

harbor must be fixed at the South mouth of Pike Creek." The news of Col. Abert's decision spread rapidly through the town, and was received with expressions of delight. The next day the sound of the saw and the hammer again began to be heard, and every department of business proceeded with more than usual energy.

In March, 1845, another appropriation, of \$15,000, was obtained from Congress. Since that period, the work on the harbor has been prosecuted, more or less every year, by money borrowed on the credit of the corporation, and by tax levied on the real estate of the town.

Newspapers

The establishment of a newspaper began to be agitated in the summer of 1839; in the following winter, there was much excitement on the subject, arising from the rival feeling between the people of the north side of the creek, and those on the south side. The south side claimed the location of the press on the ground of having the greatest population. The north side claimed it, because it had more wealth and business influence to sustain a press. In January, 1840, Judge Bullen proposed to guarantee to Hon. C. C. Sholes, five hundred subscribers, and a sufficient support, provided he would establish a paper on the north side. This raised a storm; the south side people called a meeting, and resolved not to patronize the proposed paper. In the meantime, the interests of the south side continued to strengthen, and in June, 1840, the "*Southport Telegraph*," edited by C. Latham Sholes, and M. Frank, was established. This paper has ever since that time, continued its regular weekly issues, and is now, with perhaps one exception, the oldest newspaper in the State. The north side did not, however, abandon the idea of a newspaper, and in September, 1841, a paper called the "*Southport American*," was established on that side of the creek, edited by N. P. Dowst. It continued to be pub-