TORICAL SOCIETY.

By Hon. Win. A. Graham merday evening, at Metropolitan Hall, by the he body and a gallery of the edifice was filled gos by a highly respectable audience. At hour appoined, the lecturer, accompanied by Hon Luther Bradish, President of the Socie-Br. Hawkes, Dr. Francis, Dr. De Witt, and de distinguished gentlemen, presented himthe audience, and, after the applause which

and him had subsided, said:

President, and Ladies and Gentlemen

Regarding the New York Historical Society as Monal Institution, I have not scrupled to uninto the task devolved on me this evening. perer conscious of my inadequacy to its propdishent; and a primary object of its estabhaent being the study and, dissemination of a and knowledge of American history, the toon which I propose to engage your attention the British invasion of North Carolina, in 1780 Having been requested to turn my atis to some subject pertaining to the history of is of this, and at too late a period to prepa e almide the subject of his discourse another inusing chapter in the history of North Caroli-With earlier information of this fact. I gladly have chosen some other topic, to in greater variety and interest to a course of the which has thus far been so well received the public.

hesabject is withal commonplace; but it is the ary of our ancestors—of their struggles and sa-dos—their freedom and renown. The scene. is creumscribed, but the actors were personinions of principles and representatives of nam, and upon the close of the drama depended false of an empire. If other apology be wantg for the selection of this theme.

adfrom occasional access to official documents. well as from the traditions and legends of those has honorable scars bore witness of opportu-ies for acquaintance with some, at least, of herents of that period, am impressed with the meton that from want of chroniclers and inting presses in the then infant State, at the e of these occurrences, and from negligence racident since, it has not received full jusfrom the pen of history. Let it be rememred that the period to which we refer is 1780 al 1781, more than five years after, the first go, and full four years after the national Debritton of Independence. Let lad North-Carolina been no indifferent

rife investor white other States were the theof war, or in regard to the common cause in incinency of the contest. As early as the age of the Stamp Act, and down to the breakrent of hostilities, disputes of a domestic natouching the rights of creditors in the prosistration of the provincial government, had en agitated between the crown (through the al governors) and the people of the colony, thich, added to the causes of complaint of more mend interest, produced a free discussion of the satitation of Great Britain, and sharpened and ingrated the public mind in relation to the the of British subjects in the colonies. Emmintelligent and accute in their comprehension he issues involved, jenious of undue control by mother country, and ready to hazard any conmenos in resisting her eneronelments. This sufficiently attested in the alacrity with which responded to the call for the first continental agress, in 1774; in the proceedings of her vato provincial congresses and councils, prior to establishment of the State government; and those of her popular assemblies, among which may be enough to particularize the Wilming-R.Cumberland, Rowan and Tryon associations the memorable meeting in Mecklenburg, on \$20th of May, 1775; which declared absolute

And these prompt and decisive manifestations the immediate scenes of danger, in a manner hich proved that she had no seltish, sectional, endusive ideas of defence and protection. Esshing a thorough military organization at Provincial Congress, which assembled in sborough on the 20th of August, 1775, in cember of that year an expedition was sent der Colonel Howe, for the defence of Norfolk Maker Virginia, against Lord Dunmore, the of Governor of that province, who, having coland martial law, and offered freedom to the prentices and slaves of the country. This force, oujunction with a detachment of regulars and Again troops, under Colonel Woodford, de-ited his lordship's army in the battle at Great high and obliged him to abandon Norforlk at take refuge on board a man of war in the arbor, as the last royal Governor of North Cara six months anterior, had been obliged to a Wilmington.

About the same date, an expedition under

lands Martin, Polk and Rutherford, marched the western part of the State against the (called Scovilites, from a royalist emissary

manuel depredations on the neighboring noke, and at our points of the line of divis-

the common enemy in other States; and her militia were marched, by divisions, brigades, regiments, and battalions, to the aid of South Carolina and Georgia; not to mention that the ranks of Sumter and Pickens were often filled with her citizens, who took service under those famous partisan officers, when those States were the seat of war, and were computed among the troops of South Carolina. From New Jersey to Florida inclusive, there were few battle fields in which a portion of the troops engaged in defence of the liberties of the country were not hers. Besides these contributions, however, for mil-

