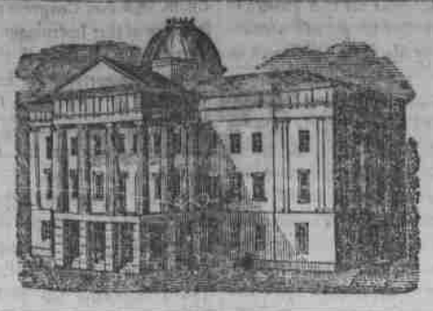
RALEIGH TIMES.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY CH. C. RABOTEAU,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.



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TERMS.

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ADVERTISEMENTS.

For every Sixteen lines, *or less*, One Dollar for the first, and Twenty-five Cents for each subsequent insertion. Court Orders, &c. will be charged 25 per cent. higher; but a reasonable deduction will be made to those who advertise by the year.

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LETTER FROM THOMAS JEFFERSON WHILE PRESIDENT.

WASHINGTON, July 12, 1801.

To Elias Shipmen, Esq., and others, members of a Committee of the Merchants of New Haven:

GENTLEMEN:—I have received the remonstrance you were pleased to address to me, on the appointment of Saml Bishop to the office of collector of New Haven, lately vacated by the death of David Austin. The right of our fellow citizens to represent to the public functionaries their opinion on proceedings interesting to them, is unquestionably a constitutional right, often useful, sometimes necessary, and will always be respectfully acknowledged by me.

Of the various executive duties, no one excites more anxious concern than that of placing the interests of our fellow citizens in the hands of honest men, with understandings sufficient for their stations. No duty at the same time, is more difficult to fulfil. The knowledge of characters possessed by a single individual is, of necessity, limited. To seek out the best through the whole Union, we must resort to other information, which, from the best of men, acting disinterestedly, and with the purest motives, is sometimes incorrect. In the case of Samuel Bishop, however, the subject of your remonstrance, time was taken, information was sought, and such obtained as could leave no room for doubt of his fitness. From private sources it was learned that his understanding was sound, his integrity pure, his character unstained, and the offices confided to him within his own State are public evidences of the estimation in which he is held by the State in general, and the city and township particularly in which he lives. He is said to be the Town Clerk, a Justice of the Peace, Mayor of the City of New Haven, an office held at the will of the Legislature, Chief Judge of the Court of Common Pleas for New Haven County, a Court of high criminal and civil jurisdiction, wherein most causes are decided without the right of appeal or review, and sole Judge of the Court of Probates, wherein he singly decides all questions of wills, settlement of estates testate, appoints guardians, settles their accounts, and in fact, has under his jurisdiction and care, all the property, real and personal, of persons dying. The two last offices, in the annual gift of the Legislature, were given to him in May last. Is it possible that the man to whom the Legislature of Connecticut has so recently committed trusts of such difficulty and magnitude is "unfit to be the collector of the District of New Haven," have acknowledged in the same writing to have obtained all this confidence "by a long course of usefulness." It is objected, indeed, in the remonstrance, that he is seventy-seven years of age; but at a much more advanced age, our Franklin was the ornament of human nature. He may not be able to perform in person, all the details of his office, but if he gives us the benefit of his understanding, his integrity, his watchfulness, and takes care that all the details are well performed by himself or his necessary assistants, all public purposes will be answered. The remonstrance, indeed, does not allege that the office *has been* illy conducted, but only apprehends that it *will be* so. Should this happen in that event, be assured I will do what shall be just and necessary for the public service. In the meantime, he should be tried without being prejudged.

