

Domestic.

FOR THE FREE PRESS.

Agreeable to adjournment, the North-Carolina Temperance Society met on the 1st April. The members generally attended. Great unanimity of feeling and sentiment seemed to prevail among the members. After the Lecturer had concluded, a Committee was appointed to examine into the general situation and affairs of the Society—and their report was ordered to be forwarded to the Editor of the "Free Press," or "Raleigh Star," for publication. Dr. Little was appointed to deliver the next lecture. The Society then adjourned to the last Saturday in June.

Report of the Committee.

Your Committee have taken into consideration the subject referred to them, and are happy to state, that from the facts that have come to their knowledge they are induced to believe, the prospects of the Society are as flattering as could have been expected. Your Committee are fully satisfied that nothing tends more to the promotion of the object of the Society, than the faithful observance of the fundamental principles of the Constitution by the members. They have, therefore, strictly examined into the conduct of each member, and are truly pleased to state, that they have every reason to believe that the members are strictly conformable to the spirit of our rules. We dare not hope that this will always be the case with every individual, for we have always seen in every institution, that unworthy and unfaithful members would creep in. That men of this description may eventually find their way among us, is not to be doubted: but their conduct, however injurious it may be among the unthinking part of the community, cannot be alleged against the Society by men of sense and reason.

Notwithstanding the general prosperous state of the Society, your Committee have witnessed with painful regret, an opposition raised against us by many persons from some of whom we fondly hoped the most efficient aid. A few of these, we doubt not, have been led to oppose us from misconceived motives of the nature and tendency of our Society; and for the remainder, charity would fondly cover their conduct with the mantle of human imperfection. Were it not our indispensable duty, we would gladly dismiss this part of our painful task. But conceiving it to be strictly embraced in the subject referred to our examination, we dare not forbear to inform you, that there has appeared a publication of no ordinary character, in the "Free Press," printed in the town of Tarborough, professedly against our Society and some of its members. We have examined this communication, and are of opinion, that it is one of the most unprovoked attacks upon private character, that we have ever seen published in a newspaper: and had not the writer of the piece alluded to, placed himself, both on account of the matter and manner

of the publication, beneath a reply, we should deem it the duty of the Society, to vindicate the aspersed character of our Officers. But really the piece alluded to, is so full of envy, libel, buffoonery, ignorance, and infidelity, both in matter and manner, that the Committee sincerely believe any member would disgrace himself by writing a professed reply. The charities of our hearts would willingly have forborne such harsh expressions; but when we speak of things, we must call them by their own proper names; and that this is really the character of the piece alluded to, we beg leave to refer you to a few of its items.

What could have dictated what is written against our President, but an envious feeling at his character! Did not the writer know that if the Scriptures be true, the same measure he meted should be measured back to him again? How then dared he to sit in judgment upon our President's heart? Who made him a judge of what were the motives actuating our President's breast? And shall every person who endeavors to promote the public weal, be accused of selfishness, popularity-hunting, &c.? We doubt not, however, that his surmises are no better founded than his allegations. For we have authority to say, that what he has written about the President lamenting his having built a comfortable house, is absolutely false. And if we are not entirely deceived in the alleged author, it is not the first time he has been detected in relating unfounded assertions about the President.

We are at a loss for words to describe our astonishment at the buffoonery and ignorance displayed in what is written about our Secretary of Correspondence, (H. T. Stanton, improperly printed H. S. Stanton.) A typographical error, is made the subject of the most low vulgar ridicule—and is this not buffoonery? But the buffoonery would be more pardonable, if it were not accompanied with the most astonishing ignorance. The writer charges our Secretary of Correspondence with ignorance (not in so many words but in substance) for accepting the appointment: because, says he, he might have known, there would have been no other Society got up, with whom he could correspond—*Quid ridet!* The ignorance was his own. Here was a writer, professedly writing against a Temperance Society, and yet was so ignorant of the subject about which he wrote, that he did not know that many such Societies already existed in the United States, although an account of them had been published in the common newspapers of the day!

What is said about our Secretary is of the same nature. Here is another attempt at wit and ridicule, on account of an error in the printer in spelling the name of our friend Exum Outland. Did the writer ever read any other paper than the "Free Press?" Why then did he not look at the original, as published in the Star? There the name was correctly spelt. The error in spelling was typographical, and made by the

editor of the "Free Press." And because this *would-be critic* was ignorant of this fact, the venerable name of Exum Outland has been bandied about as a common thing. We scarcely know how to be serious in speaking on this subject. Our Secretary is accused of being of the family of Dunces, because this *sapient critic*, was ignorant of when and how the mistake was made. *Si jam velit ridere rideto.* If he can now be willing to laugh let him laugh. We shall not stop to notice the words improperly spelt (and the use of one word not to be found in either Johnson or Walker) for possibly they might have been typographical errors. The writer marks a passage of Scripture as a literal quotation. If there be any such passage your committee are unacquainted with it.

