

Communications.

FOR THE FREE PRESS.

Mr. Editor—There is no subject which can more properly claim the attention of the approaching Legislature, than the better arrangement of the Eastern Judicial Circuits. There is no person who has observed the proceedings of our Superior Courts at the Fall Terms, but must be convinced, that there is some defect in the present arrangement. It is a lamentable fact, that the Eastern counties are unhealthy, and more particularly so in the month of September. It is in my humble opinion hazarding the lives of many valuable citizens, to confine them for several days in succession, nay for weeks together, in a crowded Court-house, enduring great labor of mind and body in this unhealthy month. During this month Judges and Lawyers contract diseases that incapacitate them from attendance on their duties for the most of the Fall Circuit. The administration of justice is thereby impeded, and the law rendered odious to the citizens, which could easily be prevented, if the Courts were so arranged as to avoid this unhealthy month. From my experience, and it is not the experience of yesterday, I have long entertained the opinion that the great complaint of the law's delays, extravagant bills of costs, and of the unwillingness of men of talents to accept the office of Judge, proceed in a great degree from the circumstance of our Courts being holden in the most sickly season in a very unhealthy climate. Such is at present the state of things in those counties where the Courts are holden in September, that no one expects or can expect, with any kind of certainty, that a cause which requires the attendance of several witnesses will be tried at the Fall Term. It is known to many, that suitors in those counties frequently consent that their causes shall stand continued from one Spring Term to another; thus having, and from necessity too, the benefit of but one Court per annum. In addition to this, Judges and lawyers are frequently prevented by sickness from attending to their professional duties. This subject is of great importance to the citizens of the Eastern counties, infinitely more so than any other which will claim the attention of their Representatives. The administration of justice, and the speedy administration of it, is of vital importance to the prosperity of every country; and that Representative is inattentive to the interests of his constituents, who makes it second to any other subject. It is admitted that the principle upon which our Courts are organized, is as well calculated as any other to protect the rights of the citizen; why then is it that this beautiful system should not realize in practice the expectations which it so fairly promises in theory? Why, in other words, convene the Courts at a season of the year when they cannot attain the great end of their design? There can be no

substantial reason for it. However great may be our veneration for the present arrangement, or however fearful we may be of introducing confusion by an alteration, we must forget the one and encounter the other to remedy evils which are so destructive to the best interests of the community. The present arrangement, if venerable from age is not for its utility, and no arguments can be adduced which can demonstrate that confusion cannot be avoided in introducing a new arrangement. This alteration does not involve any innovation on the principles of our excellent Court system, the effect of which might be problematical, but is a mere matter of fact question, whether it is better that the laws should be administered in a healthy or unhealthy season of the year! A question which a large majority of the eastern citizens are prepared to decide by a continuation of their suffrages to those Representatives who shall effect an alteration which they consider will prove so beneficial. But, it will be asked, how is this alteration to be made! Simply in this way—let the Circuits commence on the first Mondays of April and October, and then progress as they now do, leaving all the Superior Courts in the same relation to one another as heretofore. This can produce no confusion, for in the few instances that it will interfere with the County Courts, that mischief can be remedied by changing the time of holding those Courts. The time of convening the Legislature having been changed by an Act of the last Assembly, will make this arrangement perfectly practicable; and the advocates of that change will have the consolation to know, that in its effects it will prove more advantageous to a large section of the State, than any other law they could have passed. This arrangement will avoid confusion and meet the wishes of all interested, except probably some one or two County Court lawyers, who may be under the necessity of exchanging one County Court for another, and this can only happen where they are not sufficiently serviceable to the citizens to induce them to change the session of the County Court to suit their convenience. This, Mr. Editor, is of little consequence to you and me, and the other plain people of the country. It is indeed a matter of indifference to us, whether we are wheedled out of our money by Lawyer Clip-purse or by Lawyer Take-all, for certain it is that some of the fraternity will scent out the game.

Being unaccustomed to scribbling, and having an aversion to seeing my productions in print, I have to request that you will give the subject some reflection, and bring it to the notice of our Representatives in a more appropriate style; as I am induced to believe that the suggestions of an able Editor will have more weight with them than those of

A FARMER.

Hooping-cough.—It is said that a plaster of gum galbanum, applied to the chest, will cure the hooping-cough.

Foreign.

