

# WEEKLY COMMERCIAL.

THOMAS LORING, Editor and Proprietor; BENJAMIN I. HOWZE, Corresponding Editor.—ONE DOLLAR Per Annum, invariably in Advance.

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**ADVERTISEMENTS.**  
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Square, 1 line, 30 days, \$2.50  
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## [FOR THE COMMERCIAL] OBSERVATIONS AND ODDITIES. NO. 1.

*Wilmington a century ago—The improvement of the age—Rail Roads and Rail Road travelling—Wilmington as she is.*  
MR. EDITOR:

I have always been a close observer of incidents and events which were enacting around me, but like the poor fellow in the old tale, I always thought for my own benefit, for my natural diffidence was so great that my philosophic observations were doomed to enlighten only the spot where they were born. My poor father (he's dead now, peace to his ashes) used to feel the bumps upon my cranium, with infinite pleasure, always winding up his exhortation with the gratifying assurance that I could reason from effect to cause with remarkable facility; and I have at length determined that my light shall no longer be hidden under a bushel, even though that bushel be empty. And first as to observation: I got hold the other day of a "Wilmington Centinel," published in the year 1787; it was a sheet of about sixteen by twelve inches, containing some half dozen advertisements, a short editorial and an "amusing tale," of about an equal length with the editorial. My first thought was, that the size of it was owing perhaps to the scarcity of paper; but it might be the scarcity of matter, and I finally concluded that the Irishman's reply, when asked if he would have tea or coffee, might with some reason be applied here, and that it was "a little of both." When Wilmington was Newton, and Newton was in fact a New Town, it must have been a rare place. A dozen houses huddled together upon the river for business purposes, and about an equal number scattered back among the ponds and sand hills, for dwellings, constituted in earlier times, the famous Newton. Had it been possible for the original settlers to incur the enormous expense of moving whole rice fields, and importing northern lands, the place might have been rendered highly ornamental; and even as it was, the constant succession of ponds and sand hills, presented to the eye of the romantic traveller, a pleasing and picturesque view, reminding him, perhaps, of the lakes and mountains of Switzerland, and by awakening in his mind pleasurable associations, invested itself with all the beauties of that which it recalled.

But in course of time, things began to wear a much more favorable aspect; the wharves were lined with shipping, and Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch, Bremen, English and American hulls, were lying side and side in all the confidence of commercial sociability. Stores were erected, dwelling houses shot up, the sand hills were thrown into the ponds, and although much capital, as well as water, was absorbed in the latter operation, yet on the whole, the town was materially improved.—To be sure a man could no longer wash his own buggy in his own pond, at his own door, but this inconvenience was comparatively so trifling, that the good citizens, for the most part, submitted quietly to the innovation.—And what was the result of all this? Why sir, in the course of time the character of the inhabitants generally assumed a more energetic cast, and "go ahead" in lieu of "take it easy" was inserted as a new principle in their code.

Now sir, just see what a place it is! Our exports are extensive, and our imports I suspect are something greater, I am led to this supposition by the fact that there is here, at all times, a very small amount of money in circulation proportioned to the trade carried on. This would not otherwise be the case, for if Joe has a horse which I value, and I purchase the horse from him, and pay him the money, why Joe has the cash as an exact equivalent for his horse; and so if he keeps on raising horses and continues buying, he will in the end have on hand an amount of money equal to the difference in the amount expended in raising, and the amount for which he sold. But notwithstanding this inconvenience we progress famously. We have our Mayor, our Town Commissioners and