The removal, as it is called, of Mr. Goodrich, forms another subject of complaint. Declarations by myself in favor of political tolerance, exhortations to harmony and affection in social intercourse, and to respect for the *equal rights* of the minority, have, on certain occasions, been quoted and misconstrued into assurances that the tenure of offices was to be undisturbed. But could candor apply such a construction? It is not, indeed in the remonstrance that we find it; but it leads to the explanations which that calls for. When it is considered that during the late administration, that those who were not of a particular sect of politics were excluded from all office; when, by a steady pursuit of this measure, nearly all the whole offices of the United States were monopolized by that sect; when the public sentiment at length declared itself, and burst open the doors of honor and confidence to those whose opinions they more approved, was it to be imagined that this monopoly of office was still to be continued in the hands of the minority? Does it violate their *equal rights* to assert some rights in the majority also? Is it political intolerance to claim a proportionate share in the direction of the public affairs? Can they not *harmonize* in society unless they have every thing in their own hands? If the will of the nation, manifested by their various elections, calls for an administration of government according with the opinions of those elected; if not for the fulfilment of that will, displacements are necessary, with whom can they so justly begin as with persons appointed in the last moments of an administration, not for its own aid, but to begin a career at the same time with their successors, by whom they had never been approved, and who could scarcely expect from them a cordial cooperation? Mr. Goodrich was one of these. Was it proper for him to place himself in office, without knowing whether those whose agent he was to be, would have confidence in his agency? Can the preference of another as the successor to Mr. Austin, be candidly called a removal of Mr. Goodrich? If a due participation of office is a matter of right, how are vacancies to be obtained? Those by death are few. By resignation none. Can any other mode than that of removal be proposed? This is a painful office. But it is made my duty and I meet it as such. I proceed in the operation with deliberation and inquiry, that it may injure the best men least, and effect the purposes of justice and public utility with the least private distress: that it may be thrown as much as possible, on delinquency, on oppression, on intolerance, on anti-revolutionary adherence to our enemies.

The remonstrance laments "that a change in the administration must produce a change in the subordinate officers;" in other words, that it should be deemed necessary for all officers to think with the principal! But on whom does this imputation bear? *On those who have excluded from office every shade of opinion which was not theirs! or on those who have been so excluded!* I lament sincerely that unessential differences of opinion should ever have been deemed sufficient to interdict half the society from the rights and the blessings of self government; to proscribe them as unworthy of every trust. It would have been to me a circumstance of great relief, *had I found a moderate participation of office in the hands of the majority.* I would gladly have left time and accident to raise them to their just share. But their *total exclusion* calls for prompter corrections. I shall correct the procedure: but that done, return with joy to that state of things, when the only questions concerning a candidate shall be, is he honest? is he capable? is he faithful to the constitution?

I tender you the homage of my high respect,

THOS. JEFFERSON.

From the Fayetteville Observer.

THE PLANK ROAD MEETING.

An all absorbing interest was manifested in the meeting of the Stockholders in this Company on Wednesday and Thursday last. Out of 988 shares subscribed absolutely, 940 were represented in person or by proxy, and 40 shares of the unrepresented stock is held in Salisbury, Wilmington and Bladen County. So that only 8 shares held in and about this place were unrepresented in the meeting. Besides the unconditional subscriptions present, several gentlemen were here representing the conditional subscribers at Little River Factory, Watson's Bridge, Randolph and Carthage, who were, upon successive motions, invited to seats in the meeting, and to express their opinions upon the principal matters which came before it.

The meeting was organized by calling Judge Strange to the Chair, and appointing Major D. G. McRae, Secretary. A committee, consisting of Messrs. George McNeill, T. N. Cameron, J. G. Shepherd, T. S. Lutterloh and John H. Hall, was appointed to ascertain the amount of stock represented, and to report a system of Bye-laws to govern the Corporation, under the Charter. These duties were performed, the first as above stated, and the second by defining the duties of the President and Directors, and Treasurer. The salary of the President was fixed at only $500 and necessary travelling expenses—a general desire being felt not to jeopard the success of the enterprise by paying high salaries. The salary of the Treasurer was left discretionary with the Board of Directors, in whom that appointment is vested.

The most important decision made was the adoption of the following Preamble and Resolutions [presented by Maj. MacRae,] by an almost unanimous vote:

The Stockholders, now assembled, deeply regret that the State is not represented in the present meeting, and would now gladly adjourn to some future day without any action, to have the benefit of the advice and assistance of His Excellency, the Governor, and the members of the Board of Internal Improvement; but the meeting having been called while there was only a subscription of $25,000 and the stockholders having assembled under that call, some of them from a distance and at considerable expense, it would be scarcely just to them, to dissolve the meeting and compel them to assemble again, or have no part in the organization of the Company. Besides this, the stockholders find at this time an unusual degree of zeal and enthusiasm in the proposed work, and a disposition to go heartily into it, which they are unwilling to encounter the risk of subsiding before any action; but chiefly are they influenced by the consideration, that a large amount of conditional subscription has been offered, making the whole amount required for the completion of the scheme, which they are anxious to secure, and if not now secured they may never again have an opportunity of securing. Therefore

Resolved, That in the opinion of the stockholders, in General Meeting assembled, the most eligible route for the contemplated Plank Road, is what is called the upper route—crossing Little River at or near Murchison's Factory: thence to Deep River at or near Watson's Bridge, or by Carthage; and through the counties of Randolph and Davidson to its terminus.

