



"THE FREE PRESS,"

By George Howard,

is published every Friday, at THREE DOLLARS per year, consisting of 52 numbers, and in the same proportion for a shorter period. Subscribers at liberty to discontinue at any time, on paying arrears.

Advertisements inserted at fifty cents per square, or less, for the first insertion, and twenty-five cents each continuance.

Letters addressed to the Editor must be post paid.

Stray Puppies.

STRAYED or stolen from the Subscriber, two HOUND PUPPIES, about six months old—one a yellow and white spotted, the other a black and white spotted. Any information respecting them will be thankfully received, and if delivered to the subscriber a reasonable reward will be given.

J. H. SIMMONS.

Enfield, Nov. 29. 37-3t

One Hundred Dollars REWARD.

RUNAWAY, or was stolen from the Subscriber, on the night of the 8th instant, a bright mulatto woman (slave) and her child, a girl of about four years old. This woman ran away from the Subscriber, executor of John Hunt, deceased, in the summer of 1808, and passed as a free woman, by the name of PATSEY YOUNG, until about the first of June last, when she was apprehended as a runaway. On the sixth of the same month I obtained possession of her in the town of Halifax, since which time she and her child ELIZA have, in compliance with an order of the county court of Franklin, been sold, when the Subscriber became the purchaser. She spent the greater part of the time she was runaway (say about sixteen years) in the neighborhood of, and in the town of Halifax, one or two summers at Rockland, where I am informed she cooked for the hands employed to work on the canal; she also spent some of her time in Plymouth, her occupation while there not known. At the above named places she has many acquaintances and friends. She is a tall, spare woman, thin face and lips, long sharp nose, her fore teeth in a state of decay. She is an excellent seamstress, can make gentlemen's and ladies' dresses, is a good cook and weaver, and I am informed is a good cake baker and brewer, &c. by which occupations she principally gained her living. Some time during last summer she married a free man of color, named Achrael Johnson, who had been living in and about Plymouth, and followed boating on the Roanoke. Since his marriage he leased a farm of Mr. James Cotton, of Scotland Neck, (Halifax county) where he was living, together with this woman, when she was taken up as a runaway slave in June last. I have but little doubt that Johnson has contrived to seduce or steal her and child out of my possession, and will attempt to get them out of the state and pass as free persons. Should this be the case, I will give Sixty Five Dollars for his detection and conviction before the proper tribunal in any part of this state. I will give for the apprehension of the woman and child, on their delivery to me, or so secured in jail or otherwise that I get them, Thirty Five Dollars. Or, I will give Twenty Five Dollars for the woman alone, and Ten Dollars for the child alone. The proper name of the woman is Piety, but she will no doubt change it as she did before. I forewarn all owners of boats, captains and owners of vessels from taking on board or carrying away this woman and her child Eliza, under the penalty of the law.

N. T. HUNT.

August 15, 1824. 23-4t

DOMESTIC.

(CIRCULAR.)

To the Freemen of the Counties of Northampton, Bertie, Martin and Halifax:

FELLOW-CITIZENS:

A vacancy having occurred in the representation of our District in the Congress of the United States, by the election of Col. Burton to the office of Governor, I beg leave to present my name to your consideration among those from whom you will choose another representative.

To those whom I now address, the friends among whom I have spent my life, in whose service I have grown grey, whose wishes and interests have directed my course of conduct, as well in the National as in the State Legislature, it would be idle to detail my principles.

It will be sufficient, I hope, to say, that on every occasion I have supported the pure democratic republican principles which are possessed by my fellow-citizens of the district.

On the late choice of electors of President and Vice-President I am aware that I have differed from some whom I esteem, and with whom it has been my pride to act; I preferred the gallant soldier who fought successfully the greatest battles of our second war of independence, the pure patriot, the firm and unsuspected republican, ANDREW JACKSON—that same Andrew Jackson of whom our beloved Jefferson spoke, when he invited "honor and gratitude to the man who has filled the measure of his country's glory."