tary operations abroad, a considerable force was required for the interior defence and safety of the State. Although the great mass of the people were true to the country, there was no contemptible number who maintained their loyalty to the crown, and stood ready to defend it with arms. This was more conspicuously true of a body of Scotch Highlanders, who had emigrated in large numbers to the waters of the Cape Fear in the incipient stages of the controversy between the colonies and the mother country; and the signal victory obtained by Colonels Caswell and is some such that was not until after the Lillington, at the bridge of Moore's Creek, one of the Western tributaries of the Cape Fear, on of the Western tributaries of the Cape Fear, on the 27th of February, 1776, with one thousand men, over the tory forces levied in that region, under Gen. McDouald and Cart. under Gen. McDonald and Capt. McLeod, numbering fifteen hundred men, who were marching to relieve Governor Martin from his exile on board an English ship of war at the mouth of the Cape Fear, and to bring him back, and restore him to his authority in the colony, is one of the proudest events of the war, in that year. Pursued with vigor, as this victory was, in capturing prisoners, arms, military stores, and munitions of war, it so broke the spirit, and destroyed the resources of the enemy in the State, and so cheered the hopes of the patriots, that its effects were widely and deeply felt. Still, the feeling of attachment to the royal cause infected individuals and in many instances pervaded whole neighborhoods and districts, and required constant vigilance, determination and energy on the part of the authorities and troops of the new government.

In the spring of 1776, a formidable invasion was threatened by a military and naval armament, under Sir Henry Clinton and Sir Peter Parker, at the mouth of the Cape Fear, and a large military force was called out to repel it .--But its attention was soon directed to the more tempting prize of Charleston, where in June of that year, occurred the famous repulse which has given immortality to the name of Moultrie. With the exception of a large detachment from this armament, which was landed and committed some depredations in the county of Brunswick. among which was the sacking of the private mansion of the patriot General Howe, no British force had entered the territory of North Carolina until the period ansounced in the outset of these remarks, the latter half of the year 1780.

State, or the military plans of the enemy, had to proceed by attachment against the lands gation. South Carolina and Georgia had been hundred men, and, after a well sustained and Brandy wine and Germantown, and the fact that overrun and conquered, and their patriot citizens | bloody engagement of an hour, compelled them | he had seen service under the eve, and with the driven to concealment, exile, or submission to his victorious arms. Charleston had fallen on time permit us to recur to them, are of much inthe 12th of May. Improving his success with terest. Blood relatives and familiar acquaintanthe skill of a veteran commander, Lord Cornwal- ces fought in the opposing ranks, and when the lis moved forward at once to Camden, near the smoke of the battle occasionally cleared away. centre of the State; and on the 20th of that recognised each other in the conflict - the tories month, his light troops, under Lieutenant Col. wearing their well known badge of a green pine Tarleton, overwhelmed and massacred a Virginia regiment under Col. Buford, at Waxhaw creek, lar badge of white paper, which was in some innear the frontiers of North Carolina. On the stance taken as a mark by the enemy, and occa-16th of August, in a pitched battle near Camden, he had signally defeated and routed the main were the only means of distinguishing the two army, which had been rallied for the defence of parties in the action in which neighbor met the South under General Gates, the hero of Sar- neighbor in deadly strife, with the rifles carried atoga. And although some consolation was administered to the wounded spirit of the American General under this crushing defeat, by the success of General Sumpter, in capturing, about the same time, a convoy of the enemy, yet this five whig and four tory Captains, were left dead daring and vigilant officer was himself surprised, on the field, and more than two hundred were by the dashing Tarleton, and his force of eight wounded, the loss being shared about equally by nundred men put to route and dispersed, with the respective sides. the loss of his artillery, arms, and baggage, at Fishing creek, two days afterwards. "Thus," says a spirited writer, "the tragedy of the 16th, closing with the catastrophe of the 18th, the army of the South became a second time nearly annihilated." To this unbroken succession of reverses to our arms, it must be added that the resources of North Carolina to meet the impending danger, had been greatly impaired by the Frecent collection of materia historica of North events of the war. A large number of her people, dispirited and broken down in health by service, the two preceeding years, in the low and insalubrious sections of South Carolina by Georgia, her treasury and military supplies exhausted in the maintenance of these and other expeditions; all her continental troops, and more than a thousand of her militia, made prisoners at the surrender of Charleston, and paroled, or yet in the hands of the enemy; more than five hundred more, including some of the most popular and influential officers, taken at the batle of Camden, and now in confinement at St. Augustine-these are circumstances not to be over-looked in estimating the appalling nature of the crisis, and the merit of a brave resistance.