Resolved, That the President and Directors are hereby instructed to have both the Upper and Middle Routes examined by a competent Engineer, and as soon as said examinations are completed to or near the village of Ashborough, or Franklinville, in Randolph county, then the said President and Directors shall proceed with all convenient despatch to locate the said Plank Road on that rout which, in the opinion of the Engineer, with the concurrence of the President and Directors, will be most advantageous to the interest of the stockholders and the State.

Resolved, That we are pleased to see the interest manifested in the Plank Road scheme by our fellow citizens in different parts of the State, particularly by those residing contiguous to South Carolina, in the counties of Richmond and Anson; that although we deem it of paramount importance to adopt one or the other of the upper routes for the main stem, yet we are duly sensible of the great importance of a connection with the cotton growing country of the Pee Dee, and shall at the earliest opportunity throw a branch in that direction.

The preamble and resolutions were adopted as a compromise of extreme opinions and wishes on both sides, and would finally have been unanimously agreed to, but for the unwillingness of some stockholders to express any preference for one rout over another, until after a survey, and until the State could be represented.

Letters were read from Governor Manly, expressing a deep interest in the success of this work, and stating that the notice given to him was too short to allow of a meeting of the Board of Internal Improvements, to attend in person or by proxy.

The Company proceeded to the election of officers which resulted as follows:

FOR PRESIDENT,

Edward Lee Winslow, Esq. of Fayetteville.

FOR DIRECTORS,

Chas. T. Haigh, Alfred A. McKethan, Henry L. Myrover, John H. Cook, George McNeill, Thos. Lutterloh, David A. Ray, Edmund J. Lilly, John D. Starr.

We heartily congratulate the Company on their success in securing so respectable and competent a Board for the management of its affairs. Every one of them deeply interested in the prosperity of this town and that region from which its trade principally comes; every one leading business men, and large property holders, in the place; the public has an ample guaranty that all the interests involved will be faithfully and ably controlled. As an evidence of their standing among their fellow-citizens, we may mention, that with every citizen in town to select from, and among very many gentlemen voted for, the whole nine Directors were elected on the first ballot. The only thing to be regretted is, that the conditional subscriptions in the up country had not been absolute, so that a portion of the Directory might have been selected from among them.

From the Milton Chronicle.

Will the "Carolina Gazette" please "define" those "Whig papers" in this district who are "breathing upon" Mr. Venable "the most awful condemnation, and charge him with political enormities which he never had any idea of committing; and never would have been brought into existence, but for the sapient editors in that (this) District"? And will it please inform its readers what these "political enormities" are? We dislike innuendoes—give us plain talk.

"John Kerr, Esq. of Caswell, we learn, is the Whig candidate. This gentleman can make a plausible stump speech, but cannot match Mr. Venable as a debater."

We extract the above from the "Carolina Gazette," printed in Wilmington. It is all "news" in these diggins! Mr. Kerr, is a candidate, is he? Why, you know more about the matter than his neighbors—and we are glad to hear it—he will beat your "chatterbox," certain. But unfortunately, HE does not admit that he is a candidate! and WE would not marvel if he knew quite as much about his own business as any body else.

He can make "a repsectable stump speech" can he? "But cannot match with Mr. Venable, as a debater." This, too, is "news" in these diggins! Many of us who have HEARD them both speak, think precisely to the reverse—we not only *think* it, but KNOW it! Mr. Venable himself knows it, if he has not often been forced to ADMIT it. Did it look much like Mr. Kerr was not Mr. V.'s "match as a debater," when, with a clear thousand majority to back Mr. Venable in the District, he succeeded in beating Mr. Kerr by the diminutive majority of only 153? And but for the shameful and outrageous lies that Locofocoism concocted and circulated against Mr. K. he would have been elected. He was FALSELY charged with having made "Volunteer" speeches justifying Mr. Polk in the matter of the Mexican War—as pronouncing it Constitutional, 'holy' and just, &c. He was *falsely* chared with a design, if elected, to "establish the Missionary Bap: Church" of which he is a member, and with a fixed purpose of mind to have a law passed to HANG all the "Ironside Baptists" in creation! (there being a large number of this class in the District, the base and ridiculous LIE, strange as it may seem, had its effect, and caused him the loss of many votes to our own knowledge.) And to cap the climax, he was FALSELY charged with a want of respect for the mechanics and humane feeling for the poor!! Not one of which abominable charges had the slightest foundation in truth—yet they were industriously circulated—circulated, in some instances, as we are prepared to prove, by men who KNEW the charges were as false as Old Satan—and men a plenty, with human skulls upon their shoulders, were found to believe them—and some benighted scavengers of modern democracy, GLORIED in the belief! *They* could'nt and would'nt believe otherwise, though a witness arose from the dead!—"Cannot match with Mr. Venable as a debater," indeed! You surely joke, friend Gazette. We know of but one man in the State who can 'match with Mr. Kerr, as a debater,' and that man is H. W. Miller, Esq. of Raleigh, who is "a match" for any man, and to whom, in connexion with Mr. Kerr, Old Zach owes much for his tremendous majority in North Carolina, over Cass, "noise and confusion!"

