

TARBOROUGH FREE PRESS.

Whole No. 476.

Tarborough, (Edgecombe County, N. C.) Friday, November 8, 1833.

Vol X—No 8.

The "Tarborough Free Press,"

BY GEORGE HOWARD,

Is published weekly, at Two Dollars and Fifty Cents per year, if paid in advance—or, Three Dollars, at the expiration of the subscription year. For any period less than a year, Twenty-five Cents per month. Subscribers are at liberty to discontinue at any time, on giving notice thereof and paying arrears—those residing at a distance must invariably pay in advance, or give a responsible reference in this vicinity.

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Communications.

FOR THE FREE PRESS.

"Nicomachus answered and said unto him, how can these things be?"—Consistency! thou art a jewel.

Mr. Editor: The perusal of a prolix article in your paper of the 25th ult. headed the North Carolina Whig's Memorial and Remonstrance to the honorable the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina, has given rise to a series of reflections, which, notwithstanding a different course might be dictated by prudence, I cannot refrain from giving to the public. The generous reader will excuse me, if in fixing upon the writer of that article, I should identify him with the author of a pamphlet published sometime since, entitled "A Basket of Fragments for the Children." Taking the fact for granted then, that they are both the offspring of the same mind, I assert without hesitation, that there is a palpable inconsistency in the writing and conduct of this individual, and shall now proceed to make good the assertion. If, as is maintained in that pamphlet, the fate of man is unalterably fixed by the foreknowledge and predestination of God, and no effort of his can possibly affect his condition, I ask for what purpose does the writer in the very same article in which this doctrine is supported, call upon his readers to desert their wicked way and seek God before it is too late? Why make the same appeal from the pulpit? Why devote so much of his time to the spiritual benefit of mankind, when according to his own "doxy," no good can possibly result therefrom to his fellow man. If man's destiny be fixed, I think it a fair inference that that of nations is also; where then is the propriety of memorializing the Legislature against the incorporation of Theological Seminaries, even admitting the fact that harm could result therefrom. For the sake of illustration, let us suppose, that the Almighty in the plenitude of his wisdom and power, before time was, foreknew that a government called the United States of America would spring into existence in the 17th century, that the people thereof would be a wicked people, that they would violate his commandments and set him and his counsels at defiance, and had decreed, as a means of punishment, that they should be the willing instruments of exalting a proud and pompous priesthood, who should lord it over them and grind them to the very dust—or on the contrary, let us suppose, He foreknew that the people of the United States would be a wise and virtuous people and had decreed, as a means of rewarding them, that their government should excel every other which existed prior to or cotemporary with it, both in its duration and the happiness of its citizens—I ask of what avail can the efforts of man be to avert either fate? If the former destiny be decreed us, who can say, but that the efforts now being made by the clergy are the means which God has devised to consummate his purpose; if the latter, let us rest quiescent under our own "vines and fig trees;" for with God as our pilot, the clergy and his satanic majesty may combine to destroy us, yet the ship of state will eventually reach the destined haven. This reasoning when compared with that of the writer of the "Basket of Fragments" and

the "Remonstrance," seems to me to be quite logical and therefore the charge of inconsistency is fully substantiated.—These remarks have been dictated by no unfriendly feelings, but solely with the hope of eliciting from the individual under review an explanation of his doctrines. Should they answer the desired effect, the purposes of the writer will have been served. Tyro.

Internal Improvement Meeting.—A meeting of the citizens of Martin county was held at Williamston on the 15th ult. at which Dr. Simmons J. Baker presided, and Arthur S. Cotton and Asa Biggs acted as Secretaries. Col. Joseph J. Williams, Dr. James B. Slade, Thomas W. Watts, Lewis A. Powell and Asa Biggs were appointed a committee to draft resolutions, for the consideration of the meeting. Col. Williams, from said committee, reported the following, which were unanimously adopted:—

WHEREAS by a Resolution adopted by the Internal Improvement Convention held at Raleigh on the fourth of July last, it was recommended to the several counties in the State to send Delegates to a meeting to be held in the same place on the fourth Monday in November next on the same subject.