There was no impediment to the onward progress of Lord Cornwallis, except the want of supplies, which he impatiently awaited at Camden His road to Charlotte, the capital of Mecklenburg that name.) in the north-western section of county, and the first point of his destination, Carolina; and in connection with the laid parellel to the great rivers of the country, sope of that State, under General Richardson and crosses the State boundary, upon an imag-Col. Thompson, drove the tory command- inary line. In the absence of maps, so much of Cunningham and Fletcher, from the seige of geography as may be necessary to comprehend and subsection and Fletcher, from the seige of geography as may be necessary be necessary as may be necess prised and defeated them, with the capture of comprised in few words. The Broad and Cabundred of their followers. This is known tawba rivers are the chief tributaries of the hadition as the snow camp campaign, from Santee, and the Yandkin of the Pedee, parallel tiolent snow storms with which its camps streams rising in the mountains of North Carolina, and running southwardly to the occean, in is the Autumn of 1776, a force of nineteen south Carolina. The Cape Fear pursues a like South Carolina. The Cape Fear pursues a like South Carolina. and men from the same we on under Gen. course, but is wholly in North Carolina, its head offord, was despatched against the Chero- waters being the Deep and Haw or Saxapahaw hading, was despatched against the Chero-waters being the Deep and Had Hadstream of the Koa-feerman, who had espoused the British cause, rivers. The Dan is the headstream is coursing becoming and espoused the British cause, rivers. The Dan is the of reference is coursing noke, and at our points of reference is coursing noke, and at our points of reference is coursing ion between North Carolina and Virginia. But

were ordered out under Brigadier General Rutherford, to oppose the triumphal march of the British General. Scarcely had they assembled at the place of rendezvous, about ten miles northeast of Charlotte, when intelligence arrived of an assemblage of loyalists at Ramsour's mills, some forty miles distant, beyond the Catawba, in the county of Tryon, and within view of the present village of Lincolnton. Unwilling to weaken the force he had gathered to impede the advance of the British army, General Rutherford desputched orders to Col. Francis Locke, of Rowan; and other faithful officers, to collect the available force of their several neighborhoods, and surpress the insurrection at the earliest practicable moment. It appeared that one John Moore, of the county of Tryon [now Lincoln,] who had joined the enemy in South Carolina the preceeding winter, had recently returned. dressed in a tattered suit of British uniform and a sword, and announced himself a lieutenant colonel in the well known regiment of North Carolina Loyalists, commanded by Col. John Hamilton, of Halifax. He brought detailed accounts of the siege and surrender of Charleston, and an authoritative message from Lord Cornwallis, that he would march into that section as soon as the then ripening harvests were gathered, so as to afford a support for his army. Very soon thereafter, Nicholas Welsh, of the same vicinity, who had been in the British service for eighteen months, and bore a major's commission in the same regiment, also returned, with splendid official equipments and a purse of gold, which was ostentatiously displayed to his admiring associates, with artful speeches in aid of the cause he had embraced. He also gave the first information of Buford's defeat, and represented that all resistance on the part of the whigs would now be hopeless. Under these lemlers, there was collected, in a few days, a force of thirteen hundred men, who were encamped in an advantageous position, preparatory to their being marched to effect a junction with the British in South

" KEEP A CHECK UPON ALL YOUR

Colonel Locke, and the other officers who had eccived the orders of General Rutherford, already referred to, proceeded to execute them with the utinost alacrity and promptitude. In less than five days they leyled their several quotas. and, crossing the Catawba at various fords, ef-But, although the geographical position of the ments of battle, except that three companies of His romantic devotion to the public service, as horse, which constituted their cavalry, should manifested in a continuous absence of three years thus long delayed his visit, he now came with a prestige of success which threatened entire subjutories, containing, as already mentioned. Thirteen it with the well foughten fields of Monmouth. twig in front of the hat, and the whigs a simisioned the wearers to be shot in the head. These in hunting, and in the use of which weapon one hundred men on either side-were as expert and unerring as any like number of Kentuckians in the time of Boone. Seventy men, including

> It is a remarkable omission, in the histories of the war of the revolution, that no author, neither Marshall, Lee, Ramsay, Botia, nor any other, that I have consulted makes mention of this important battle of Ramsour's mills. The only intelligible record of it, in extenso, was published in the newspapers of North Carolina thirty years since, and has been copied by Mr. Wheeler in his Carolina, It is likewise noticed by Mr. Lossing in his recent work, the 'Field Book of the Revolution.' For daring courage on the part of the whig assailants, considering that the enemy out numbered them in the proportion of four to one, and had great advantage in position, it is surpassed by few events of the war; and as a chastisement and a check upon the rising and exultant spirit of the loyalists over the recent disasters to our arms in South Carolina, the result was of the same nature, and almost equal in its salutary effects, to the victory of Caswell and Lillington, at Moore's creek bridge, four years

