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ters to the Editor must be post paid.

For the Patriot.
No. II.

MR EDITOR: My principle object
in making the observations which
may follow, is not to enter into the
discussion of any particular subject;
but merely to correct the error and
rebut the sophistry into which Am-
icus has fallen, whether through
ignorance or design, I cannot take
upon myself to determine.

He appears to have one grand ob-
ject in view and in order to accom-
plish it, he sedulously endeavours
to make every thing contributory.
He truly "strains at gnats" as to
every thing which may operate a-
gainst his favourite doctrine, but as
to what may operate, however re-
motely, in its favour he "swallows
camels."

The object which he appears to
have in view is to convince the good
people of this State! however re-
luctant they may be to believe it,
that slavery is the prime cause of all
the evils which have befallen them
and of all the disadvantages under
which they now labour. If the hea-
vens have refused to drop their fat-
ness into the earth or if the earth
has denied her increase, if the peo-
ple become discontented and emi-
grate to other States, if our lands
are poor and barren, and our efforts
to improve our State and thereby to
ameliorate our condition, have been
abortive and unsuccessful—Slavery
is the cause of all.

Let us endeavour to examine a
little into this all pervading evil and
see if it is as very a devil as our
good friend Amicus would repre-
sent it. And in order to do this
we will follow the venerable Am-
icus through all his philosophic mazes
and millifluous periods.

Governor Burton in his Message
to the last General Assembly asks
the important question "what can
stay the tide of emigration now
flowing to the West but the im-
provement of our State? Amicus
in his learned comment on this pas-
sage says "but whether draining the
Swamps will be found sufficient im-
provement to stay the tide of emi-
gration may well be doubted."

I admit very frankly that draining
a few swamps would not be a suffi-
cient improvement to "stay the tide
of emigration" because this would
be only a partial improvement af-
fecting only a few individuals and
not operating generally and benefi-
cially upon the whole community.
Amicus has certainly taken a very
unfair hold on this sentence. What
the Gov. obviously meant by the
improvement of the State, was not
merely the draining of a few swamps,

but a general and extensive system
of internal improvement throughout
the whole State. As he expresses
himself in a preceding part of his
Message "by opening our water
courses, repairing our old roads and
making new ones" and I would add
by introducing a general system of
agricultural improvement could all
these desirable objects be effectually
accomplished I will take upon my-
self to say, and I hazard little in
the expression that the tide of emi-
gration would be completely staid.

Improve our agricultural condi-
tion in such a manner that the fer-
tilizing vallies of the west" (as Am-
icus is pleased to term them) will
have no advantage over the vallies
and hills of N. C. convert the barren
and unproductive sods of our State
into luxuriant fields and fertile plains,
then make such roads as the farmers
can carry "exuberent natures better
gifts" with facility and ease to a
market where their produce will de-
mand as fair and generous a price as
any in the union, and my life against
a copper son of N. C. will soon
learn "that they are fools who roam,"
and "this is my own my native
land" will be a talisman which, un-
der such circumstances, will rivet
them immovably to the soil of their
native State.

But to return to Amicus. He
found no doubt that all the branches
of internal improvement recom-
mended by the Gov. were too pow-
erful for him to combat collectively,
and therefore he selected what he
considered the most tangible part
& after gaining an imaginary victory
over this detached member he pro-
ceeds as if he had completely routed
the whole. As ridiculous and ex-
travagant a calculation as if he had
presumed upon a signal victory by
cutting of the head of a stragler.

But it was necessary for Amicus
to set aside either really or hypothet-
ically, all other reasons for the
depopulation of our State by emi-
gration "before he could introduce
to advantage his favourite doctrine
of slavery to account for this ex-
tensive and lamentable evil.

"The alarming increase of the
coloured population" he asserts
"may be looked upon as the prime
cause which has driven such a large
number of our citizens to where an
equality of rights has produced a
corresponding harmony in the sen-
timents interests and feelings of so-
ciety."

What Amicus has taken his no-
tions of this alarming increase of
our coloured population from I am
unable to conjecture so far from the
population of this State, either white
or black increasing to an alarming
extent, we have great reasons to
regret that its increase in no greater.
I am very sorry that I cannot pre-
sent to the readers of the Patriot a
statement of the increase of the black
population of our State, for the
last ten or twenty years, I am pur-
suaded that the most timid and cow-
ardly would have no cause of alarm
from any such cause. In 1800 the
population of N. C. was 278,103 in
1810, 555,500 in 1820, 636,829 giv-
ing an increase from 1800 till 1810
of only 77,399 and from the last
period till 1820 of only 83,329.

If this increase were altogether
among the black population and if
the whites had not in ten years
had a single addition to their num-
bers I presume it would be a cause

of very little alarm. But this in-
crease must have been proportion-
able among the whites and blacks
and if so into what insignificance
does this alarming increase" dwin-
dle. What a timid easily affrighted
creature, this Amicus must be, to be
alarmed at shadows, and those the
production of a sickly fancy and dis-
eased imagination. As we can
not, ascertain the increase of the
black population of our own State
for the last ten years perhaps it
may not be improper, in order to
divest ourselves of the tenor with
which Amicus has endeavoured to
bestrew us, to take a view of that
of some of our sister States. The in-
crease of the black population of S. C.
from 1800 till 1810 was 50,214 while
that of the white for the same peri-
od was 159,524 more than triple
the increase of the black population.