Commissioners of Navigation, our Magistrate special, and our Police, when at night, when the weary citizen has retired to his couch, and stillness reigns supreme, 'tis sweet to hear the voice of some solitary guardian of the slumberer, with a genteel brogue, "Twa' o'clock, all's well!" Then there's the bustle of the wharves, the noise of the streets, and the dust flying in clouds in all directions. And there's the Newbern road upon a summer evening; why it's a young Broadway! (tho' not quite wide enough for two carriages to drive abreast,) and any one who doubts the uniform beauty of our ladies, or the skill of their dark drivers, has only to station himself at some point east of Boundary street at from five to seven in the evening and every doubt will be speedily removed. And then, there's the daily train which comes in screaming worse than forty Indians; and the necessary bustle in depositing freight, getting off Boats, &c., reminds me most forcibly of the time when the works of Babel were finally suspended. But since interest and pleasure have combined to render railway travelling fashionable, it is astonishing how little inconvenience the modern fine lady suffers from being compelled to breathe the same air with common and less ethereal persons, or to move along impelled by the same indiscriminating power, which the beggar to her destination. Oh! shade of Brummel! has it come to this! that steam conveys the Beggar and the Prince with equal speed along the self same road? Alas! it is too true; the age has its own features, and this is one; well, if I must, faith I'll fall in with the levelling system gracefully, and thank the inventive spirit of the age, that we have cars in which we all can ride and take our ease together.—Now some persons don't like to go at Rail Road speed, but I must confess that I am excessively fond of it. When you are going at the rate of twenty-five or thirty miles an hour you can't well enjoy a very accurate view of objects in passing, I know but then there's the exhilaration, the kind of wild exultation with which you feel yourself borne onward, the blood bounds, the eye dilates, the nostril expands, and you are for the time filled with a buoyancy of spirit seldom attained under ordinary circumstances, by persons the most happily constituted. And then as for seeing what is to be seen, why, if you are very curious, just seat yourself by an open window of the car in summer, and cast your eye as far in advance as the nature of the case will admit, fixing it upon any object of which you wish to ascertain the nature, and by the time you reach it you will find out whether it's a house or a hay stack. This however, won't do in winter, for even in case you determine to sacrifice comfort to curiosity, by the time you get fairly seated at the window, some selfish booby near you will be certain to lower his head as far into his coat as possible, and sing out with stentorian lungs, "why can't you keep that window shut."—So much for enjoyment.

I have been making something of a tour of late, and propose, in a series of communications, to make my good friends here acquainted with what I've seen and heard. But I cannot close this number without observing that if Steam Saw Mills, Distilleries, Steam Planing Mills, Steam Coopering Shops, and in fact works of all kind driven by Steam, together with a population which goes by steam, can insure the prosperity of a place, Wilmington must continue on the increase; tho' I must say *I think some folks steam a little too much.*  
PETER SNAPPS.

### MR. CALHOUN'S FAMILY.

Mr. Calhoun has left a wife now in Charleston, and a family of four sons and two daughters. His first son Andrew, is a wealthy planter in Alabama; Patrick, the second son, is in the Army, and was an aid of Gen. Gaines; the third son, who was with him when he died, is a physician; the youngest son William, is now an under graduate at College. One of his daughters, Anna Maria, is the wife of Mr. Clemens, our Charge d' Affaires of Belgium, and the other has always remained at home, having long been afflicted with a spinal affection. The family are left in affluent circumstances, his property being estimated at \$100,000. He married in early life, his now bereaved partner, a lady of fortune, a cousin—bearing the same name he has rendered illustrious.

### SHOCKING MURDER IN DELAWARE.

A letter in the Delaware Republican, dated Seaford, May, 2d, says:  
One of the most daring assassinations that history, ancient or modern, ever chronicled, was committed in the village of Middleford, Sussex county, Del., this morning, at about 8 o'clock.

Capt. John Windsor took his gun and repaired to the garret, where his wife was diligently engaged in her daily avocation, plying at the loom, and informed her of his intention in bringing his gun up with him,

which was to shoot her. She ran around and got partially behind the loom, and on her knees humbly entreated him not to do so rash an act. Without heeding in the least her cries, he raised the musket to his face and deliberately shot his wife! she to whom he had vowed, in the presence of Almighty God, to protect and preserve as long as they both should live, became the victim of his treacherous passion! The murderer had a hearing before Squire Hazzard, this morning.