FROM CANADA.

The following from the "Kingston Chronicle," we think, gives a correct state of public feeling in Canada respecting a federal union:

"The British people of this Colony are seriously 'casting about in their mind's eye for a new state of existence.' Some are led, partly by the recent changes in the commercial policy of the empire, and partly by the sense of an injurious Franco-Canadian domination, to seek an alliance with the people of a kindred race who inhabit a neighboring country; others—and we believe these constitute the overwhelming majority of the loyalists of the country—look to an union of the British American provinces, with central and local governments, as offering all the advantages which could be realized by a connection with the adjoining republic, together with the maintenance of these monarchical institutions which they justly regard at once liberty to the subject and stability to society."

The "British League," against the payment of rebellion losses, we observe by the despatches from Montreal, is numerously signed; and the Council have petitioned the Queen for a repeal of the navigation laws, so far as they relate to the navigation of the St. Lawrence and otherwise with the carrying trade of the Province. They urge also improvement of Lake St. Peter. They also state that they deem the policy of protection essential to the interests of the colony, and that they have petitioned the Home Government to place a duty of five shillings per quarter on foreign wheat, admitting colonial wheat duty free.

GOVERNOR'S ELECTION IN ARKANSAS.—A letter to the Philadelphia Ledger, dated Cincinnati, April 12, says:

The returns, as far as received, of the special election in Arkansas, for Governor, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Governor Thos. S. Drew, indicate the choice of Mr. Wilson, the Whig candidate. The returns come in very slow. Twenty-two counties have been heard from. Mr. Wilson is two hundred and forty-five ahead. The Arkansas Banner, a Democratic paper, published at Little Rock, says the chances are in favor of Wilson. Hon. John S. Roane was the Democratic candidate.

THE AGREEABLE.

The Boston Traveller gives a sensible piece of advice, as to the art of pleasing. It is as follows, and we commend it cordially to the many, who are so selfish, or so indolent, that they would not raise an arm, or utter a word, even if satisfied that such a course would secure the happiness or promote the interest of a friend or neighbor:

"Many a man feels that he could make himself agreeable in a given case, if he pleased so to do; but he will not take the trouble; it is not a sufficient object with him; he cares so little about the matter, that he says to himself—'It will not pay.' But he is mistaken. In a great majority of cases it does pay, and pay well, too. Every man reaps a profit in his own feelings of comfort and pleasure. The very attempt to please, though unsuccessful, if made without a sacrifice of principles, carries its own reward with it. And besides, every man in society owes it to those with whom he associates, to do what in him lies to make them happier and better. And he is a churl, or a clown, or a miserable misanthrope, who wraps himself within himself, regardless of the comfort and pleasure of all around him."

The Charter election in Columbus, Ohio, resulted in the total defeat of the Locofocos by an unprecedented majority. The Whigs have elected their Mayor, Marshal, and five out of the six council men. The vote was unusually large, and the most strenuous secret exertions had been made by the Locofocos to bring out their entire vote, with the full anticipation of a victory. The Whig majority for Mayor is 173.

MISCELLANEOUS.

From the Legends and Stories of Ireland.

PADDY'S STORY OF A FOX.

'Paddy,' said the squire, 'perhaps you would favor the gentleman with that story you once told me about a fox?'

'Indaad and I well plase your honor,' said Paddy, 'though I know full well the divil a word of it you believe, nor the gintleman won't either, tho' you swin' me for it, but only to laugh at me, and call me a big liar, when my back's turned.'

'Maybe we would'nt wait for your back being turned, Paddy, to honor you with that title.'

'Oh, indaad, I'm not saying you would'nt do it as soon formist my face, your honor, as you often did before, and will agin, plaze God, and welkim ——'

'Well, Paddy, say no more about that, but let's have the story.'