In the contest growing out of the election, I have interfered with no man's right of election; I have felt no abatement of friendship for those who differed with me in their choice, I did only what freedom admits and the safety of the Republic requires, and that which all my friends have done, I voted according to the dictates of my own judgment.

In my course of public service I have neither sought nor obtained office or emolument for myself. Believing it the first duty of a citizen to serve his country, my highest ambition has been to advance our common interest and honor; the greatest reward I could hope for has been received, in your approbation generously bestowed on my conduct.

Having had long experience in public service, having ever cherished a sacred regard for the republican principles of our constitution, and faithfully adhered to the doctrines and to the cause of the great democratic republican party of the United States, not more firmly in their time of triumph than in "the reign of terror," I presume to hope that the confidence which has not been forfeited will not be withdrawn.

Measures and not men is the good old republican doctrine—I swear allegiance, therefore, to my country only not to man, neither to Jackson nor to Crawford; whichever or whoever is President shall receive my support while he maintains the in-

terest and honor of our country, and he shall be sure of my opposition when he abandons these objects, whether his schemes be marked by magnificence or by meanness.

I am, fellow-citizens, your friend and faithful servant,

WILLIS ALSTON.

Raleigh, Dec. 5, 1824.

For the Free Press.

NO. III.

That a partial schism has taken place in the Roanoke Navigation Company, is matter of certainty and of extreme regret. The Virginia interest, alarmed at the defalcation of so numerous and so highly respectable a number of the North-Carolina stockholders in the payment of their instalments, think, and with considerable show of justice on their side, that as the N. Carolinians are backward in furnishing the necessary funds they by law and good faith are bound to do, to enable the Directors to progress as contemplated, and that they evidence a frigid indifference, if not aversion to the undertaking, particularly as North-Carolina will be so pre-eminently benefited by it, that it is their duty to take care of and secure the interest of the Virginia stockholders, because with them the interest of Virginia is identified. But on the other hand the North-Carolina stockholders, seeing the pertinacity with which the Virginia stockholders and Directors, (for the majority of the active, substantial, interest in any company will have the majority of Directors because they have the majority of shares, and of course the majority of votes to make them,) adhere to the system of commencing at the source, and working downwards progressively, without evincing any very great anxiety to get the North-Carolina section of the intended work into active operation immediately, as the true interest of the Company and the healing of schism seems not only to require, but to demand. They believe that the interest of North-Carolina, as well as the substantial interest of the Company is about to be postponed if not wholly sacrificed to an anxiety to promote the interest of Virginia, and that the interest of North-Carolina will not only be made subservient to but even sacrificed to it, inasmuch as by clearing the river downwards, even if it should be carried through to meet the natural navigation, the Virginia interest have a ready channel of transport for their produce, merchandize, &c. to and from some points favorable to a communication with the Richmond, Petersburg, and other Virginia markets by waggon, and North-Carolina, by this course of proceeding, is compelled to become a looker-on, and be subservient to Virginia policy, and Virginia views to her own detriment. These are the grounds and principles of action, as far as they can be at present collected, that influence the affairs of that Company and the individuals that compose it; grounds and principles that if they really do exist, are unworthy of those among whom it is said they have

an existence; because they are public-spirited, honorable, and high-minded men, and if such base-born and selfish sentiments have crept in, and obtained a place in the mind of any member of that body, it is to be hoped as it is earnestly desired that he will without delay expel the unholy and unpropitious guest, so that they may unite all as one, Virginian & North-Carolinian, in promoting and insuring success to an enterprise, the future results of which will call down blessings on those concerned in the consummation, from myriads and myriads yet unborn.