### CONCLUDING REMARKS.

The following concluding remarks of "Alicius" we publish because they contain several important points connected with the subject of which he treats, not before noticed. It is certainly a meritorious composition, and the result of sound reflection and a discriminative judgment. The whole has been embodied in an address to the Governors of the Free States.

Let the northern press give the northern voters the true light on both sides of their southern slavery subject, and they are not prone by nature in cold blood and wilful design to do wrong.

I know them generally as well as I know the people of the south. There is always something of some sort in which the minds of men are prone to some "falling"—none are perfect, and in some cases, like this subject of slavery; it may extend to communities and States; it is the nature of man's frail constitution; but it is our duty to ourselves, our country, and our future happiness, to correct it whenever we find we are wrong on any subject.

I am now getting old and shall never again address my northern native countrymen on this subject, but I do hope they will see that they are wrong and take it out of Congress and keep it out for I have drawn a true and faithful picture of the national evils it is now producing, and would, in the end, produce to the country and the Union, if forced upon Congress any longer against the letter, spirit and face of the constitution. Let this negro subject rest where it belongs, to the management of the people of the States and the State Governments and territories.

The northern States got rid of their slaves by selling them to the south, because, from their climate and dense white laboring population, they did not want their services. Had there been no south to sell them to, they would have been obliged to keep them as slaves, or to have converted their northern States into nurseries on a large scale of prolific breeding of "free" black paupers, vagabonds and negro drunkards; and to have lost their value and original cost in money; for, there was then no Liberia to ship them to.—This brings me to another matter: We cannot now ship free negroes to Liberia against their will and consent, even by giving them their passage and outfit; and the Colonization Society, I apprehend, have not funds enough to carry out their philanthropic object for more than the passage of some one or two hundred, instead of three or four millions of emancipated negroes.

Why do not the free negroes of the north and the south all embrace the kind offer of the Colonization Society? Because they cannot be forced out of the State and country where they were born and raised, and they know that they can live better and get along through life easier in this country, to their notions and nature, even in the South, by depending on the white people, than they could be shipped to Liberia with a free passage, where they would be compelled to depend entirely on themselves. They consider this their country and not Africa, because they were born and raised in the United States, where all their mind and attachments are centered, whether bond or free. There is no mistake in this fact.

It is now time to bring this negro subject to a few closing facts: In the first place, those persons, in ancient times of the New England colonies, and others who kidnapped negroes on the Continent of Africa, and imported them to this Continent against their will and consent, to make them slaves in the colonies, and also, in the United States since the revolution, I conceive to have been a sin, because it was done by force against the consent of those kidnapped negroes in Africa. But all those persons who originally committed and aided and abetted in doing that thing, altho' they might not at that time have seen and felt in the heart, that they were committing a sin, they are now all gone before God is the higher world, to settle their account with Him, and it does not belong to the people of any portion of the United States to follow them beyond the grave, for fear that God will not do them justice according to their respective deserts, as He may think proper and just, and not as we may think.—All those original kidnappers Africans have, also, gone beyond the grave to meet their white kidnappers before God, as the High Judge, to do justice between them, and here we ought to stop all that part of this negro subject as finally settled in the United States, and never to rake it up any more, like raking up the ashes of the dead.

The offspring of that old African dead stock, we have found here planted and grown up in the country, like native trees from the land, as we have been born into the country by the present generations, and we have to do the best we can with them, according to their race and nature; taking great and watchful care that we do not make our own condition and the country worse. In regard to their government, the idea of "sin in fact," is a mere thing of opinion. There are some things which one man or community of people may not think to be a sin.

If a man does a thing which his mind and conscience tells him is no sin, who is to be the judge of that thing, but God when that man goes before Him after death?

There is one fact in this part of the subject which no Abolitionist or Free-soiler can dispute, to wit: That the old dead African stock, have left their posterity far better off in this world, by being born in the United States, than they would have been left had they been born in Africa.

One thing is certain in this present negro subject to wit: If there is any latent sin from the original kidnapping and importing of the old African dead stock of negroes, now lurking in the present improved system of southern slavery (the only best mode by which the negroes can be governed) it is not a sin which the present generation of the people of New England and the northern states will ever have to answer for before God.

