

age, and win from heaven a pardon for its frailties and its follies. Like a proud tower of other days, time-worn, but unyielding, that lifts its brow to heaven, itself the image of eternity, standing amidst desolation, he stands, in all the grandeur of intellectual solitude, upon a soulless waste, over whose dreary and cheerless bosom the eye of the mind searches elsewhere in vain for shelter and a resting place. If there should prevail every where else a dearth of feeling and of thought, to him would I repair, as did the wayfarers of Israel to the moral fountain, so sublimely typified in the rock of the desert. To him would I repair, to renovate, refresh, and sustain my spirit, as to an exhaustless source of truth, of virtue and of wisdom. But though we have such men of might among us, they continue here in the backwoods of North-Carolina, drifting quietly along the stream of life, their noble energies lost to their country, and expended, chiefly, on mere private professional pursuits. Such is the deplorable absence of high feeling and patriotic pride among our people—such their profound ignorance, not only of what concerns their honor and their rights, but their interests merely, that instead of arming and sending forth their strong men to the battle, they seem content to entrust the conduct of their political ranks to the merest pigmies of the community. It is a fact, justly mortifying to the pride of every enlightened lover of his country, that though among the delegation to the National Legislature, there be several worthy gentlemen, yet many districts of our people have selected, as the guardians of their political interests, and the champions of their political honor, men who are known to have no honor of their own, and no ability to defend it, if they had it. Well may it be said of them, "The ass knoweth his owner, and the ox its master's crib; but Israel doth not know, my people do not consider." The people do not indeed know, or consider what they do. They do not consider, that the national government, having from the time of its organization, been invested with a strong control over most of the important objects of legislation, is now fast attracting, and drawing within the verge of its power, every essential interest of the people; and, consequently, that the thirteen men, deputed by them to the national legislature, are probably every day called upon to decide questions bearing more decisively and vitally upon their rights and welfare, than do the whole body of measures, which we here at home have to act upon, in a six-weeks' course of legislation. It is not less appalling than disgusting, to reflect on the magnitude of the trust and the imbecility of the trustees.

While we sit here listening to petitions for gates, petitions for divorcees, and petitions to legitimate bastards, they are carrying on stupendous operations, and expending millions of money, drawn from the pockets of the people; and how expending it? Aye, how expending it? why, the money raised

from honest, laborious, and self-devoted North-Carolina, is expended in other States. It is transferred to those States, who do themselves the justice, to send to the national legislature, not toppers, and fools, and vagabonds, but *men*—men whose characters and talents command for the interest of their people, a decided preponderance there. North-Carolina, the sixth state in the Union in numbers and intrinsic resources, is yet the very last in political dignity. She exercises less influence and control over the measures of the national government, than the little state of Delaware, with a single representative. In the appropriate and emphatic language of one of the few men in our national delegation, of whom we may be justly proud, North-Carolina is the Ireland of the Union. "In the sweat of our faces do we earn our bread," and pay to our masters what they demand of us; and the only benefit which we derive from it, with some honorable exceptions be it spoken, is the privilege of sending a few *cattle* to Washington, to be stalled and fattened there during the winter, on a *part* of the proceeds of our *own* labor. If ever we disturb the silence of the hall of Odin, and mingle in the din of its gladiators, our "voice, is like that of one from the wilderness, whom no one heareth." The expression of our wishes is met with bitter scorn, or calm contempt, and cold neglect, from the national legislature, and the national government. Why! Because the organs, through which, in a great measure, we choose to communicate with them, are not entitled to respect themselves, and cannot, therefore, command it for us. But if, in "these piping times of peace," they are utterly inadequate to the great trust confided to them, it is dreadful, it is horrible to reflect, what our people *may* suffer from their impotency, in great and dangerous emergencies. And can we be so infatuated as to indulge the hope, that we are to be left forever to the calm and undisturbed enjoyment of our rights—rights, to establish which, the wealth of our fathers was exhausted, and their best blood poured forth like water? Believe me, no! Liberty is a divinity, whose favor, as it is not to be won, so neither can it be kept, by the offerings of dullness and luxury. Wisdom and virtue alone can propitiate her smiles; and never does her votary appear so lovely in her eyes, as when his glove of mail is dyed in gore. Sir, the time will come—nay the time *is* coming, when, without the most heroic mildness, magnanimity, and forbearance, not this State only, but this mighty Union, is to be shaken and convulsed to its very centre; and it is in these halls—it is in the halls of legislation, rather than "the tented field," that questions are to be decided, involving national liberty, or national slavery—national existence, or national death. In such an event, when that crisis shall arrive, when the storm that is now silently collecting its wrath, shall actually burst upon us, what will be our attitude? Aye, what will be the bearing of North-Carolina, with such men in