> I have failed, earlier, to mention that Colonel Locke and his brave associates, after resolving to engage the enemy, despatched a messenger to carry this information to General Rutherford, and request his co-operation if possible, but did not and that this officer, having heard of the retirement of the British forces from Waxhaw to Camand possibly many of the gallant dead would have

The sath lecture of this course was delivered service upon the requistions of Congress, to meet astrons tidings of the fall of Charleston spread rough, which is near the centre of North Carolirapidly through the country, bringing gloom to na, and more than two hundred miles from Camthe heart of the patriot, cheerfulness and joy to dem, was an entire abandonment of one half of with a detachment of regulars and loyalists, was the loyalist, and inclining the wavering and irrest the State to the depredations of the enemy.olute to the cause of royalty. Early in June, the militia of the counties of Mecklenburg and moirs of the war in the South on account parties. moirs of the war in the South, on account partic-Rowan, comprehending the region between the ularly of the district between Yadkin and Cataw-Yadkin and Catawba, who had so early and so ba, on whose efficiency and devotion to the patconstantly signalized their devotion to liberty, riot cause he pronounces a high eulogium. With the British in front, and the tories within striking distance both on its right and left, the contest now became in that section, a war pro oris et focis, with no immediate resources for its protection but those furnished by itself, and these greatly diminished by the melancholy events to which allusion has already been made. But the spirit vidson prudently retired in the direction of Salisof the country did not forsake it in this trying hour, and it was, perhaps, fortunate that the British army, in its first inroad into the State, was to encounter a people of unshaken resolution and activity in the gloom which overspread the south-

Among many noble and intrepid patriots, in this district, who "struggled with the storm's plantation of Capt, Wahab, one of his own corns fate," and upheld the falling fortunes of their hear the South Carolina border, he completely country, two characters deserve to be conspicuously remembered. These are Brigadier Gen. Win, Lee Davidson, and Col. Win, R. Davie.

Gen. Davidson was of Irish extraction, and his parents, like almost all the original settlers in that egion, were emigrants from Pennsylvania. He was educated at an academy called "Queen's Museum," in Charlotte, and, fired with a noble ardor to sustain the patriot cause in arms, was commissioned as Major, in one of the regiments raised in North Carolina for the continental ser vice, in 1776. In this capacity he marched northward in the brigade of General Francis Nash, joined the main army under Gen. Washington, in New Jersey, and served under the commanderin-chief through the three following campaigns, during which time he was promoted to a lieutenant-coloneley, with the command of a regiment. His presence at home, at this juncture, was purely accidental. The troops of the North Carolina line having been detached to reinforce the Southern army, then under the command of Gen. Lincoln, he obtained permission to visit his family, from which he had been three years separated, with the expectation of joining his regiment in South Carolina. But Charleston being invested at the time of his approach, and all accut off, he was thus saved from capture with his comrades in arms, and returned immediately to his home in Mecklenburg. He, however, did not resign himself to repose in mactivity, but, taking command of a body of militia, rendered effective the Compaigns in the Colonies," to honor these ad service in quelling the tory insurrections consequent on the fall of Charleston. After the capture of Gen. Rutherford, at Gates' defeat, Col. feeted a junction within sixteen miles of the Davidson was appointed a Brigadier General of camp of the royalists, on the 19th of June, with militia, and thus had immediate command of the three hundred and fifty men. At sunrise the citizen soldiers of the frontier county of Mecklennext morning, with this unequal force, and without any chief commander or understood arrange- was required who was capable of bearing arms.