If they will answer for all their own sins, it is all that God will ever require of them; they need not give their minds so much distress and fear that they will, after death, be called on by God to answer for other people's "sins," all over the world.

The whole matter in this great black mouse mountain of slavery as it now stands, being a "sin" is nothing else but a mere matter of opinion and political bauble of northern mind and imaginary "sin," based precisely on that old colonial streak of religious weakness of the mind, in regard to their ancient blue laws and imaginary "sin" of witchcraft, which was nothing but a perfect mental epidemic in the country and which brought disgrace and a by-word upon New England, (my native land) and they are now extending that same mental epidemic all over the United States and territories to California, under a different name of imaginary "sin" of southern slavery, which God will never call on them to answer for, whether it is now a sin or not.

O, my northern countrymen, take the Bible and open it at that place where it tells you if a tree beareth evil fruit (take an axe) hew it down and cast it into the fire, &c.—To little purpose has your northern country been filled with schoolhouses, Academies, and Colleges, since the explosion of witchcraft and blue laws, for fifty years back, if you cannot raise the northern mind above that old unfortunate streak of delusive religious weakness of the mind of ancient witchcraft in so many families, as to produce a mental epidemic all over the country, of their present imaginary sin of slavery, which does not concern them in this world, and which they will not be called on by God to answer for, beyond the grave.

The very name of self styled "puritans" denotes deception, eccentricity and egotism in its origin.

That peculiar race of people, who originally fled from Old England (instead of emigrating) and landed at Plymouth rock and Salem Mass., have always been a distinct race of people in the colonies, and since the Independence of the United States, to the present day. After landing in this country, they set themselves up as "God's elect," for ordination before the beginning of the world; that they were, therefore, better than the other colonists people, and whatever they decreed was "God's will," as to the mode and persecutions of imaginary sins of witchcraft and many other things.

Here is the root of the name of "puritans," and all their subsequent train of error and wrongs, growing out of that original unfortunate streak of religious weakness of the mind, and hereditary mental epidemic, from the days of witchcraft to the present crusade against the south. It was neither the work of the Lord nor the Devil, but the work of their own weak imagination; for, I have seen and remember, in its latter part, (when a boy of good memory at 5 and 6 years of age, in 1790 and '91,) fathers going night and day (employed by the day) to drive the Devil, as they said and thought, out of persons afflicted with chronic rheumatic and other sharp pains, incident to hereditary consumption and other afflictions of the bodily system in that cold and plethoric climate. I remember it well on account of the fiddles, which delighted me. So long as they kept that unfortunate streak of religious weakness of the mind and mental epidemic within the limits of their own northern colonies and States, it was never rebuked as an evil to the middle and southern States; but, as they have now revived those old exploded "blue laws, and imaginary sins of witchcraft," under a different name of "southern slavery," and seem determined to override the Bible, the Constitution, the southern Churches, and the general Government, (in all which the whole country to California has an interest) to ultimate ruin, dissolution, and civil war: Verily, verily, it is time they were rebuked in Congress and throughout the country.

They are my native countrymen, of whom I should be proud, and also the land of my birth, were it not for that one hereditary mental overreligious propensity to overreach, dictate, disturb and destroy the rights of others, and the nationality of the United States, with that old witchcraft mental weakness, revived from the ashes of the colonies, which once brought dishonor and odium on New England.

Now, if that ancient spirit and principle of religious weakness of mind, in regard to imaginary sins of witchcraft and blue laws, could not rule the northern colonies any better in those days, past and gone, the same spirit of intolerance and religious weakness revived, is unfit, at the present day, to rule the general Government and the southern country and churches from the Atlantic to California.—This is the great truth I am laboring to arrive at, and if your Excellency will now be

good enough to advise the good people of your State, to turn the Telescope round and look through it the other way, the majority of them will acknowledge I am right.

