



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 arrearages.

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.

DOMESTIC.

From the Western Carolinian.

Statistics of Halifax—alias "OLD SARUM."

Our time and columns have been so incessantly occupied with graver matters, for some time past, that we have not, till now, found neither time nor room to pay our respects to the "Free Press," printed in Halifax, in this state. That paper, in noticing a few remarks of ours relative to the borough election of Halifax, took occasion to furnish a kind of statistical view of the population and improvements of that ancient town. Agreeably to this account, Halifax at this time contains "A court-house, a jail, 1 public meeting-house, 1 masonic hall, 1 academy, one post-office, 11 stores, 3 taverns (how many grog-shops he saith not) 1 branch of a bank, a tailor's, saddler's, blacksmith's cabinet-maker's, and milliner's shops; EIGHT lawyers, SIX doctors, 500 souls, 49 voters, and 7 gentlemen of color." A pretty formidable list, this, truly! We think, however, in the neighborhood of six doctors, there should be more than one cabinet-maker.

We are not, just at present, prepared to furnish in return the statistics of our village; but we can say this much to the editor, that we nearly equal Halifax in each of the items, excepting those of lawyers, doctors, milliner's shop, and "gentlemen of color." Eight lawyers, and six doctors, to 49 voters, gives one of these learned gentlemen to every three voters! If there is much fumbling of pulses, and handling of fees, in that vicinity, the Lord have mercy on the good people of Halifax!

As to a milliner's shop, our town cannot boast of such an establishment, and we hope will ever remain destitute of one. As yet, the young ladies of Salisbury, and of this section of country generally, (with the exception of a few, who are constantly hankering after new fashions, and teasing a dress-maker we have among us, with the altering of frocks, &c. about every wind that blows from the north) have been taught to make their own clothes, and have no desire to encourage the establishment of shops, where nothing but gew-gaws and finery are dealt out, spreading vanity, idleness and extravagance over the country. In large towns, where there is an extensive trade and commerce, and where the fantastical goddess of fashion tries into how many ridiculous forms she can change her votaries, such establishments are necessary; but in a small town, where the object should be to teach our young ladies good sense, modesty and

industry, and fit them for good house-wives, there is not only no use for a milliner's shop, but such an establishment would have a fatal tendency, by estranging the minds of our young females from the noble objects to which nature intended they should be directed.

REMARKS.

We really expected that if the Salisbury editor could have found time or room to notice our remarks, he would have furnished a brief sketch of the rise and progress of the town of Salisbury, which being "alike unknown to fortune and to fame," and not mentioned either by history or tradition, has hitherto passed unnoticed unless by some unlucky wight whose evil genius directed his peregrinations. Notwithstanding our disappointment, we will endeavor to simplify such parts of our former account as appears to him inexplicable. The town of Halifax is situated on the Roanoke, which at this place is the dividing line between the populous and wealthy counties of Halifax and Northampton; and being in a central situation, embraces the principal business of the two counties. To the credit of our police be it spoken, those establishments usually denominated grog-shops, which are alike disgraceful and demoralizing, are utterly unknown in Halifax: Can the Editor say as much for Salisbury? If our lawyers and doctors confined their practice solely to this town, the Salisbury editor's pious ejaculation would apply to them with peculiar force; but we are well assured, that the Salisbury editor would be rather tempted to exclaim, "heaven helps them that help themselves," could he observe our citizens rolling along in their carriages, with their spanking greys and bob-tail ponies—the leisurely, swinging gait of our young bucks, sauntering thro' our streets with that self-complacent air which significantly implies, "pray, look, dear ma'am, I'm just the thing"—and the fascinating appearance of our fair damsels, tripping gayly along, their heads decorated and their hearts encircled with the lively, gay, and fanciful productions of Europe and Asia, and their understandings guarded by domestic fabrics, manufactured principally in "the land of steady habits." But the icy chillness of age has certainly seized on the heart of the Salisbury editor, before its hoary flakes has covered his head, else why this violent philippic against milliners and mantua or dress makers: this is surely laying the axe at the root of civilization, instead of checking "vanity, idleness, and extravagance;" for notwithstanding the sage speculations of visionary theorists, it requires but little penetration to discover, that the hope of possessing "gew-gaws and finery," as the Salisbury editor is pleased to term them, is the principal incentive to industry and enterprise. Could our citizens content themselves with the bare necessities of life, they would soon rival the ancient inhabitants of our favored country, in their dress and pursuits, and become fit companions for those who reside in the vicinity of the Brushy Mountains. We cannot, in conclusion, join in the barbarous wish that the town of Salisbury may "ever remain destitute of a milliner's shop:" we re-

ally hope that the comforts and luxuries of life may be multiplied unto the inhabitants in such abundance that the ladies may not be under the necessity of "altering their frocks, &c. about every wind that blows from the north;" and that henceforth in perusing the witty and perspicacious remarks of the Salisbury editor, we may not so frequently be reminded of the Fox in the fable, whose constant cry was "sour grapes."

We will close these observations by introducing the following article on the subject of—

Dress.—Tailors and mantua makers are the indispensables of life. Dress being of the earliest necessity, and of universal demand, the principles of the science must have been embodied in the mind by nature, and have embraced the whole understanding.

Whether to cover or to discover—whether to conceal or to display—whether to intimidate or to allure, dress is the universal expedient. Modes of thought, modes of feeling, modes of character, modes of rank, and modes of power, are only modes of dress. It reveals by ocular syllogisms, whatever you wish to know or to communicate to one another. It marks with unfailing accuracy, your standing in society, and your particular pursuits. Dress a man in drab, for instance, and he is a quaker—dress him in black and he is a clergyman, give him a short jacket and he is a sailor—put on him two epaulettes, and he is a general—dress his head in a turban, and he is a Turk—give him a purple gown, and he is a king. If he swear with his hat on, he is a hebrew—if he swear with hat off, he is a christian.

