



## THE OLD RED HOUSE

The Red House on Probarte Street, now by common consent the Old Red House, was probably the first building on the Brevard plateau. Its story presents an economic pattern quite characteristic of this region, and the homely anecdotes that cluster about it originated with pioneer village life.

The sturdy frame building with its shell of red concrete, its double south porches, and awkward, overhanging roof, cocks a heavy shoulder to the street. It was there when Probarte Street was an indefinite wagon track, skirting the bit of open swamp that laid between the heavy woods of the Indian mound and the lighter oaks and maples that stretched to the bluffs of the French Broad. Here in 1851 the old house began life as a trading post. Once each year mountain products were sent to Charleston by wagon train. The store and the rooms for the storekeeper formed a rambling one-story building, which rested on the hand-hewed logs that still support the house.

By 1860 the valley was filling up. Several families had already established themselves in the Davidson River neighborhood and along the upper French Broad, many of them were grandparents of Ecusta employees. The iron mine on East Fork, which furnished ore for forging guns, used in the Revolutionary battle of King's Mountain, was still being worked. Indeed the section was booming and the Secretary of State, Zebulon Vance, was busy signing papers for Transylvania