

POLITICAL.

FOR THE FREE PRESS.

A PARTIAL REMEDY, For the low price of Produce in North-Carolina.

To remedy or alleviate a disease, the cause must be ascertained—Why then is it, that the produce of North-Carolina yields to the farmer and laborer, less than it does in the other Atlantic States? The answer is a plain one—because our navigation is worse, and the expense of transportation to market is greater. This expense and delay is a loss to the farmers. This is not a new discovery. In 1827, the towns of North-Carolina directly interested in the navigation of Ocecacock Inlet, sent representatives to a Convention, the object of which was to ascertain the loss our farmers sustained, because of the obstructed navigation, and a remedy for the evil. This Convention was composed of men competent to the task, and they made a Report and Memorial upon the subject, a few extracts from which I will here insert for the information of my brother farmers.

"At present the northern and middle counties of North-Carolina, have a common outlet to the ocean. Your committee believe that it is demanded by the most obvious considerations to apply our united strength to the improvement of the existing outlet, before we attempt the making of a new outlet. For this improvement, all that is essentially necessary, is the deepening of a channel over the Swash.

"Your committee are unable to state with precision, the expense which would be incurred in this undertaking; but they can say with moral certainty, that it may be accomplished at a charge comparatively contemptible, and far below, the annual loss which the State sustains from the want of such a channel. Your committee believe that the Convention ought, in the first place, to lay before the State Legislature, a correct representation of the enormous evils which the country endures from its present obstructed navigation; and for this purpose, they have prepared a memorial, which is herewith submitted.—It ought not to be doubted but that this representation will draw the attention of the Legislature and the People to this vastly important subject, and that the Legislative wisdom and parental care will be exhibited in suggesting the proper remedies.

"In aid of this primary measure, the Committee suggest others, which will be all found embodied in the following resolutions.

"Resolved, That the Memorial herewith presented, be subscribed by all the members attending this Convention, and be transmitted to the General Assembly.

"Resolved, That the members of this Convention, on their return to their respective homes, be requested to obtain and to furnish to their Representatives in the Legislature, all such detailed statistical information, as will throw light on the subject of this Memorial.

"Resolved, That a copy of the proceedings of this Convention, and of the Memorial so subscribed, be transmitted to the Editors of the Gazettes of this State for publication.

"Resolved, That a copy of these proceedings and Memorial, be transmitted to our members in Congress, and that they be requested, should Congress deem it within their constitutional powers to render aid to our object; to invite their attention and procure their assistance for that purpose.

"The undersigned Memorialists in behalf of themselves and their fellow-citizens whom on this occasion they represent, beg leave respectfully to state.

"That it has been long notorious that the Trade of this State was kept down by the obstructions to Navigation on her sea board, and that of these, the impediments to Navigation through Ocecacock were the most extensively injurious, as obstructing the only outlet to the Ocean for the products of the industry of one half the State. The charges for lighterage over the Swash, and the expenses and perils of detention consequent upon the necessity of lighterage, constantly pressing themselves upon the notice of those immediately concerned in the trade which passes through Ocecacock,

they resolved in several places on having a conference with each other, through the means of committees for that purpose appointed, to ascertain the extent of the mischiefs affecting the community from this cause, and to devise some mode by which they might be removed. Your Memorialists thus appointed have met together, have endeavored to collect the information essential to a correct understanding of the subject, and astonished at the result of their enquiries—exhibiting an evil far transcending in magnitude, all that they had before believed or feared—feel it an incumbent duty to lay that information before your honorable body, and to entreat your earnest, and effectual and speedy exertions for its removal.

"Your Memorialists believe that the annual exports of the products of our country through Ocecacock, are not overrated when estimated at Five Millions of Dollars, requiring for their transportation, and actually employing Two Hundred Thousand Tons of Shipping. They find from calculations carefully made and compared, that the charge on these vessels for lighterage and detention at the Swash averages one dollar per Ton, and amounts annually to Two Hundred Thousand Dollars; that the additional rate of Insurance, because of the risk and detention at the Swash, averages three quarters of one per cent, and amounts on the exports and imports to Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars, and on the vessels to Sixty Thousand Dollars per annum. This annual tax of Three Hundred and Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars upon the navigation of our section of the country, independently of the minor evils, the vexations and difficulties which will be readily perceived cannot but enhance the rate of freight or the cost of conveyance to market. The price of freight from Norfolk and Wilmington (the latter but one hundred and twenty miles distant from Ocecacock) to the West Indies, is from twenty to twenty-five per cent. less than from the ports dependant on Ocecacock Inlet; which difference on bulky articles, such as lumber, staves, and shingles, amounts to between thirty and forty per cent. of their original value. The freight and charges on articles shipped coastwise for re-shipment to their places of consumption, amount on Naval Stores to twenty five per cent.; on Cotton, to between ten and fifteen per cent. and on staves, to fifty per cent. of their original value.