Resolved, That this meeting heartily concur in the recommendation and rejoice to perceive a spirit of enterprise beginning to manifest itself among our citizens, which with proper encouragement and judicious direction promises to develop the resources of the State and advance her to that rank among her sister States which she is entitled to hold.

Resolved, further, That the Chairman, Dr. James B. Slade, D. W. Bagley, Asa Biggs, Samuel S. Shepard, Col. James H. Smith, Col. Joseph J. Williams and Lawrence Cherry, Esq. be Delegates to represent the county of Martin in the proposed meeting to be held on the fourth Monday in November next.

Windsor Herald.

Public Debt.—A notice from the Treasury Department, will be seen in another column of our paper this morning, for the payment of another large portion of the public debt, on the first of May next, and another of a readiness to meet the payment of any portion of it which may be desired by the holders of the stock, previous to that time. Thus the balance of the debt is melting away before the rays of the brilliant measures which have been pursued by the present administration.—*Baltimore Rep.*

Mysterious and melancholy circumstance.—The Freedonia N. Y. Censor says:—Week before last a well dressed female, apparently between 25 and 30 years of age, landed at Dunkirk, and on Friday came to this village. She stopped at the small stage house, where she remained over night and till the afternoon of the next day—she appeared melancholy—said little or nothing to any one, and called for nothing to eat. When she left, she said she wanted to go to Coney's tavern, which is eight miles west of this place, where she arrived about 4 o'clock in the afternoon. Here also she appeared depressed in mind and retired early to bed. The next morning it was ascertained that she was quite ill, and a physician was sent for, though against her wish. The physician upon ascertaining her situation informed her that she could live but a short time, and she died about 4 o'clock in the afternoon. All the information she gave of herself was that her name was Melinda Smith—that she had a husband and three children living at Cleaveland, Ohio, to whom she was returning, having been on a visit to her husband's relatives at Rutland, Vt. This statement from attendant circumstances, is thought not to be correct.

She had with her a trunk containing considerable clothing, and in it was found a quantity of medicine which she said was given her by a physician in Buffalo, with directions for its use to produce an abortion, and she stated that she had taken five doses of it. The attending physician upon examining it found it to be rank poison, and gave it as his opinion that one dose of it was sufficient to cause death. The only opinion that can be gathered from the whole of the circumstances is, that she was betrayed and made the victim of some monster in human shape. She was decently buried, and her effects, together with a sum of money which she had with her, are in the care of Mr. John R. Coney, subject to the request of legal claimants.

Trial for Murder.—The trial of Frances Leach, charged with the murder of Sally Burdick, in February last, at Coventry, Rhode Island, by attempting to procure an abortion with instruments, which attempt caused her death, was brought to a close in the Supreme Court, sitting at East Greenwich, on the 20th ult. after being protracted to the unusual length of ten days; the longest time ever occupied in that State by a criminal trial, excepting in that of Avery, which lasted twenty-eight days. A great mass of circumstantial evidence was produced, and one witness to the acknowledgment of the prisoner herself. The defence was, that the death was not sufficiently proved to have resulted from the wounds, seven in number; that the prisoner was not conclusively shown to have inflicted them; and that the offence, if proved, did not amount to murder by the Common Law of that State, which was, in many particulars besides those excepted by statute, different from the Common Law of England. The jury, after being out all night, returned a verdict at ten o'clock on Sunday morning, of *voluntary manslaughter*. The sentence was two years' imprisonment, and 1000 dollars fine. The Chief Justice, in pronouncing it, expressed his regret that the more guilty person should escape, while the least so had to suffer; and David Gibbs, included in the indictment as an accessory before the fact, for instigating, procuring, and aiding in the offence, was discharged, there being no accessories before the fact to manslaughter.

