

# THE HARBINGER.

FRUMPERE E TENEBRIS ET IN LUCEM OBLUCIARI.

VOL. I. UNIVERSITY OF NORTH-CAROLINA, [CHAPEL HILL,] THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1833. NO. 17.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY  
BY ISAAC C. PATRIDGE,  
[Under the supervision of the Professors  
of the University.]

TERMS—Three Dollars per annum, payable yearly  
in advance, or Four Dollars if payment be delayed six  
months after the commencement of each subscription  
year.—Advertisements (which are limited to four col-  
umns,) inserted at the customary rates.  
All letters should be directed to the publisher, at  
Chapel Hill, Orange County, North-Carolina.

## State Legislature.

### REPORT

Of the President and Directors of the Literary Fund,  
of North Carolina, transmitted, according to Act of  
Assembly, November 22nd, 1833.

To the General Assembly of the State of  
North Carolina.

The President and Directors of the Literary Fund, in obedience to the act of Assembly requiring them to "cause to be kept by the Treasurer for the State, a regular account of all such sums of money as may belong to the said fund; of the manner in which the same has been applied and vested; and to make an annual report thereof to the Legislature, with such recommendations for the improvement of the same as to them shall seem expedient" respectfully Report, That the receipts of this corporation for the year ending on the first day of November, 1833, have been as follows viz.

Amount of tavern tax for 1833,	\$2,737 28
do do do do do do do do	675 64
do cash received do on entries	6,279 43
of vacant land,	43
Ditto dividends received State	
Bank and Bank of Newbern,	18,180 00
Ditto do Cape Fear Navigation Company	566 14
	28,438 49

Add to this sum the amount reported by the Public Treasurer to the last General Assembly, to have been due to the Literary Fund, on the first of November 1832,

\$8,586 32

Making an aggregate of \$117,024 81. During the present year no expenditures have been made from this fund for any purpose; and for obvious reasons the board have declined to exercise the authority given by the third section of the act creating this corporation "to vest any part or the whole of the fund in the stock of any of the Banks of this State, or in the stock of the Bank of the United States." The entire fund has therefore been idle and unproductive during this period.

The President and Directors have had some difficulty in determining the construction, which ought to be given to the act of incorporation; and as the question involved is one of much importance, they beg leave to refer it to the consideration of the Legislature. The second section provides that the Literary Fund, shall consist of the dividends arising from certain Bank Stock owned by the State, the dividend arising from stock owned by the State in certain navigation companies; the tax imposed by law on licenses to the retailers of spirituous liquors and auctioneers; the unexpended balance of the agricultural fund, which by the act of the Legislature is directed to be paid into the public Treasury; all monies paid to the State for entries of vacant land excepting the Cherokee lands, the sum of \$21,090, which was paid by the State to certain Cherokee Indians for reservations to land secured to them by treaty, when the said sum shall be received from the United States by this State; and of all the vacant and unappropriated swamp lands in this State, together with such sums of money as the Legislature may hereafter find it convenient to appropriate, from time to time." The third section declares that the President and Directors shall have authority "at all times to change, alter, and dispose of the real and personal estate, belonging to the said fund, in such manner and upon such terms as may, in their opinion be best calculated to improve the value thereof." An act passed at the same session, prohibits the entry of swamp lands. Has the act of Assembly in question transferred the swamp lands to this corporation with authority to dispose of them; or merely a right to all monies paid to the State on account of them, as in the case of other vacant and unappropriated lands?

The Board entertain the opinion that the former is the true construction. The grant is expressed "of all the vacant and unappropriated swamp lands," and not to "all monies paid to the State" as in the former instance. If a right to the latter merely is intended, there was no necessity of any reference to the swamp lands, all the unappropriated lands except the Cherokee lands, being included by the other form of expression. The corporation neither owns, nor has authority to acquire any real estate other than these lands, so that the power "to alter, change and dispose of the real and personal estate," given by the third section is by any other construction entirely nugatory, so far as it relates to the former species of property.

The act above referred to, passed at the same session of the Legislature, to prohibit the entry of these lands accords well with this construction. The Legislature seems at that period for the first time, to have been

duly sensible of the great importance of this portion of the public domain, and it must have been upon this real estate alone, that any reliance could have been placed, or even hope entertained for the accumulation, within any reasonable period, of a sufficient fund for the support of common and convenient schools for the instruction of youth in the several counties of this State.

Having arrived at this conclusion, it becomes the duty of the Board, in connexion with the subject, "to make such recommendations to the Legislature for the improvement of the Fund as seem to them expedient."