"As all the ordinary charges of conveyance to market though paid by the merchants, actually and ultimately fall upon the producers, the Farmers and Labourers of the country, the effects of this enhanced freight are at once discerned upon a comparison of the price of the products of North-Carolina industry in the ports dependant on Ocecacock, and those where the costs of detention and perils of lighterage are not to be encountered. While at Suffolk in Virginia, Pipe Staves command Forty Dollars per thousand, at Murfreesborough, Winston and Windsor, they are sold at Twenty-Five Dollars. Red Oak Staves, which at Washington, Newbern, and Edenton, can scarcely command Ten Dollars per thousand, usually sell at Wilmington for Eighteen and Twenty.

"The enhanced freight necessarily occasions also an exceedingly heavy tax to the consumer on all articles imported through Ocecacock. Let but a single instance be mentioned in illustration of this fact. The article of Salt in the Ocecacock Ports sells for at least ten cents in the bushel above the price at Wilmington, which alone is a tax of Ten Thousand Dollars a year upon those who are obliged to obtain their supplies of salt at the former places.

"These Memorialists further respectfully state, that in consequence of the improvements made, and now in progress for the navigation of Roanoke River, an immense additional quantity of valuable products must descend it in search of a market. All this produce must either pass through Ocecacock, and sustain the enormous losses mentioned above, or go to swell the exports, enrich the enterprise, and increase the importance of Virginia.

"This State has long sustained, and is every day sustaining incalculable injury, from her products finding a better market elsewhere than they can procure at home. An inspection of the map will shew that more than half of North-Carolina, and a considerable part of the southern section of Virginia, have their natural outlet to

the ocean in this State. Remove the obstructions which are interposed to the free use of this outlet, and which it is unquestionably within the power of the State, at a cost comparatively insignificant thoroughly to remove, and the wealth, the consequence, the strength, the population of our State will, must grow with a rapidity cheering to the heart of every citizen, who is not dead to her honor and best interests. Produce of all kinds must increase in price, and command ready sales at home. Foreign comforts and articles of necessity will be comparatively abundant and cheap—many of the products of our forests which are now destroyed as incumbering the ground, will yield wealth to their possessors. Agriculture will receive a stimulus to exertion which will be manifested in improved skill, in more successful returns to industry, and in the enhanced value of land. Our impoverished fields will be fertilized, our rich swamps, peonias, and low grounds will be reclaimed—commercial enterprise and the mechanic arts will be fostered and rewarded.

WILLIAM GASTON,
SYLVESTER BROWN,
Of Newbern.

JOHN G. BLOUNT,
LEWIS LEROY,
WM. ELLISON,
JOHN JACKSON,
Of Washington.

THOMAS B. HAUGHTON,
THOMAS COX,
Of Plymouth.

JOS. B. SKINNER,
GEO. W. BARNEY,
JOHN COX,
Of Edenton.

JAMES MORGAN,
BENJ. WYNNS,
Of Murfreesborough.

JON. H. JACOBS,
Of Hertford.

EXUM NEWBY,
Of Elizabeth City."

Congress have deemed this improvement of Ocecacock Inlet a work of national importance and made a small appropriation for it during the last session, which General Jackson approved by ratifying the bill—Shall we then still labor under this immense burthen of indirect taxation, and not exert ourselves to obtain a continuation of these appropriations until all these obstructions are removed? We know that other States claim and receive appropriations of this kind, and I think none better entitled to them than North-Carolina, and every one will readily perceive that no State needs them more. But it is said, that to claim appropriations of this kind will make it necessary to raise the taxes and draw money from the pockets of the farmers—this is said as well to deceive as to alarm—those who urge it, know that they are misleading the credulous by appealing to their avarice. I say that to receive our proportion for appropriations out of the surplus fund in the Treasury, will not raise the taxes. All the monies raised by the General Government is by duties on goods imported, and these we know have been high enough. These taxes North-Carolina has paid and will be compelled to pay in any event. In this manner monies have been raised, which have been expended for the benefit of other States. The only relief to North-Carolina from this burthen of double taxation, is to ask and receive appropriations from the General Government to improve her navigation; she will then get back some of the large amount of taxes she has been paying for many years. Her farmers will then be able to get their produce to market without delay, will receive the highest prices for it and save this immense sum that is now paid for lighterage, insurance, &c. Let any man who has a wife and children to support,

and has to rely upon the products of his farm to do it, reflect seriously on this state of things, and say if there should not be some remedy provided. Fifteen or twenty-five cents in every barrel of Corn or Turpentine is a serious loss. Those who have no families to support, and have no produce to sell, do not feel this burthen which to us is grievous indeed.

A FARMER.



TARBOROUGH.

TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 1831.

CANDIDATES.

For the 3d Congressional district.