To effect this desirable end the adoption of one measure only is all that is necessary; namely, that the Company should unite in locking into the river at some suitable point below the basin at Weldon. The doing this at once would and will unite the Virginia and Carolina interests completely & effectually; because it will restore & confirm that confidence and harmony between them, that is so necessary to insure success to a work of such great importance to the citizens of both states, and to the individuals embarked in it; for while it would convince the Carolinians that the Virginians were not only disposed but determined to promote their interest, and make it go hand and hand as it should do with their own. The free passage of boats with their freight, a freight too, direct possibly from some Atlantic or transatlantic city or seaport, up the river as far as Milton, and as much farther as the improved navigation will at any time permit, would yield to the Virginians such immense profits and advantages in many ways, as would richly repay them for the adoption of the measure of locking into the river at Weldon, the only one required.

The writer in the "Danville Sentinel" says with feeling and with truth, that in consequence of making Weldon the head of navigation, the voyage to Norfolk, &c. is generally from "three to four weeks from thence, and that one third of that time is most commonly consumed in getting from the neighborhood of the basin at Weldon to the town of Halifax." This is a stubborn fact, and is easily accounted for, as I shall shew:

The boats that ply between Halifax and the shores of the Atlantic, no matter to what point or by which route, are generally about 50 and 55 tons burthen, and commonly draw four and from that to five feet water when laden; for boats of this description there is sufficient water at all seasons of the year to the bluffs at the old borough of Halifax but no further, unless in times of considerable freshes, and of course in the time of difficult and troublesome navigation from Halifax to the foot of the basin at Weldon; consequently though such boats, when quite light because empty and of course drawing but little water, are propelled up to Weldon with great labour and loss of time, as well as at a great additional expense, when they receive their cargoes on board at Weldon, and are sunk in the water to their usual depth, when having their full cargoes on board, they are

compelled to remain in that neighborhood, unable to pass the shoals between that and Halifax with such a depth of water, unless Providence in its kindness shall interpose a fresh to release and wait them down. This is a fact that every days' experience proves.

To remedy this evil, and give a safe and unobstructed passage all the year round from any point on the shores of the Atlantic, to the highest point to which the navigation is carried and improvements made on the river, all that is wanting is to lock into the river judiciously at some convenient point below Weldon; this will effect the purpose, and at once cure all the evils so loudly complained against. By locking into the river the boats from the upper country will pass through the locks and so pursue their voyage to Halifax at all seasons of the year in perfect security, as their light draft of water (scarce ever exceeding two feet when most deeply laden,) will enable them to float over every shoal in the channel between Weldon and Halifax, and return in the same safe and uninterrupted way. Thus then while Halifax would and must, from its local situation, become the place of transit for the up-country and Atlantic boats, the upper country would be in the full possession of a great and valuable trade, by a safe, a certain and uninterrupted channel of communication not with Halifax, Norfolk, or Ocracoke alone, but with every part of the habitable world to which they might, in the exuberance of their speculation, choose to adventure. And then the old borough of Halifax would become the resort and the haunt of busy and business-doing men; capitalists would establish themselves there with such extensive and active funds, as would be commensurate with giving them a preponderating interest, if not a monopoly of this valuable trade; a struggle for which will excite to a rivalry between such capitalists as must be at once beneficial as well to the whole country and to the Company interest, as to the town of Halifax. The comforts, elegancies and luxuries of life will then be supplied there on reasonable terms and in abundance at the first hand; the circumjacent country will be benefited by the constant market afforded for butter, eggs, poultry, small stock and provisions of every description; real estate in the town will increase two or three-fold in value; and the riparian proprietor, whose lots are now a burthen to him from the annual accruing taxes, will see warehouses, wharves, and cranes for hoisting ponderous packages to a level with the summit of the banks, rising as if by enchantment, where only misery, desertion, and desolation seem at present to have taken up their abode.

Then will Halifax arise renovated like the phenix from its ashes, and become the seat of comfort, commerce, plenty, prosperity, wealth, fashion, taste, happiness, and all that tends to give life, energy, opulence and dignity to a commercial mart.

ROANOKE.