After the last day's race at New York, a few days since, which was won by a mare called Alice Gray, her owners refused an offer of \$7000 for her. The famous horse Sir Charles lately died in Virginia. The day before he was taken ill, his owners would not have taken \$12,000 for him.

A vigilant Watchman.—On the night of the 19th ult. as one of the watchmen in New York was taking a quiet nap on his post, some arch rogue extracted from his vest pocket a gold patent lever watch of the value of \$150.

At a late Court in Belmont county, Ohio, Thomas Job, aged about 56 years, was tried and convicted of an attempt to commit a rape on his step daughter, aged 10 years, and sentenced to the Penitentiary for seven years.

Danger from Gas.—A recent case of the danger to life incurred by burning charcoal in a close room, is mentioned in the last Huron (Ohio) Reflector, as occurring in Norwalk. A bereaved family and six neighbors were together in a small room in which lay the corpse of one of the family—some sitting up and others lying on beds. The room was warmed by a pot of burning charcoal. Suddenly all in the room were affected by the gas from the charcoal, which almost produced suffocation. Several fell to the floor, while one of the number had

the presence of mind to raise a window and sound an alarm. They were immediately carried to a neighboring house, where assisted by medical aid they recovered in a few days.

Despair.—The New Orleans Bee of the 24th ult. mentions that a lady of that city, who had lost her husband a few days previously, attempted in a fit of despair, to destroy herself and two of her children, by precipitating them into a well, and then throwing herself in after them. They were taken out soon after, but the children were both dead and little hopes remained of the recovery of the mother from the injuries sustained by the fatal act.

Crim. Con.—A case of crim. con. was recently tried at Troy, N. Y. in which Nathan Smith was plaintiff and John Martin defendant. The case was of an aggravated nature, and the jury gave a verdict of \$3000. Mr. Martin has a wife and three children.

From an account published in the New York Commercial Advertiser, it is a fair inference that the late terrible explosion of the steamboat New England, by which so many lives were lost, was the result of a race between that boat and the boats for Providence and Norwich, which started at the same time. An eye witness, a passenger on board, residing in Northampton, has published a statement in which he says expressly that heavy bets were pending on the relative speed of the boats and the time of their arrival; that they raced for several hours, and the New England was put up to a speed of seventeen miles an hour through Long Island Sound, without the aid of wind or tide. This, together with the neglect formerly stated, in blowing off the steam, when a stoppage was made to land passengers, is sufficient to explain the awful explosion and all its distressing circumstances.

Slander.—A case of slander was recently tried at Hartford, Conn. in which a Mr. Livingston and wife were defendants and Miss Ruth Miller plaintiff. The latter is a young lady of unsuspected virtue, and the slanderous words were spoken by the wife of the defendant at different times, addressed to young ladies, strangers to the plaintiff, and reflecting in vague and indirect expressions, cruelly upon the plaintiff's character. The defendant denied the speaking of the words, and also their actionable character. But the jury taught the good lady, that persons were not to escape responsibility for the waywardness of their unruly members, by a resort to artful modes of expression. Verdict for plaintiff, \$200. The sum is much too small, we think. The penalty in cases of this kind should be very severe.

More Murders.—A letter to the Editors of the Kentucky Reporter, dated Winchester, Ky. Oct. 1, says:—"This morning, about 8 o'clock, an unfortunate encounter took place before the Court House door, between Samuel R. Combs and sons against two of the Bushes, (sons of Ambrose,) which terminated in the death of Samuel R. Combs, sen. His head was nearly separated from his body, the main artery being entirely separated. Combs had shot a man named Neilson the day previous, with a pistol, and was in custody of the Sheriff, and the Bushes were summoned as a guard. He died in about 30 minutes or less, after he had received the cut."

At Port Gibson, Miss. on the 18th ult. Jacob Skinner deliberately shot John Jennings, Esq. Postmaster at that place. Bayard Thistle, who was shot by Swearingin, and who then shot himself, died at Cumberland, Md. on the 3d ult.