



THE "FREE PRESS,"

By Geo. Howard,

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Advertisements, not exceeding 16 lines, will be inserted at 50 cents the first insertion, and 25 cents each continuance. Longer ones at that rate for every 16 lines. Advertisements must be marked the number of insertions required, or they will be continued until otherwise ordered.

Letters addressed to the Editor must be post paid, or they will not be attended to.

Notice.

THE Subscriber informs the citizens of Edgecombe and the adjacent counties, that he has commenced the

Gig and Wagon-making BUSINESS IN TARBORO',

Near the Bridge,

And earnestly requests those friendly to humanity to give him a share of patronage. His work shall be completed equal to any in the State.

THOS. J. BLAKELEY.

Feb. 12, 1829.

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FOR SALE,

At the Post-Office in the town of HALIFAX,

The following Articles, to wit:

Bacon, Lime, Herrings, Shad, Flour, Stained curtain Bedsteads, Windsor Chairs, Leather, wagon Collars, Tobacco, (twist and bundle,) wholesale and retail,

ALSO—the following Articles:

Bottle Corks, Fly Stone, Termerick, Liquid Blacking, Ginger, Spice, Nutmegs, Venitian Red, Red Lead, White Lead, Verdigris, Baitman's Drops, Opopondoc, Allum, Letheridge, Ink Powder, Pearl Ash, Ground Paint Brushes, as-sorted, Shaving Boxes and Soap, Spanish Whiting, Turkey Umber, Crom Yellow, Prussian blue, Durable Ink, Staughton's Bitters, Tooth Brushes, Mace, Snuff Boxes, Spanish Annatto, do. Blueing, do. Indigo, Wagons ironed, do. not Ironed, Almanacs, Garden Marrowfat } PEAS, Early six week Green Bunch Spinning Wheels, Shaving Brushes, Razors, Blank Warrants, do. Notes, do. Bonds,

All of the above articles will be sold very low, for Cash only.

JOS. L. SIMMONS.

Halifax, Feb. 6, 1829.

Notice.

ALL persons indebted to the Subscribers either by note or account, are respectfully invited to call and settle the same as soon as possible, as the subscribers are under the necessity of making collections between this time and February Court.

KING & GATLIN.

Tarboro', Jan. 20, 1829.

Notice.

RANAWAY from the Subscriber, on the 22d of December last, an indentured apprentice boy, by the name of FRANCIS REDMOND, about seventeen years of age, dark complexion. I will give a reward of Ten Dollars for the delivery of said boy to me in Tarborough—all persons are forbid harboring or employing him under the penalty of the law.

HENRY JOHNSTON.

Tarboro', Jan. 20, 1829.

Domestic.

Bank Debate.—The following remarks were made in the House of Commons of the last General Assembly of this State, on the resolutions relative to the Banks, submitted by the Committee appointed for that purpose:

Mr. POTTER, (the Chairman of the Committee) rose, and moved the adoption of the Resolution reported by the minority committee, in preference to that recommended by the majority. Mr. P. after some prefatory remarks, which he had partly made before the Reporter entered the Hall, in which he said the safety of the community depended upon the deliberations of the General Assembly on this subject, proceeded to dilate on the evidence which had been adduced before the Committee to whom this matter had been referred.

Mr. P. said he would first advert to the manner in which the capital stock of the several Banks had been raised; and for this purpose he would refer to the statement made to the Committee by the gentleman from Newbern, who is President of the Bank of that town, (Mr. Gaston.) He states, "that the charter of that Bank was granted in 1304. How the shares were then paid for, he does not know. By the act of 1814, the charter of the Bank was prolonged, and an enlargement of its stock authorized, by a subscription for additional shares, which were to be paid for in ten instalments. These were paid, as all other debts, in whatever was regarded as money, or the representative of money. Very little was received in gold or silver. The greater part was paid in Bank notes of the State; and, no doubt, the means of making the deferred payments, were, in many instances, procured by loans from the Banks. The act of 1814, in providing for these additional shares, says nothing of paying them in gold or silver, and that such a requisition could avail nothing, as the gold and silver could have been obtained only from the Banks."

It follows, said Mr. P. from its statement, that in 1814, the Banks had in their possession all the gold and silver coin in the country. Gold and silver, it is stated, could be obtained only from the Banks.