her national council, as Daniel Barringer, Willis Alston, and Lemuel Sawyer? Will they protect us! *can* they protect us? 'Tis notorious, they neither have the sagacity nor the energy to do it. They have not the soul to stand up in the presence of the mighty men with whom they are absurdly classed, and in their faces calmly, but boldly, assert our rights, and advocate our interests. Pardon me, sir, I do not regard this as a place to bandy vulgar epithets. I have too much respect for the gentlemen with whom I am associated, and before whom I now stand—I have too much respect for myself, wantonly to indulge here, in expressions of personal hostility. I cherish none towards either of those unfortunate men; but I feel indignant and disgusted at the degradation of my country, and it is under a sense of public duty that I speak, when I say that one of them, is not only without talents and without character, but without free-agency—that he is not only a slave to mean and low propensities of his own, but a pimp and a caterer to the selfish and the sordid passions of a malignant villain, and a vile slanderer. Yes, he is governed by a fellow, who is himself governed by the federal government, who holds a sinecure under the federal government, and in the last three years has pocketed ten thousand dollars from the treasury of the Union, without having rendered a single act of service for it; but has continued here at home, lounging about the courts of the country, and slandering our most virtuous and useful citizens, only because they were honest men than himself, and because, here at home by their country, who knew them both, they had been more honorably noticed and advanced. One might have expected better things from his age; but the whiteness of his hair, bleached by the frosts of fifty winters, forms a singular and a sad contrast to the darkness of the thoughts that roll below. But I forbear. It is a sufficient punishment to him, to be what he is. (conclusion in our next.)



Tarborough,

SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 1827.

A Mistake.—We freely insert the following communication, as requested—but must at the same time acquit the person alluded to, whose name can be ascertained on application at this office, from any improper motives. The fact was announced in this place by the apparently happy bridegroom, who was subsequently here for several days, receiving the congratulations of his former friends and associates.

Halifax County, Feb. 25, 1827.

Mr. Howard: I discover in the Free Press of the 17th instant, notice of a marriage between Benjamin Johnson, tailor, and Miss Letitia Read—being the brother and protector of Miss Read, I consider it my duty to call on you for

the name of the person who authorized the publication, having no doubt it originated in the basest motives, to injure an innocent female, there being no foundation for such a publication. I hope that your sense of justice will at the same time, see the propriety of promptly contradicting the above statement. R. READ.

We learn from the last Raleigh Star, that Mr. Stanly's health has improved beyond expectation. He has been able, for several days, to converse freely and agreeably with his friends, and it is now hoped he will be well enough to return home in two or three weeks.

Congress.—The Woolen bill has gone to rest, in the Senate, being made to give way to the Colonial Trade bill, the discussion of which, it is supposed, will consume so much time, as to render the passage of the Woolen bill impracticable, at least during this session.

In the House of Representatives Mr. Saunders's Resolution, relative to selection of newspapers by the Secretary of State, to promulgate the Laws of the Union, is still, for an hour each day, the subject of discussion.

The appropriation bills, for the current year, are also progressing in both houses of Congress—tomorrow is the time fixed by law for the termination of this session.

Virginia Legislature.—The H. of Delegates have again rejected Mr. Billups, whom the people of Mathews had re-elected after the first vote of exclusion, (for being a Minister of the Gospel.)

Conference.—The Virginia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, for 1827, closed its sittings in Petersburg, a few days since. From the Minutes we learn, that the Society numbered last year, whites 21,724—colored 7,847. Present year, whites 22,301—colored 8,567. The increase of members this year has been 1,795—11 persons were regularly recommended and admitted on trial to the Ministry—8 ordained Deacons, and 3 Elders. Among other resolutions the Conference passed the following: That every Preacher in this Conference be requested to make a collection on the 4th of July next, in aid of the American Colonization Society. The time of the next Conference was fixed on Wednesday, the 27th February 1828, to be held in Raleigh, N. C.

Important decision.—The U. States Supreme Court have at last decided the important question that has been long pending before it, namely, whether the State insolvent laws were or were not constitutional, and determined, four to three, that they were so, as to all contracts entered into between citizens of the same State subsequent to the passage of such laws.

Libel Suit.—The cause of Harris vs. Lewis, for a libel in accusing Mr. Harris of misconduct in the discharge of his duties as Consul at St. Petersburg, which has