I have gone back to the old true ground and turned the roots of the old plant and the present abolition sprout up to the light and inspection of the people, and discharged my duty in a respectful manner; it is now not for me to say how much or little the northern abolition and free-soil voters shall like it, they must be their own judge, after seeing both sides of the root of the old plant and the new. I have found the "Eureka" which has already cost the Public Treasury millions of dollars in ruinous unconstitutional waste of Congressional time and pay, within the last 30 years since the admission of Missouri into the Union.

### From the Christian Sun.

### INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT.

DEAR SIR:

If you should think the following remarks worthy of a place in your paper, I would be glad you would insert them. It is a subject which, at this time, is occupying the minds of a large portion of our people throughout the State, and one which, I think, fully justifies the attempt of all its friends to accomplish. The improvement of the internal condition of our State, should occupy our chief attention at this time. There is no subject which is likely to come before our next Legislature so important. The broad basis of several admirable plans has been commenced, and in a fair way of being partly executed—and it is all important, that the spirit which has been aroused should not be suffered to abate before the grand work shall be completed.—The probability is, that some of the Charters granted last Legislature, will need some amendment, and others extended. That being the case, it is all important that men of liberal views should be selected to represent the several Counties in the coming Legislature; and not demagogues, who before casting a vote will ask themselves, will voting give lose or gain me votes when I return, without any attempt on their part to explain to their constituents the benefits or injury the State would eventually sustain. Every representative should be a man, who is willing to take upon himself any responsibility which he believes will benefit the State, without consulting his popularity at all. If we should be represented by independent spirits of that kind, we need apprehend no danger of our success in making the Old North State what she can and ought to be. I expect there are but few men in the State who feel a deeper interest than myself in seeing all the plans in progress, effectually completed. But there is one, in which I must confess I feel more interest, than I do in either of the others. Not that I believe, that it is of more importance than some others, but I believe that it will benefit a certain class of citizens more than either of the other plans.—I mean the farming interest of the country, adjacent to its location. I know, sir, it is very hard to divest ourselves of self-interest, and that may influence my judgement, to some extent—but I do think, that to improve our Rivers by locking and damming, so as to obtain a Slack water navigation, will benefit the Farmers to a greater extent than any other plan in progress in our State! And, sir, the best reason why that kind of improvement should be adopted, where our streams are susceptible of it, is, that it is the cheapest to construct, and the easiest to repair, after it is constructed—and it is also more durable. I am by no means condemning other kinds of improvement of Rail Roads, Plank Roads and Turnpikes, of every description. We have many sections of the State, where there are no streams of sufficient magnitude to carry out this kind of improvement. In these sections, Railroads, Plank Roads, and Turnpikes, should be constructed. But where we have fast running streams, that will keep a Pond full of water (and it does not require a large one,) the slack water improvement is certainly the most durable economical and useful. There is no carriage as cheap as that of water, especially when steam can be applied.

There will be an effort made at our next Legislature to extend the Cape Fear and Deep River Improvement across the country to the Yadkin River; the distance across by land from Deep River to the Yadkin is about thirty-one or two miles. This part of the improvement will be a Portage Rail Road, with heavy T Iron rails; or a canal, if a feeder can be procured between the two Rivers of sufficient height to lock down to each of the Rivers. After reaching the Yadkin the slack water system will be again resumed. Perhaps it will not be amiss to explain the nature of the passage across this land route. What are termed Sectional Boats are constructed, in three sections, which are coupled together in such way that they can be separated at pleasure and adjusted again without any difficulty. These boats are Towed down and up the River by the steam boats on each of the Rivers; and they are carried across on the Rail Road by an Engine stationed between the two rivers for that purpose. The Rails of this Road extend down to the water of sufficient depth for a Truck car to run down on them under the Boat which is made to fit the boat; The Extra Engine is then attached, and the Truck car with the Boat is taken across the land without unloading and launched in the other River, and is there attached to the steam Boats on that River and taken up or down, as the case may be. Several of these boats can be towed at one time by one Steam Boat, carrying as much as the steam Boat. This Improvement is designed to be extended up the Yadkin River to Wilkesborough and further, if there is water sufficient

to fill and keep filled a Pond. The survey of this improvement, will be commenced about the fifteenth of May, by a competent Engineer, and report of the distance, the plan to be pursued, the obstacles to be overcome and the cost of the work submitted to our next legislature. By that time it is confidently hoped and believed by the contractors of the work that the Improvement, from Fayetteville to the Head of Smilie's Falls will be complete—and if the summer and fall should be favorable, it may be finished to Haywood.