DR. THOS. H. HALL,
JOSEPH R. LLOYD, Esq.
Edgecombe County—General Assembly—Senate.

GEN. LOUIS D. WILSON,
House of Commons.

MR. HARDY FLOWERS,
GRAY LITTLE,
REDDING PITTMAN.

Tarboro' Female Academy.—On Tuesday and Wednesday last, the semi-annual examination of the Students of this Institution took place. A large concourse of ladies and gentlemen attended throughout, and the opinions so generally entertained and expressed, of the superior qualifications and unremitting attention of the Instructress, and the rapid improvement of her pupils, were fully sustained by the Report of the Trustees. The young ladies were complimented with a Ball on Wednesday evening, which gave a peculiar zest to the termination of their exercises.

Fayetteville Calamity.—We are truly gratified to notice the spirit of liberality which this distressing event has excited, not only in the bosoms of the citizens of this State, but also in those of other States. A considerable sum has already been subscribed for the relief of the sufferers, and doubtless much more will be tendered. Subscription papers, for that purpose, have been circulating in this vicinity for a few days past, and we understand with flattering success. The Raleigh Register says: "It is pretty well ascertained, that only about \$70,000 was insured in the whole town." We copy the following paragraphs from the Fayetteville Observer of last Tuesday:

"The melancholy aspect of things has been considerably enlivened within a day or two by the sudden appearance of four small houses, moving along among the ruins, to occupy places in the former business part of the town. They were moved entire, except floors, and windows, upon timber wagons, drawn by horses. There is every indication that business will centre in the same part of the town as before, and that no time will be lost in erecting and repairing stores. We yesterday saw the ruins of a three story brick store entirely removed, the flooring on the ground, and in a day or two, it will be laid and every preparation made for rendering it habitable as soon as possible. As was stated in our last, the spirit of enterprise is very far from being crushed.

"A large number of Mechanics, especially Carpenters and Bricklayers, and almost any number of labourers, will find immediate employment in this place."

From Washington.—We have no official intelligence respecting the Cabinet movements at Washington, but rumors are rapidly multiplying. It is said, that the mission to Russia has been tendered to and accepted by Mr. JAMES BUCHANAN, of Pennsylvania, after having been refused by Mr. INGHAM. The appointment of

Secretary of War, has been refused by Col. DRAYTON, of S. C. and a second application made to Mr. WHITE, of Tennessee—Gov. CASS, of Michigan, is also spoken of for this office. Mr. BARRIEN has positively resigned the post of Attorney-General, and Judge P. P. BARBOUR, of Va. is spoken of as his successor. But the following are the most ominous paragraphs of any that have come under our inspection.

From the Washington Globe.
Mr. Branch.—In two different letters, written evidently for publication, Mr. BRANCH has covertly and insidiously made injurious intimations, intended to reach the character of an unnamed individual whom he ventures not to assail openly. These insinuations are made to have a particular bearing, and are used by the humble instruments who act in concert with him, to produce political results from assaults on private character. Mr. Branch cautiously shrouds himself under a name, does, and leaves to surmise the facts which he says ought to be laid before the public. Why does he not act like a man? He has been called upon to come out openly—to specify—and on the principles of justice and honor to assume the responsibility of showing that which he says ought to be known, but which he has hitherto ventured to disseminate through vague insinuations alone. Could an honorable man reconcile it to his feelings, thus to stab in the dark? In his published letter he rests his conduct upon a point of honor. Yet he sees his letter vouched as authority for the vilest suspicions by partisans—by underlings whom he knows cannot be noticed. Is he not bound then to avow his meaning—to assert boldly his charges, and submit them to that public which he has sought covertly to infect with his "malign influences."

We are authorized by the individual who is supposed to be aimed at by these hinted slanders, to make this second call. He shrinks not from the ordeal with which he seems to be threatened. He is ready to make the issue with a man who considers the public interested in the matter of his covert allusions, and whose standing in the country subjects him to the proper responsibility. No investigation is feared. An honest cause always looks with confidence to an issue, which depends on an appeal to God or the country.

From the Richmond Enquirer.
We republish an article from the last No. of the Washington Globe. It is impossible to mistake the hand that is in this thing. Whether Mr. Branch will take up the gauntlet thus thrown down to him by Mr. Edenton, we are unable to conjecture. It is one of those scenes in the political drama which may prepare the way for some event calculated to interest our readers. As such we lay it before our readers. At the same time, that we must deeply regret the prosecution of such a controversy in such a spirit, as must array against each other two gentlemen, who were natives of the same State and neighborhood, pupils of the same school, intimate friends for so many years, and lately members of the same cabinet & politicians of the same school.

Editorial Change.—We learn from the last Salisbury Carolina that W. JEFFERSON JONES, Esq. has withdrawn from the editorial department of that paper, which will hereafter be under the sole management of Burton Craige, Esq.