> guidance to his countrymen, and inspired them with hope and confidence. Of Col. Davie, a less minute introduction i necessary. Surviving the war, he became subsequently known to the Union, as one of the great American órators, lawyers and statesmen, a leader in every great enterprise for the improve ment and elevation of the character of his own State-at one time her Chief Magistrate-a member of the federal convention, a special minister of France, in conjunction with Mr. Murray and Chief Justice Ellsworth, during Napoleon's Con solate, and one of the most accomplished and el egant gentlemen of the revolutionary race. At the period to which we refer, he may have been twenty-five years of age-some four years gradu ated at Nassau-Hall, Princeton-interrupted in his law studies, by the events of the war-

approbation of Washington, made him a star of

Inter arma, silent legus

he had cratified his early desire, and the inclina tions of his genius, and became a soldier-of studious habits he had brought his well furnished and disciplined mind to the study of military science, and had mastered it. His service had been in the horse, where he had received the anprobation of Pulaski. He had approved his galantry at the battle of Stono, where he was se verely wounded at Hanging Rock, and on other fields, and his zeal in the patriot cause, by expending an estate, constituting his chief, if not only fortune, in equipping a legionary corps, of which he was now at the head. He was prudent, vigilant, intrepid and skilful in his movements against the enemy, and with a charming presence, a ready doquence, and an undaunted spirit, he was among the young men of the day, as Harry Perey, "to the chivalry of England."

Having received his supplies, Lord Cornwallis noved forward from Camden, on the 8th of September, with the assured expectation of conquering North Carolina, before Congress could bring another army into the field. With his military force there were adventitions aids, from which much was expected. In his train was the late Royal Governor Martin, who, having lingered off the mouth of Cape Fear, in a ship-of-war: for more than a year after his expulsion from the Province, in the hope of restoration to authority, make his compliance a preliminary to their attack, had paid a visit to New York and was now returned, and hoped to receive that dutiful submission, under the guns of his Majesty's army, which he den, had, without knowledge of the intentions of had been unable to exact by the aid of his pro-Locke, crossed the Catawba, with the purpose of wincial adherents alone. A printing press formhimself dispersing the torics at Ramsour's, and ed also a part of the furniture of the camp, with arrived with his brigade on the battle field about | which it was intended to fulminate threats, ga- view of the public danger, now held two appointtwo hours after the retreat of the enemy. Had zette victories and distribute pardons, protections ed sessions in each year, and assembled in that the assault been postponed for this brief space, the and promises. In his ranks was a regiment of town on the 5th of September. This body at victory would doubtless have been more complete, loyalists, raised in North Carolina, under the once applied itself to providing for the defence of been spared to encounter the invading Briton, in Halifax, and connected in business with a preceding session a board had been created "for trained for the conflict by this first essay in arms. house at Cross Creeks, in the midst of the settle-carrying on trade, for the benefit of the State," Gen. Rutherford, in the succeeding month, ment of his countrymen; a person held in great for the purpose of importing or procuring arms,

The main a my moving directly northward, in the direction of Charlotte, Licut. Col. Ferguson, despatched west of the Wateree, or Catawba, to advance in a parallel line to it, to open free communication with the loyalists in that quarter, and incite them to effective co-operations with the British

To oppose the main army there was no force Davidson, and the legionary corps of Davie.-These troops had been upon duty the greater part of the summer, and, especially since the defeat of Gates, had constituted a kind of national guard and corps of observation. On his approach Dabury, but Davie, delighting in enterprise, and being perfectly acquainted with the country; resolved, not only to watch the enemy, but harrass and annoy him whenever occasion should serve, Keeping well advised of his positions and movements, he struck on every opportunity, and always with effect. By a perilous exploit, at the surprised an outpost, and, after killing and wound ing about sixty of the adversary, dashed off unhurt, with a large acquisition of horses and arms.

Upon the entrance of the British army into Charlotte, Davie, being joined by about fifty volunteers, hastily assembled from the neighboring country, under Captain Graham, and relying or the firmness of his troops, made a gallaut stand in defence of this Carolina "cradle of liberty By a judicious disposition of his force, under cov er of the Buildings and enclosures of the village. he thrice drove back the British cavalry, to re ecive the rebuke of their commander-in-chief, and made good his retreat, with a loss much inferior to that of the enemy. Lord Cornwallis occupied the village, intending to advance to Salisbury But, with his overwhelming force, he found it n place of repose or security. His sentries were shot down at their posts, his pickets kept in a constant state of alarm and annoyance, his wagons, with stores, seized and destroyed within a few miles of his headquarters; and, in one instance, a foraging party of four hundred men was attacked and driv enhome with a loss of twenty-seven killed and wounded, by an ambushing party of seven individuals from the neighboring country, all of whom scaped unscathed; the British officer declaring on his return, " that he had found a roled in over ry bush, outside of the lines of the encampment. It was manifestations such as these that induced Lieutenant Colonel Tarleton, in his "History of joining counties of old Mecklenburg and Rowan with the d signation of "the most rebellious district in America."