'Sure I'm losin' no time, only tellin' the gintlemin before hand that it's what they'll be callin' it a lie, and indeed, it is uncommon, sure enough, but you see gintlemen, you must remember that the fox is the cunnin'ist baste in the worle, barrin' the wran.

Here Paddy was questioned why he considered the wren as cunning a *baste* as the fox.

'Why sir, bekase all birds build their nest with one hole in it only, excep'n the wran, but the wran builds two holes on the nest, so that if an inimy comes to disturb it upon one door, it can go out on the other; but the fox is cute to that dregree, that there's many a mortal a fool to him; and, be dad, the fox could buy and sell many a Christian, as you'll see by and by, when I tell you what happened to a wood ranger that I knew wanst, and a decent man he was, and would'nt say the thing in a lie.

Well, you see, he kem home one night, mighty tired, for he was out with a party in the domain, cock-shootin' that day; and when he got back to his lodge, he threw a few logs 'o wood on the fire to make himself comfortable, and he tuk whatever little matther he had for his supper, and, afther that, he felt himself so tired that he went to bed. But you're to understan' that, though he went to bed, it was more for to rest himself, like, than to sleep, for it was airly; and so he jist went to bed, and there diverted himself lookin' at the fire, that was blazin' as merry as a bonfire on the hearth.

'Well, as he was lyin' that-a-way, just thinkin' o' nothin' at all, what should come into the place but a fox. But I must tell you, what I forgot to tell you before, that the ranger's house was on the borthers o' the wood, and he had no one to live wid him but himself, barrin' the dogs that he had the car uv, that was his only companions, and he had a hole cut in the door, with a swingin' board to it, that the dogs might go in or out, accordin' as it plazed them; and, be dad, the fox came in as I told you through the hole in the door, as bold as a ram, and walked over to the fire and sat down forninst it.

'Now, it was mighty provokin' that all the dogs was out; they wor rovin' about the woods, you see, looking for to ketch rabbits to ate, or some other mischief, and it so happened that there wan't much as one individual dog in the place; and, be dad, I'll go bail the fox knew that right well before he put his nose inside the ranger's lodge.

'Well, the ranger was in hopes that some o' the dogs id come home and ketch the chap, and he was loth to stir hand or fut himself, afeard o' freightenin' away the fox; but, be dad, he could hardly keep his temper at all, at all, whin he seed the fox take the pipe off o' the hob, where he left it afore he wint to bed, and puttin' the bowl o' the pipe into the fire to kindle it, (it's as thrue as I'm here) he began to smoke forninst the fire, as natural as any other man you ever seed.

'Musha, bad luck to your impudence, you long tailed blackguard!' says the ranger, 'and it is smokin' my pipe you are? Oh thin, by this and by that, if I had my gun convayuient to me, it's fire and smoke of another sort, and what you wouldn't bargain for, I'd give you,' said he. But still he was loth to stir, hoping the dogs id come home; and 'Be dad, my fine fellow,' says he to the fox, 'if one o' the dogs id come home, saltpethre would'nt save you, and that a strong pickle!'

'So, with that, he watched until the fox wasn't minding him, but was busy shakin' the cinders out o' the pipe, when he done wid it, and the ranger thought he was going to go immediately after gettin' an air o' the fire and 'a shaugh o' the pipe; and so says he, 'Faiks, my lad, I won't let you go so aisy as all that, as cunnin' as you think yourself,' and wid that, he made a dart out o' bed, and run over to the door, and got betune it and the fox; and, 'now' says he, 'your bread's baked, my buck, and may be my lord won't have a fine run out o' you and the dogs at your drish every yard you morodin' thief, and the divil mind you,' says he, 'for your impudence, for sure, if you hadn't the impidince of a highwayman's horse, it's not into my very house, undther my nose, you'd dare for to come,' and with that, he began to whistle for the dog, and the fox, that stood eyein' him all the time while he was spakin' began to think it was time to be joggin' when he heard the whistle, and says the fox to himself, 'Troth, indeed, you think yourself a mighty great ranger now,' says he, 'and you think you're very cute, but, upon my 'oul, and that's a big oath, I'd be long sorry to let 'im a mallet headed beg throtter as yourself take a dirty advantage o' me, and I'll engage,' says the fox, 'I'll make you lave the door soon and siddin;' and, with that, he turned to where the rangers' brogues were lying, hard by, besides the fire, and what would you think, but the fox tuck up one o' the brogues, and wint over to the fire and threw it into it.