And it is well known that the num-
ber of slaves in S. C. in proportion
to the whites is much greater than
in this State and that the slaves
there are far more numerous than
here. But in that State the increase
is by no means alarming and of
course must be inconsiderable here.
But Amicus tells us this alarming
increase has driven vast numbers to
where an "equality of rights &c." Is
it true then that the slaves in
Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia
have an equality of rights with the
whites? if so it is a new and strange
doctrine to me and I must acknowl-
edge myself greatly indebted to Am-
icus for the information. But per-
haps he will tell us he did mean
these States when he was talking
so pertly about the vast numbers
who have been driven from our
State by this alarming increase of
the black population, if so then
his puerile argument that those
people have been driven from their
native State by the dread of this
alarming evil must fall to the ground
for those numerous emigrants, with
very few exceptions, have wended
their way to the western dis-
trict of Tennessee to Alabama and
to Georgia. But what goes more
completely to show the fallacy of
his argument, is that those vast
crowds of people who have been
driven from our State have been
attended and accompanied by a num-
ber of Slaves still more vast—and
yet Amicus would gull us with the
belief that they removed to evade
the gathering storm of an insur-
rection, can any thing be more ex-
travagant and foolish? Can he
seriously attempt to make us be-
lieve that men of common sense
and understanding would retreat
from our State with as much pre-
cipitation as Lot fled from Sodom,
and yet carry with them the very
evil which was the cause of all their
fears and uneasiness?

"A large portion of our Soil,"
says Amicus, "which can be made
subservient to profitable cultivation
is monopolized by slave proprietors
and immediately converted in barren
waste by the stupid drudgery of in-
animate slaves whilst thousands of free-
men whose condition are by no means
to be envied, are left destitute of
profitable employment." That there
are thousands of freemen in N. C. not
only profitably but agreeably employ-
ed is a truth which even Amicus him-
self will not deny. And that there
are likewise thousands of old fields
in the State whose soil never was
moistened by the sweat of a Slave
is the last year mention an insurrec-
tion equally true and incontrovertible.
Take our own Country for an exam-

ple, and you will find that a large
portion of its freemen are not only
employed profitably but that many of
them are building up for themselves
nice fortunes for which Slaves will
not, and on whose farms the voice of
domination is never heard. You ex-
amine those farms which are gladly
contributing to the enjoyment of
their owners and you will find many
barren, worn out old fields whose soil
was never poluted by the foot of a
Slave: This is not only the case a-
mong the society of friends which
forms a large and respectable portion
of the population of our Country, but
also among other denominations
whose inclination does not lead them
to own Slaves although their principles
do not forbid it. It is true there are
many persons among us who bear the
denomination of freemen that are not
profitably employed; but the reason
is not that they cannot be profitably
employed but because this will not be
so, it matters little to such men
where they are, whether in a slave
holding, or a free state, whether in a
fertile or a barren country their con-
dition would still be the same, they
would still be inert, sluggish vaga-
bonds.

Amicus continues "these poverty
smitten host of our countrymen find
that penury has stamped their char-
acter with inferiority in the estima-
tion of their more fortunate neigh-
bours they see themselves slighted
and despised by their superiors, neg-
lected by the world, and destitute
of the means of raising themselves
to respectability." "These poverty
smitten hosts" why smitten with
poverty? Because they are smitten
with a worse plague from which
poverty itself originates, idleness.
Does a man who has squandered
his time in vain and frivolous pur-
suits, or wasted his substance in
dram-shops deserve to be respected
by those who through industry,
enterprise and economy have raised
themselves independency? However
Amicus may think, it is my humble
opinion that such men deserve the
severest censure & animadversion of
their countrymen. Whenever Am-
icus will show me a man whose char-
acter "poverty" has stamped with
inferiority I will show him one who
was stamped with poverty by laziness
intemperance or some other
degrading vice.

Poverty stamps no man with inferi-
ority in this Country.
"The rank is but the guineas stamp
"The man's the gold for a' that,"
Where is the man of honesty up-
rightness and integrity, who is not
respected? So true is the saying,
"Honor and shame in no condition rise"
That some men who are very poor
are esteemed and respected by soci-
ety, while their more wealthy neigh-
bours are neglected and dispersed.
It is not costly equipages and splen-
ded trappings which makes a person
respectable it is the moral worth of
the man himself and his correct and
unexceptionable deportment.

Amicus says further "that thou-
sands have been driven from this coun-
try in order that their children may
be sheltered from the gathering storm
of insurrection," who is
"The waveless calm the slumber of the dead
which now pervades our State, but
Amicus would ever have thought of
preaching the old, hackneyed worn
out doctrine of an insurrection
An insurrection is a bag bear which
now will not even frighten women &
children.

Who ever heard one of the numer-
ous groups of emigrants that passed
our Country in the course of
the last year mention an insurrection
as the cause of their removal? Not
one of them ever thought or dreamt