The technicals of Dress are engrafted on every science. Dress the line says the adjutant—dress the salad says the epicure—dress his jacket cries the overseer. So we have the habit of speaking, the habit of writing, &c. the terms of dress being of universal use and application.

Runaway Negroes.—An expedition left Georgetown, S. C. on Friday se'night against the encampments of runaway negroes, which had been formed in the neighborhood of that place, and who were committing depredations upon the inhabitants. The expedition succeeded in destroying three of the camps and after a long chase took one prisoner and two guns. The negroes were provided with a stackyard and threshing place, a great many luxuries as well as the necessities of life. Their places of retreat were selected with great judgment, being situated on small elevations, surrounded by extensive areas of marsh. By climbing a high tree on each of them, a complete view of the bay, creeks and surrounding islands, was presented to the spectator while he could remain concealed by the foliage. No correct account of the number could be obtained.

South American Tobacco.—The first cargo of tobacco imported from Colombia had arrived in the river Thames. It

could not, however, be brought to market without payment of a duty of 6s. and would, therefore, be re-exported to Hamburg. U. States Tobacco paid only 4s.—The quality of the Colombian article, is said to be equal to the best Cuba segar tobacco, and an equalization of the duty will, probably, encourage an import trade with that republic, which will be advantageous, so far as it will afford the means to pay for a greater quality of British manufactured goods. This does not promise so well for our Southern growers.

Restoration after hanging.—Mr. Glover, Surgeon, in Doctors' Commons, London, relates the case of a person who was restored to life, after twenty nine minutes hanging, and continued in good health for many years after. The principal means used to restore this man to life, were opening the temporal artery and the external jugular, rubbing the back mouth and neck with a quantity of volatile spirits and oil, administering the tobacco clyster by means of lighted pipes, and strong frictions of the legs and arms. This course had been continued for about four hours, when an incision was made into the wind pipe, and air blows strongly through a canular into the lungs. About twenty minutes after this, the blood at the artery began to run down the face, and a slow pulse was just perceptible at the wrist. The frictions were continued for some time longer, his pulse became more frequent, and his mouth and nose being irritated with spirit of sal ammoniac, he opened his eyes. Warm cordials were then administered to him, and in two days he was so well as to be able to walk eight miles.

A Public Scold.—On Monday week, the judgment of the court of quarter sessions in Philadelphia, in the case of Nancy James, who was indicted and sentenced to be ducked as a common scold, was reversed by the Supreme Court, on the ground that no law of Pennsylvania, either statute or common, warranted the sentence of the court below. Judge Duncan considered that this inhuman and barbarous part of the English common law had become obsolete; that at all events, it had never been brought to this country by our ancestors; that it was incompatible with their humane habits, as well as with the enlightened maxims of civil policy introduced into Pennsylvania by William Penn, and that even if the punishment formerly inflicted upon common scolds had ever obtained here, it had, by implication, been repealed by the general spirit of our mild penal code. The decision of the Supreme Court must give universal satisfaction.

Kentucky Legislature.—The last week of the session (says the Lexington Reporter) as usual was devoted to Judge Breckin. The Resolutions and Address to remove the Judges of the Court of Appeals were tried in both Houses, and

failed in each by a few votes. The attack was then directed against the Court,—and the Court of Appeals has actually been abolished by a legislative act! The vote was taken in the lower house on Thursday night, precisely at the hour of midnight, and the bill received his Excellency's signature the following day. The Reporter continues: "Great astonishment at this high handed, disorganizing measure, has been very generally expressed; by one party it is viewed as a most wanton, flagrant and obvious violation of the Constitution, while by the other it is applauded as the finest relief measure ever adopted, and in truth so it is. For if the avaricious and indebted part of the community continue to violate the Constitution with impunity, and are suffered to absorb all the powers of Government, though but for a short period, the party will so manage as to get relief enough. The Judges of the Court of Appeals however, do not intend to submit. They could not be impeached nor addressed off, and the Constitution does not authorize any other mode of breaking Judges. To submit to this encroachment would prove them faithless to their government and regardless of their oaths.—We may therefore expect ere long to hear of a resort to force. It will be a brilliant achievement for the militia of Kentucky to put down that Supreme Judicial tribunal which is expressly provided for in the Constitution, AT THE POINT OF THE BAYONET."

The Elephant.—The Franklin Gazette mentions that an Elephant, at present exhibiting in Philadelphia, places his keeper upon his tusks, tosses him up 10 or 12 feet, and catches him upon his tusks and trunk as he falls, and in conclusion gives his keeper a toss into the air, in which the keeper turns a somerset and lands on the back of the Elephant.

A recent traveller in the U. S. gives an account of a matrimonial lottery, which was formed there with beneficial effects. At a wedding in S. Carolina, a young lawyer moved, "That one man in the Company should be selected as president; that the president should be duly sworn to keep entirely secret all the communications that should be forwarded to him in his official department that night; that each unmarried gentleman and lady should write his or her name on a piece of paper, and under it place the name of the person they wished to marry; then hand it to the president for inspection; and if any gentleman and lady had reciprocally chosen each other, the president was to inform each of the result, and those who had not been reciprocal in their choice, kept entirely secret." After the appointment of the President, communications were accordingly handed up to the chair, and it was found twelve young gentlemen and ladies had made reciprocal choices; and the traveller states that eleven out of the twelve matches were solemnized. [A good but tough story.]