After such a display of ignorance on the part of the writer of the piece alluded to, we are not so much surprised, that he has not capacity sufficient to comprehend the design of our Society. Your Committee are satisfied, that the Constitution is as plainly written, as the English language will well admit of: and this writer is the only person of whom we have heard, but what readily understood, that the Society was designed to prevent the intemperate use of ardent spirits. If the writer be really in earnest, in asserting his incapacity to understand the design of our Society, we would, had we it in our power, recommend him to put himself to study in his school books again.

The writer is not content in attacking thus *wantonly* private character and our institution, but finally, he attacks religion itself. Perhaps this was the main design of his paper. He gravely asserts the members are so religious that there is no living in the neighborhood with them. Your Committee are aware, that *infidels* of every description, whether learned or unlearned, have endeavored to give Christianity a false gloss, and then to trample it under their unhallowed feet. It is just so with this writer. He would have the people believe, that the religion of the members renders them intolerable neighbors: if so, the natural consequence would be, let religion be banished our country. In proof of his assertion, he adverts to the fuss, as he calls it, which was raised about selling cakes, at the Camp-meeting. We would simply ask the question, who raised the fuss? Did not a certain character, whose name has been before the public in more shapes than *one*: and who is not very remarkably religious or moral; and who is received as the acknowledged author of the piece alluded to; bear a distinguished part in that drama? The friends of Christianity have ever been able to detect the false glosses of its enemies, and to show its superior beauty with triumph. So far from its possessors becoming worse, they are evidently better neighbors. And perhaps, it is on this very account they are complained of. Men of bad habits always suffer by a comparison with the virtuous. For however fallen men may be, yet in general,

they prefer acts of piety and religion, to those of profaneness, irreligion, dissipation, and *vulgarity*.

We cannot notice the farrago of nonsense, about bacon, wine, &c. for already we have trespassed upon your patience. It was our design to show you, that the piece did not deserve to be noticed, and we trust, sufficient has been said for that purpose. When we first saw the paper containing it, we were led to blame the Editor for publishing such an abusive communication. We owe it, however, to Mr. Howard (the Editor) to state, that as we have been informed, he refused its publication until he obtained a responsible name and was paid for it as an advertisement. But even in that form, we think it highly injurious to admit such communications. Your Committee exceedingly regret, that men of the standing of the sponsors should stoop to aid in such a publication.

Your Committee take pleasure in stating, that notwithstanding the urgent request of the writer, the paper alluded to, has not been published in any newspaper, except the "Free Press." Had the writer attempted to show by argument and reason the injurious tendency of our Society, we should then have deemed a reply necessary. But as it is, we beg leave in conclusion to recommend that no further notice be taken of the *writing* or *writer*.

Respectfully submitted,

JOS. R. HORN,
BLAKE LITTLE,
H. T. STANTON,
F. ALEXANDER.



Tarborough,

FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 1828.

The Rev. P. W. DOWD has appointed to preach in this place, on Monday night after the last Sabbath in April (next Monday night) and Tuesday following.

New Hope Spring Races, 1828, commenced on Tuesday, 15th inst.

First Day—A Sweepstake, \$500 entrance, mile heats, eight Subscribers: Jas. Gee's b. c. Pawnee, by Archie, 1 1
John Minge's b. c. by Virginian, 2 2
H. Maclin's b. c. by Archie, 3 3
J. J. Harrison's b. c. by Virginian, dist. 4 4
Time...first heat, 1 min. 55 sec. Second heat, 1 m. 57 s.

Second Day—Jockey Club Purse, \$600, four mile heats: Mr. Wynn's s. m. Sally Hope, by Archie, 1 1
Mr. Minge's g. f. Betsey Ransom, by Virginian, 2 2
Mr. West's bl. h. Nutbush, by Van Tromp, 3 2
Time...first heat, 8 m. 10 s.; second heat, 8 m. 15 s.

Third Day—Proprietor's Purse, \$200, two mile heats: Mr. Minge's g. f. Betsey Ransom, by Virginian, 1 1
Mr. Maclin's g. f. by Hal, 2 2
Mr. Burton's b. f. by Archie, 3 3
Mr. West's b. h. Weehock, by Shawanee, 4 2
Time...first heat, 3 m. 57 s.; second heat, 4 m

Congress.—On the 15th inst. the Tariff bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, by a vote of 109 to 91.