It is apparent that no general good could be effected, by an attempt to establish common and convenient schools in every county in the State, with a fund amounting to a little more than a hundred thousand dollars. There is at present no opportunity afforded for an investment in the stock of any Bank in this State or of the U. States, though it is probable this state of things will not long continue. In the mean time, they entertain the opinion that their attention may with great propriety be directed to the improvement of that part of the fund which consists of real estate, and that a portion of the money in the Treasury may well be set apart for this purpose, leaving the remainder to be invested in such stocks, as the Legislature may direct.

The Governor in his recent message to the General Assembly, has stated the extent, and made some general remarks with respect to the value of the swamp and marsh lands in the State. A minute and interesting description of the entire region, over which they extend, was given to the Board for Internal Improvements in 1827, by Mr. Nash, then Civil Engineer for the State. He concludes his report on this subject by observing that, "North Carolina possesses a mine of wealth in her swamp lands, which if rightly managed may be made a source of great and lasting revenue. Instead of being the abodes of reptiles and howling beasts, the receptacles of stagnant waters, which spread disease and death through the country for one third of the year, these now loathsome marshes and swamps may all be converted into fruitful fields, and made the delightful habitations of man."

The Board have taken much pains, to ascertain the correctness of the description given by this gentleman of the several tracts of country surveyed by him, and to test the general accuracy of his estimates. Various publications on the subject have been consulted, the maps belonging to the Executive Department attentively examined, and much information has been obtained by an extensive correspondence with gentlemen residing in the eastern section of the State. These inquiries have produced the conviction that the subject is one of great importance and well worthy the interest it has excited in the public mind. The general fertility of the soil is universally admitted, the extent of the surface has been ascertained by actual survey, and the effect of the anticipated improvement upon the health of the adjacent country cannot be otherwise than salutary.

The important inquiry however remains to be answered, in what way and by what means can this work be most advantageously performed? This has been the subject of much reflection with the Board, and they have been unable to devise any general system of improvement, with which they are entirely satisfied. They believe, however, that an experiment may be made without either hazard or expense to the fund, which they have in charge, which will afford the most satisfactory information by which to determine the propriety of entering upon a general system of improvement. They propose to select a single tract of sufficient extent, and offer the requisite inducement to reclaim it, to individual effort and enterprise. With this view they recommend as the first object of attention, the work which has been the subject of such frequent discussion in the Legislature, the improvement of the swamp land in Hyde county, by draining Matamuskeet lake. This lake is represented by Mr. Nash to be 20 miles in length from East to West, and 8 or 9 miles wide from North to South, and to cover an area of 120,000 acres. It is elevated from 7 to 10 feet above the level of Pamlico sound, from which it is distant four miles, and has at its greatest depth 9 feet of water. He estimates that a canal forty feet in width, and eight feet in depth, may be excavated along the line of a canal already existing of the width of twelve and depth of four feet, by the expenditure of \$8,000, and that it would have the effect to lay bare and sufficiently dry for the purposes of cultivation, 60,000 acres of land, of great fertility. In addition to this the lands of the riparian proprietors would be secured from inundation, and thus greatly enhanced in value, and the healthfulness of a neighborhood increased, which is believed to be more densely populated, than any settlement of equal extent in this or perhaps in the southern states.

There is another object which may be attained by draining this lake or reducing its waters, which recommend it still more forcibly to public patronage. The distance from the lake to Alligator river is but four miles. If a canal be cut from the north side of the former, to the Pamptico sound, and

from its southern margin to Alligator river, which it is believed may be effected without much difficulty, a direct communication will be opened between Albemarle and Pamptico sounds. The Dismal Swamp Canal is already in successful operation, and the improvement now proposed will afford a channel of communication between Norfolk and Newbern, of great importance, not only to the immediate section of country through which it will pass, but to a large portion of the Atlantic coast. Within the last two months, a company of enterprising gentlemen have established a line of steamboats between Elizabeth City (near the point of connexion between Pasquotank river and the Dismal Swamp Canal) and Newbern. It is in contemplation to extend this line from Newbern, through the Club Foot and Harlow's Creek Canal to Beaufort, and thence along the coast by Wilmington to Charleston, S. C. Through the canals connecting Matamuskeet lake with Pamptico and Albemarle Sounds, a hundred miles would be saved in distance, between Elizabeth City and Newbern, and the dangerous navigation of the lower part of Albemarle Sound avoided. This improvement would constitute a link of the great chain of internal communication which has for many years attracted the attention of some of our most distinguished statesmen. The facilities of intercommunication which it would afford in time of peace, would greatly promote the convenience and advance the prosperity of that section of the State; but if at any time the fleet of an enemy should cut off all intercourse with our seaports, a safe and direct inland navigation, of the character proposed as a means of defence, would be of incalculable value, not only to North Carolina, but to the Union.