Mr. P. then read Mr. G's answer to the question. "Has the Bank of Newbern paid its notes in specie on demand?" Ans. "In the war, the Banks of this State, as of all the southern and middle States, suspended specie payments. At what precise period after the close of the war, they were punctually resumed, I cannot say; but I think in the summer of 1817. In 1819, the runs on the Bank for specie were very heavy. It became certain that the Bank could not supply this continued drain, unless it compelled

its debtors to make large payments. The expedient was then resorted to, in concert with the other Banks of the State, to refuse specie to the brokers, who principally annoyed the institutions. The Bank has since been irregular in the payment of specie. It has paid when it had the means of payment—and when it had not the means of payment, it made the best arrangements in its power with those who presented demands against it."

Taking these two statements together, said Mr. P. and to what do they amount? That during the war, the Banks suspended specie payments, which were not resumed until 1817. So that when this additional stock was granted to the Cape-Fear and Newbern Banks, they were not specie paying Banks. They had, it is acknowledged, at the time all the gold and silver coin in their possession; but they did not choose to part with it.

How, then, was it possible, at the time these two Banks increased their capitals, the one \$575,000, and the other \$525,000, to add any thing to their means of doing business?

The plain inference is, that these Banks manufactured this additional capital of \$1,100,000.

The Banks, nevertheless, proceeded to issue notes on this capital; and if they issued, as they were authorized to do, three for one, they loaned between three & four million of dollars in their notes, bearing no interest, in exchange for the well secured notes of the people, bearing an interest of six per cent. These individuals, might as well have issued their own notes, as to have gone into a large Brick House, called a Bank, and issued notes on no better foundation.

It appears, then, that all the interest received on this assumed capital, has been improperly extorted from individuals, without any corresponding banking capital to authorise the loans upon which it was paid.

The gentleman from Newbern, in giving his testimony to the committee, had said he did not know how the original stock of the Bank of Newbern was paid for; but Judge Seawell and Mr. Mears, in their testimony, say that nearly the whole of the paper money of the State had been obtained by the Newbern and Cape-Fear Banks, which was kept and used by them as a defence, to ward off specie payments.

Mr. P. said he would next enquire how the capital of the State Bank had been raised; and for this purpose he read an extract from the statement made by Judge Seawell, who states, "that he was originally one of the Commissioners appointed to receive subscriptions for stock; that one fourth of each share subscribed for, he is confident, was paid in gold and

silver to the commissioners at the time of subscribing; and after it was certified to the principal Bank, by the representative branches, that the sum required to authorise the bank to go into operation, the mother bank, the only part of the institution which discounted a note, did discount one note only, in order to call in the second instalment, which by the charter; was payable in sixty days thereafter. The payments after the first instalment, of course, were paid to the Cashier in gold and silver, as far as this witness has any knowledge of this payment, and he feels satisfied such was the fact. After the second instalment was paid in, the Bank then went into operation to a considerable extent; and it is the belief of this witness, that the remaining two instalments were paid generally in the notes of the Bank. The witness feels considerable confidence in this opinion, from the well known fact, that nearly the whole of the paper money of the State had been obtained by the Newbern & Cape-Fear Banks, and used by them as a defence: that the circulating medium at that time consisted almost entirely of Newbern & Cape-Fear Bank paper, including the issues of the State Bank; and though the State Bank was quite able to meet the call of such notes as might be brought to obtain specie to pay the third instalment, as that course would not have actually increased the amount of specie in the Bank, he feels satisfied that the notes of the Bank were taken in payment of the third instalment, and he presumes the same thing was done in most instances in payment of the fourth instalment, as the State Bank had not at that time forced the local Banks to deliver up the paper money."

Judge Seawell further adds, "that the stock not sold in the first instance, was directed to be sold in 1819, not for the purpose of increasing the legal capacity of contracting debt, but to enable them to extinguish some portion of that which actually existed."

It was evident, Mr. P. said, that the \$424,000 of Stock last subscribed, was added in order to enable the Bank to extinguish a part of the existing debt, and the charter required that three-fourths of the subscription should be paid in specie. Yet payment was allowed to be made in Bank notes of the State, which could not then be considered specie-paying Institutions, as in June, 1819, the Banks had agreed to discontinue payments in specie.

As no specie was received for this stock, Mr. P. said, it might be considered as fabricated by the Bank. Admitting that the original capital of the Cape-Fear and Newbern Banks, and the two first instalments of the State Bank, were paid in specie the whole amount of specie received