From Europe.—Our dates both from Liverpool and Havre are to the 20th August. Whether in fact there has been any change for the better in the general situation of affairs in *Great Britain*, as confidently affirmed in the latest letters and papers, we think admits of some doubt; altho' there are decided indications that the government intend to take no steps of its own in the matter, not even to call Parliament together, the Ministers concluding that as a radical remedy was beyond their means, they were bound not to encourage false hopes, but to tell the nation in plain terms that the evil must work its own cure. Upon this determination, Lord Liverpool, Mr. Canning and Mr. Peel have acted with becoming candor in all their recent interviews with the several committees appointed on behalf of the commercial and manufacturing interests of the kingdom. These gentlemen were certainly in the right—they doubtless now see the malady of their country in its true form and all its alarming realities. It is a gangrene, in the shape of the enormous National Debt, which has long preyed upon the extremities, and is at this time approaching the vitals of England—to attempt to cut it out would indeed be too hazardous an experiment; but yet, permit it to remain, and consequences the most to be deplored follow with lamentable certainty. The world looks with awe on the sufferings of a great nation, and awaits the result in anxious solicitude.

Turning to the European continent, *Russia* appeared quiet in the north, and the Emperor Nicholas, having punished capitally a number of the conspirators against his government, seemed firmly seated on the throne. Between *Russia* and *Turkey*, all differences were in a train of amicable adjustment; and the Emperor and the Sultan, who for the last ten years have been at "dagger's draw," will in future be good friends, if not allies in the humane work of butchering the *Christian Greeks*. Of the latter named people, brave tho' unfortunate, there has been but little said recently; though we trust that Lord Cochrane, on his arrival in their seas, will create a stir by doing something which will add new lustre to his own name and prove beneficial to their cause. If, as a *Paris Gazette* hints, it is his intention to blockade *Alexandria*, or to land there, the movement would doubtless lead to the recall of Ibrahim, the Hannibal of modern times, who for two years has carried fire and sword through the *Morea*—and this would be a great point gained at once. The Pacha of *Egypt*, who probably loves his cotton bags as much as he does the *Grand Seigneur*, would hardly think of continuing the war so far off for a secondary object, when he found his commercial operations stopped, and his power threatened in its strong-hold.

In the south of Europe, *Portugal* appears to be the principal object of attention, from the circum-

stance of her having received a new Constitution from the gracious hands of her legitimate Lord, Don Pedro of Brazil, accompanied by the gift of his infant daughter, Maria Gloria, aged about seven years, to reign over the Portuguese. The *Holy Alliance* had exhibited signs of displeasure, not that the Queen was too young for children and idiots are as fit for rulers as any others in their eyes—but because the Charter, although framed by an Emperor, was deemed by the royal brotherhood much too liberal in its features. There were rumors in fact of an intention on the part of France to put it down; and it was whispered that the King of Spain himself, in his palace at Madrid, had uttered some indistinct expressions about the presumption of his neighbors; but we think Charles X. not disposed at this time to emulate the fame of his predecessor, in undertaking a quixotic expedition across the Pyrenees; and as to Ferdinand, if he is able to do more than keep in check the banditti beyond the gates of Madrid, it will indeed be surprising.



Tarborough,

TUESDAY, OCT. 3, 1826.

To Correspondents.—We must decline publishing the extract from the "Reformer," as requested; as it would probably lead to a religious discussion, which however gratifying to some, we doubt not would be displeasing to the generality of our readers. We are led to this conclusion, by a determination to avoid as much as possible, interfering with the division of sentiment which so unhappily distracts a numerous body of Christians in this vicinity.

We cannot present the subject alluded to by "A Farmer," in our preceding columns, in a better manner than by giving his own words. We will only state by way illustration, that during the Fall Term, 1823, of this Circuit, Judge Norwood was prevented by sickness from attending many of the Courts; and we learn, from the last *Raleigh Register*, that in the present Term, "Judge MANGUM was prevented by indisposition, from holding Court in Nash and Johnston counties;" and doubts are entertained whether he will be able to attend the Court for Wake county, this week.

Washington, Sept. 22.—In announcing last week, Gen. Wm. A. BLOUNT, as a candidate for a seat in the next Congress, it seems we were mistaken. We were led into this error by a misconstruction of some expressions which unguardedly fell from the General; those expressions were unfortunately construed by us into authority from Gen. Blount to announce him, and near half of our paper was struck off before the error was corrected. It is unknown to us whether the General will yield to the solicitations of his friends in becoming a candidate or not, to say the least of it