It seems to be matter of surprise, that the Legislature had not been induced, long since by the obvious advantages which must result from the successful prosecution of such an enterprise, to offer the entire body of land, which might be reclaimed, to the first individual who would drain the lake. The Board entertain the opinion, however, that if the General Assembly concur with them in the construction they have given to the Act creating this fund, and sanction the course which they propose to adopt, liberal and enterprising individuals will be willing to incur the hazard of such an undertaking upon terms much more favourable to the State, if successfully prosecuted, and attended by no public loss should it fail.

They therefore respectfully recommend to your honorable body to authorize the President and Directors of the Literary Fund to loan upon good security, to any number of individuals, not exceeding thirty, who will associate themselves, and shall be incorporated for the purpose of engaging in the work, a sum of money, not exceeding 30,000 dollars to be applied by the said individuals to the accomplishment of the projected enterprise. The money to be repaid at the expiration of five years from the period at which the loan shall have been obtained, without interest. The lands when reclaimed, to be sold, and the proceeds, after the repayment of the 30,000 dollars loaned, to be equally divided between the corporation and the individuals concerned. The canals to be joint property, and reasonable rates of toll to be allowed for the transportation of produce upon them.

By this plan, the Literary Fund, for the use of the capital employed, and the land, surface of the lake, which in its present condition is destitute of value, would receive one half the amount of tolls levied on the canals, and the individuals under whose direction the work shall be performed the remaining half, as a compensation for their attention and the hazard incurred.

## Congressional.

EXTRACT FROM THE REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL.

General Post Office Department,  
November 30, 1833.

"On the 1st day of July, 1832, the day to which my last report reaches, there was stated to be a surplus of available funds, after defraying all the expenses of the department up to that day, of \$202,811 40

It is however now ascertained, that the expenses incurred for transportation which had actually been performed prior to the 1st July, 1832, beyond the amount stated in that report, were 205,656 07

So that, instead of a surplus on that day, the department was actually indebted on the 1st day of July, 1832, beyond the whole amount of its available funds, admitting that no losses of postages should be sustained, 2,844 67

The gross amount of postages for the year ending the 30th June, 1832, was 2,258,570 17

The gross amount of postages for the year ending the 30th June, 1833, was 2,616,538 27

Making an increase for the year over the former year, of \$357,968 10

The net proceeds of postages, after deducting commissions to postmasters and the con-

tingent expenses of their office, for the year ending the 30th June, 1832, was \$1,543,098 49

For the year ending June 30, 1833, it was 1,790,254 65

Making an increase of net proceeds for the year, of \$247,156 16

The expenses of the department, incurred for the year ending June 30, 1833, were as follows, viz.

Compensation to postmasters, including the contingent expenses of their offices—	
3d quarter, 1832,	\$202,431 26
4th quarter, "	200,151 51
1st quarter, 1833,	214,935 50
2d quarter, "	208,765 35
	\$826,283 62

Transportation of the mail—	
3d quarter, 1832,	435,892 85
4th quarter, "	441,183 01
1st quarter, 1833,	499,185 96
2d quarter, "	518,426 16
	1,894,688 08

Incidental expenses for the year, 87,701 61

Making together,	\$2,808,673 31
The gross amount of postages for the same period was—	
3d quarter, 1832,	642,689 22
4th quarter, "	630,464 47
1st quarter, 1833,	673,957 67
2d quarter, "	669,426 91
	2,616,538 27

Leaving a deficit of 192,135 04

Add this sum paid into the Treasury by irregular deposits, having been placed by the receiving officer to the credit of that department instead of this, 228 69

The balance due by the department on the 1st July, 1832, as above stated, 2,844 67

And the department was indebted on the 1st July, 1833, beyond the amount of available balances due to it, in the sum of \$195,208 40

The annual expense of transporting the mail under existing contracts, with all their improvements, is \$2,033,289 42

The incidental expenses of the department, estimated at 90,000 00

Making the aggregate expense for a year \$2,123,289 42

The net proceeds of postages for the year ending the 30th June, 1833, amounted to \$1,790,254 65

The net increase for that year over the preceding year, and which may be safely estimated as continuing, was 247,156 16

Making the net revenue for the current year \$2,037,410 81

Leaving a deficit of \$85,878 61

The former method of keeping the accounts of the expenses of transportation would have left out of this report expenses for transportation, as if they had not been incurred, because not entered under their proper dates, the sum of \$91,658 82, viz.

For services performed prior to July 1, 1832,	\$22,294 44
For services performed during 3d quarter, 1832,	9,420 50
4th quarter, 1832,	9,932 21
1st quarter 1833,	22,872 70
2d quarter, 1833,	27,138 97
	\$91,658 82

Making together, \$91,658 82

This, had the imperfection of that system remained unobserved, would have made the department appear to be less indebted, by that amount, than what it is in reality.