'I think that'll make you start,' says the fox.

'Divil resave the start,' says the ranger; that won't do, my buck,' said he, 'the brogue may burn to cendthers,' says he, 'but out o' this I won't stir,' and thin, putting his fingers into his mouth, he gev a blast iv a whistle you'd hear a mile off, and shouted for the dogs.

'So that won't do,' says the fox. 'Well, I must thry another offer,' says he, and with that he tuk up the other brogue, and threw it into the fire too. 'There now,' says he, 'you may keep the other company,' says he, 'and there's a pair o' ye now, as the divil said of his knee buckles.'

'Oh, you thievin' varmin!' says the ranger, 'you won't lave me a tack to my feet; but no matther,' says he 'your head's worth more nor a pair of brogues to me, any day; and, by the Piper o' Blessintown, you're money in my pocket this mir it,' says he; and with that, the fingers was in his mouth agin, and he was goin' to whistle, whin, what would you think, but up sits the fox on his bunkers, and puts his two fore-paws into his mouth, makin' game o' the ranger—[Dad luck to the lie I tell you.]

'Well, the ranger, and no wonder, although in a rage, as he was, couldn't help laughin' at the fox mockin' him, and, by dad, he tuk sitch a fit o' laughter, that he couldn't whistle and that was the cuteness o' the fox to gain time; but, when his first laugh was over, the ranger recovered himself and gev another; and so says the fox, 'By my sowl!' says he, I think it wouldn't be good for my health to stay here much longer, and I musn't be thriflin' with [illegible] blackguard ranger any more,' says he, '[illegible] must make him sensible that it is time to let me go; and, though he hasn't undhersanin' to be sorry for his brogues,' 'I'll go bail I'll make him lave that,' say he, 'before he'd say *spatables*: and, with that, what you think the fox done? By all that's good—and the ranger himself towld me out iv his own mouth, and said he would'nt have believed it, only he seen it—the fox tuk a lighted piece iv bog out o' the blazin' fire, and run over wid it to the ranger's bed, and was going to throw it into the straw and burn him out iv house and home; so when the ranger seen that, he gev a shout out iv him.

'Hilloo, hilloo! you murdtherin villin! says he 'you're worse nor Captain Rock! is it goin' to burn me out you are, you rogue iv a Ribbonman!' and he made a dart betune him and the bed, to save the house from being burned: but my jewel that was the fox wanted; and as soon as the ranger quitted the hole in the door, that he was standin' fornist, the fox let go the blazin' faggot, and made one jump thro' the door and escaped.

'But before he wint, the ranger gev me his oath, that the fox turned round and gev him the most contemptible look he ever got in his life, and shewed every tooth in his head with laughin'; and at last he put out his tongue at him, as much as to say 'You've missed me like your mammy's blessin' and off wid him—like a flash o' lightnin!'"

SPEAKING OUT IN CHURCH.

Under this head the New York Tribune gives the following very good incident:

"A young lady of this city, who is engaged and will shortly be united to a gallant son of Neptune, visited the Mariner's Church on Sunday last. During the sermon, the pastor discoursed eloquently and with much earnestness of manner on the trials, dangers and temptations of the profession of a sailor; he concluded by asking the following question: "Is there any one who thinks anything of him who wears a tar-paulin hat, a blue jacket, or a pair of trowsers made of duck—in short, is there any one who cares aught for the poor sailor?" A little girl, sister of this young lady, who was sitting by her, immediately jumped up, and looking archly at her sister, said, in a tone loud enough for every one to hear: "Yes, sir, *Beck* does!" The audience were convulsed with laughter; the minister bit his lips, and concluded the services by requesting the congregation to unite with him in prayer."

A VIRGINIA BLUE LAW.

Among the Acts passed at the General Assembly of Virginia, held at 'James Cittie,' in the year 1661, was the following:

'Women causing scandalous suites, to be decked.'

'Whereas, oftentimes many babbling women slander and scandalize their neighbors, for which their poore husbands are brought into chargeable and vexatious suites, and custe in greate damages.

'Be it therefore enacted by authority aforesaid, That in action of slander occasioned by the wife, as aforesaid, after judgement passed for the damages, the women shall be punished by ducking; and if the slander be so enormous as to be adjudged at a greater damage than five hundred pounds of tobacco, then the women to suffer ducking for every five hundred pounds of tobacco adjudged against the husband, if he refuses to pay the tobacco."