARTHA ANN RAMSAY respectfully informs the Ladies of Raleigh, and the public generally, that she has commenced the above business in the store formerly occupied by Hazlett Kyle, dec. She has received from the North, a handsome assortment of the latest style of Leghorn, Straw and Silk BONNETS; Splendid Silks and Ribbons; beautiful Merino Cloths for Cloaks; Gloves; Handkerchiefs, &c. Also a full supply of materials for making and trimming Bonnets and Dresses. Mrs. R. has made arrangements to receive quarterly from the North the latest fashions of Dresses, Bonnets, &c. From her long experience in the above business, she feels confident of giving general satisfaction; she respectfully solicits a share of public patronage. Her prices will be suitable to the times. Raleigh, Oct. 30, 1840. 45

State of North Carolina, County of Franklin.

Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions—September Term, 1840. Samuel W. Tunstall Original attachment levied vs. John Foster on land.

It appearing to the satisfaction of the Court, that the defendant in this case is not an inhabitant of this State; it is therefore ordered by the Court that publication be made in the Raleigh Star for six weeks, that unless he make his appearance at the next term of the County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, to be held for the County of Franklin, at the Court House in Lenoirburg on the second Monday in December next, and there a reply and plead to issue, that judgment final will be entered up against him, and the land levied condemned subject to plaintiff's recovery. Attest S. PATTERSON, C. C. O. 6w.

NORTH CAROLINA BOOK STORE

Wholesale works on Farming, Gardening, Botany, Cattle, Orchards and the Grape Vine &c. &c. The complete Farmer, American Gardener, Florist Guide, The Green House, Bridgeman's Gardener's Assistant, Loudon's Encyclopedia of Gardening, Art of Winemaking, Memoirs of the Pennsylvania Agricultural Society, Treatise on Cattle their breed, management, &c. Farmer's Own Book, Mowbray on Poultry, History of the Horse, New American Orchardist, Ornamental Trees, Farmer's Register, complete as far as published. Mason's Farrier improved, Loudon's Encyclopedia of Agriculture; together with a splendid collection of Books in every department of Literature, for sale at reduced prices by TURNER & HUGHES, May 6. 19

FOR SALE.

That pleasant situation, 4 miles from Raleigh, on the Chapel Hill road, well known as the Streeter place, it contains about 140 acres, 35 or 40 of which are cleared and in cultivation, the balance is wooded. There is a small orchard of fruit rate fruit of early and late apple, besides other fruits and an orchard of 3000 Mullicaulls, which, alone, will, (when day breaks next November and the people get to work again,) pay what is asked for the place. It is deemed useless to mention all the advantages of the situation, the first range for cattle, &c. as whoever wishes to purchase will look at the premises. J. T. C. WATT, 16 June, 1840, 26 ff.

APPLICATION will be made to the next Legislature of North Carolina, to restore to the County Court of Moore trial by Jury.

Nov. 1840.