COMPARISON OF FOREIGN TRADE OF WILMINGTON WITH THAT OF NORFOLK, PETERSBURG, AND RICHMOND IN 1838.

WILMINGTON TONNAGE ENTERED AND CLEARED.

American vessels	12,378		
Foreign vessels	3,827		
	16,205	Entered	16,205
American vessels	25,600		
Foreign vessels	3,929		
	29,529	Cleared	29,529

VIRGINIA TONNAGE ENTERED.

Petersburg,	American vessels	3,693	
Richmond,	American vessels	2,822	
	Foreign vessels	1,197	
		7,712	7,712
Norfolk,	American vessels	4,357	
	Foreign vessels	10,000	
		14,357	14,357

VIRGINIA TONNAGE CLEARED.

Petersburg,	American vessels	2,748	
Richmond,	American vessels	13,240	
	Foreign vessels	4,340	
		20,328	20,328
Norfolk,	American vessels	12,771	
	Foreign vessels	12,222	
		24,993	24,993

WILMINGTON IN THE FORTIES.

JOHN MACLAURIN, a prominent merchant and a Presbyterian elder, who died in the year 1907, was one of the most remarkable men of our community in his day and generation. Proud of his Scottish lineage, he possessed those sterling traits of heart and mind which likewise adorned the lives of many of his fellow-countrymen in the Cape Fear region—"absolute dependableness in all thinking and in all dealing, a lively sense of justice, a cultivated taste, critical judgment, with a splendid capacity for moral indignation." He was an honor to his city and Commonwealth.

He was a friend and admirer of Colonel Burr, who was some twelve years his senior, and he wrote for the local newspapers some charming reminiscences of Wilmington in the forties over the pen name "Senex, Jr.," parts of which I have selected for more permanent record.

I.

After little observation, one will note in the topography of Wilmington that Fifth Street, running parallel to the Cape Fear River, is the backbone of a ridge upon which the city is built. The plateau which lies upon the summit of this ridge is variable in width, including oftentimes Fourth and even Third Streets on the one side and Sixth and Seventh Streets on the other, in somes cases with the level ground almost overhanging the river, as between Ann and Church Streets. We speak of the natural lay of the land as the topography—before the many changes that within the past fifty years have been made by grading and filling the streets. The average height of the ridge is fifty feet above tidewater, and the highest point, supposed to be at or near the intersection of Seventh and Red Cross Streets, perhaps ten feet higher. The descent towards the river is seamed by several branches, or runs, taking their rise sometimes as far back as Third Street and emptying into the river a few hundred yards apart. Within the limits of "Wilmington of the Olden Time" these were the streams rising between Third and Fourth Streets and emptying at the foot of Mulberry: Jacob's Run, rising at Fourth Street near Princess and pursuing a southwest course until the river receives its waters at Dock Street; and Tanyard Branch, rising at Third Street between Orange and Ann Streets and running nearly due west, emptying into the Cape Fear River at a point between the same streets. Boiling Springs