The discovery of the excess of expenditures beyond its revenues, at once showed the necessity of retrenchment. The only practicable means of doing this, was the withdrawal of some of the improvements which had been made, and on such routes as would be least injurious to the public, and least prejudicial to the revenues of the department.

This has been done with great care and attention to these two points. The reductions have been directed on the transportation, to take effect from the 1st of January next, to the annual amount of \$202,370

The contracts have been renewed for the southwestern section, comprising the States of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Missouri, Illinois, and Indiana, and the Territory of Arkansas, with a greater amount of improvements than curtails, at an annual saving of 71,893

Making together an annual retrenchment in the expenses of the department of \$274,263

In making these retrenchments, many of the principal contractors who were to be affected by them, seeing the necessity which

induced the measure, have readily declared their cordial acquiescence in it; and with a patriotic spirit becoming their character, have shown a determination to sustain the department, as a paramount object, at any sacrifice which it may require on their part.

After the reductions shall take effect, the annual transportation of the mail will still be 25,527,957 miles, viz.:

In stages, 16,400,651—in steamboats, 587,137—horseback and sulkies, 8,540,169.

Thus it will appear, that but a part of the improvements will be withdrawn, to enable the department still to rely exclusively on its own resources, as the annual transportation will still be, after the 1st January next, 1,902,936 miles more than it was on the 1st July, 1832.

I have the honor to be,  
Very respectfully,  
Your obedient servant,  
W. T. BARRY."

\* In North Carolina, 733,433 in stages, 15,288 in steamboats; 413,660 horseback and sulkies; 1,162,371 total.

## Natural History.

### THE ELEPHANT

Is the largest of existing quadrupeds: its proboscis is an organ of seizing and of touch, of feeling and of respiration, but not of smell. With this it can hold a pole or branch, and strike with tremendous violence, and with this it conveys both food and water to the mouth. The tusks are changed but once during the life of the animal, but the molars change as often as detrition makes it necessary; they do so, however, not in the ordinary manner, by the new teeth pushing the old up, but by a lateral succession from rear to front. The nasal apertures are not prolonged beyond the bones of the nose, and do not pass through the proboscis, and the lower lip has a very little motion. The shortness of its neck not permitting the animal to lower the mouth to the ground to pasture, it collects the grass and leaves of trees with its proboscis. When it eats, the muscles of the cheeks seem by a sort of spontaneous action to push the food between the teeth for trituration. Sight and hearing are acute, tho' the eyes are small compared with the enormous head; smell however appears to be the most perfect of the senses of these animals: before death they usually discharge a considerable quantity of aqueous liquid through the proboscis.

The Asiatic Elephant is distinguished from its African congener; principally by the character of the teeth already noticed in the text; the head moreover is oblong, the forehead concave, and the ears do not descend lower than the neck. This species is found in the whole of Southern India, and in the neighboring islands. Though so extensively employed by man, it can hardly be considered a domestic animal, as it is not bred in captivity; but when a fresh supply is wanted for general purposes, they are hunted or rather sought for in their sequestered retreat, and after being captured, are quickly reduced to servitude. Taking and taming wild elephants is an affair of great moment in India, a description of which, however amusing, we feel constrained to forego.

A strong Elephant can carry 2000 pounds weight, and can travel without difficulty fifty miles in a day; in long marches, however, they become very tender-footed, as may be seen by their gait, and by their feeling with the proboscis on the ground where they are about to tread for a footfall without stones or sharp rocks, otherwise they are very nimble for their bulk, walk up and down footways into ravines where camels cannot pass and where horses find difficulty.

The period of gestation is twenty months; the new born Elephant is about three feet long, and all its senses are perfect: it sucks with the mouth and not with the proboscis, turning the latter back in that operation. Lactation continues nearly two years, and between fifteen and twenty years old they may be said to be adult, though they have a great affection for their young, it is understood that these suck indifferently all the females in the herd to which they belong.—They are gregarious, in herds of about 100, and inhabit the humid forests and vicinity of rivers, in which they swim with great ease, sometimes having no part above the surface of the water but the end of the proboscis, through which they respire. When they quit the water they are fond of collecting the soil and dust with the proboscis, and covering their body with it.

Though gregarious in their habits, solitary wild Elephants are sometimes met with, but these are always observed to be males, and are in general extremely furious, attacking every thing they meet, and doing the greatest damage. It seems probable that these have been driven by stronger rivals from the herd.

It is the opinion in India that they live three centuries, and several now in the service of the East India Company were old when they came into possession of the Europeans upwards of eighty years ago.—These old animals, however, dislike to rise from the ground, and are at first unwilling to move forward, piping an angry note of dissent.

It appears probable, though it is not determined, that there may be more than one variety of the Asiatic Elephant distinguish-