The whole of the River is under contract, and all the contractors are pushing their work with energy, from Fayetteville to Hancock's Mill. And I think that it is only necessary to complete this portion of the work, to insure an amendment to the charter, or a new charter, to extend the improvement to Wilkesborough. In fact, I expect to see this kind of Improvement ramify itself throughout the whole of our State. The Haw River, the South Yadkin, the Catawba, and many other western Rivers, as well as our Eastern, are susceptible of being made for steamboats of shallow draught; and that which we have heretofore looked upon as an obstacle, is now discovered to be an advantage in erecting our work. I allude to the quantity of stone found in our River. The first enquiry an experienced Contractor made, when applying for Contracts, was there plenty of stone in the River? and after being told there was plenty at all the dams, except two, this made a difference in price of fifty per cent—making fifty per cent more for erecting the dams and locks, where stone was scarce.—And I now look upon the fall in our Rivers as an advantage which we could not well dispense with. We shall need the whole for our manufacturing purposes. In fact, the water power created, will nearly sell for as much as the dams will cost.

I remain, Dear Sir, Your friend and humble Servant. S. M.

### FRIGHTENING A LANDLORD.

A landlord in Pittsburg, who is well known for his dunning habits, had called several times on a tenant who owed him money. The tenant finally sent a note, inviting him to call on him "in the back room of the third story and receive the money." The landlord had read the Webster testimony and has not troubled his tenant since.

### Strange and Unnatural Outrage at Griggsville, Illinois.

Some five or six weeks since, as a respectable young woman, living near Griggsville, was returning from church, in the evening, in company with a male friend, the pair were overtaken by a ruffian, named Hunt, also a resident of the vicinity of Griggsville, who knocked down the young man and by force and violence hurried away his companion to an unfrequented place, where, by threats of instant death, he perpetrated a most unnatural outrage upon her.

Hunt then forced his victim to accompany him to the house of his father, where he kept her during that night. On the next day the poor girl returned to the house of her mother, who was then—and had been for some time—prostrated on a bed of sickness. Here she remained for that day, when her destroyer, fearing that legal measures would be instituted against him, determined to bear off the witness of his guilt. Accompanied by two brothers, as desperate as himself, he went in the evening to the residence of the young woman, and ordered her to accompany him.—The mother and an aged grandmother remonstrated, and called in the aid of some young men who were attending a writing school hard by. The Hunts, however, being well armed, bore off their victim, notwithstanding all resistance, during which the grandmother of the girl was knocked down and shamefully maltreated. The party of outlaws bore the girl some three miles distant, and for several days kept her in confinement. Meanwhile a warrant was issued for their arrest, and a constable and his posse proceeded to their place of concealment, but they found the house barricaded, and the Hunts prepared to dispute an entrance. They were summoned to surrender, but refused.—They ultimately compelled the girl, by threats of further violence, to approach the door, and assure the crowd that she was there by her own consent. The constable, not deeming that his authority justified him in proceeding further, retired.

Next morning, Hunt and the young woman crossed the river, with the intention of taking the steamboat for St. Louis. A party of citizens following, fled, but was arrested, and lodged in jail at Pittsfield. The ruined girl was restored to her mother.

Thus matters stood, until about a fortnight since, when two sisters of the Hunts, who, it is said, reside in St. Louis, and keep a house of ill-fame, went to Griggsville, with the avowed intention of carrying off the witness against their brother. This further attempt at outrage greatly exasperated the citizens, and the women were unceremoniously required to leave Griggsville with all speed. A public meeting was then held with reference