The printing press-the first that had eve been carried to that region of country-was put in requisition, both by royal Governor and General, and proclamations went forth tilled with as servations to loyalty and duty, and denunciations upon rebellion and treason; but without serious

While his lord-hip was thus occupied and cater-tained at Charlotte, he was astounded by the de-McDowell, of North Carolina; Williams, Hill, and others, of South Carolinia; it would be but idle repetition to speak in detail. Of the action and its incidents, a full description is contained n Foote's "Sketches of North Carolina;" and biographical memoirs of its principal actors in Lossing's Field Book of the Revolution." No ers of their re-pective sections or neighborhood them, from the gorges and passes of the Allechanies, and taking the field, without quartermaster or commissary, each man upon his own iorse, and furnished with his own arms, "the horse made and filled by his-wife or mother"-their that had been called out by the Governor or concentration - their arrangement of the tempos | Board of War, and were on their mirch under rary command by election—their long marches | Generals Allen Jones, Gregory, and others, to their eager pursuit of the enemy - his refuge unite with the army of defence, were halted and on the mountain top-their assault, persevering dishanded, lest, by joining the camp, they should ing earried back, in imagination to the sublime simplicity and bravery of classic romance in Spar-

This victory, which was obtained on the 7th of October, was decisive of the campaign. Instead of proceeding to his meditated conquest. the British general was compelled to address himself to the task of maintaining what he had acquired. Departing from Charlotte in the night, oursued by Davidson and Davie to the Catawba, with the capture of a portion of his baggage; he retreated to Winnsborough, some twenty miles westward of Camden, as the most eligible position for the preservation of his acquisitions in South

Thus terminated the invasion of 1780. But

the end of the war was not yet. By his selection of Hillshorough as the point for reforming his fouted army, General Gates had the advantage of consultation with the Govern or of the State and the Legislature, which, in insular carried and the control of the determination of Gen. Gates not to alwould find ready recruits within her limits for the large army at the parallel of the large army at the parallel of the large army at the large army a in between North Caroning reserved well consists with the paid and so there is an episode to our narrative, before pursuable dark contingents to the continental ing the march of the invading army. The dis-

ed by a sense of the momentous nature of the crisis, but utterly at variance with the plain precepts of the constitution, which then, as now, de-

clared that "the Governor, for the time being, shall be the captain general and commander-in-chief of the militia." The Governor, under the constitution, had no power of veto to arrest the law, and, flugrante bello, did not interfere with the action of the board, though, in a later stage of its existence, he refused to fill a vacancy ocbut the militia of Meckl-nburg and Rowan, under curring from the resignation of one of its members, upon the ground of the constitutional objection. The Legislature of South Carolina, the proceding year, had, by its enactment, clothed ohn Rutledge, then Governor, with the powers of a dictator. Precedents these, rather classical than constitutional, according to our system, and only resorted to, unquestionably, in those energencies, because of the imminent dan-ger to the very existence of the state. The com-missioners constituting this board, by the election of the Legislature itself, were John Penn, Alexander Martin and Orandates Davis. Their session was commenced at Hillsborough, on the 14th of September, 1780, and continued, by adjournment, at Halifax, until the 30th of January, 1781, when its authorities were returned to the Legislature. Their journal, with so much of their correspondence as has been preserved, is among the most interesting documents in our public archives. They undertook the task devolved on them in the most devoted spirit of patriotism, and with a proper sense of its magnitude, and executed its duties with fearlessness, ability, and eminent public benefit. Conducting an active correspondence with Davidson, Davie, General Summer, and other officers, as to the positions of the army of the invading enemy, its advances, skirmishes, and retreat; with local military officers, especially upon the upper branches of the Cape Fear and Pedee, as to the risings or maraudings of the tories, the dispositions to be made of prisoners taken from hem, and measures for keeping them in back; with the Governor of the State, with General Gates, and subsequently with General Greene, in regard to the rallied troops of the lately defeated army, the reinformements arriving from other States, and being levied in their own : the Board of War seems to have exerted its utmost faculties in the department of the commissariat-in providing food and clothing for the army. And when it is recollected that the State had no scaport of much commerce, her inhabitants, then as now, obtaining their chief supplies of foreign goods through the neighboring States -that Wilmington, the principal of these, soon fell into the hands of the enemy, who also held South Carolina and Georgia; and almost simultaneously with the march of Cornwallis on Charlotte, had landed a large body of troops in Virginia, under Arnold, and were threatening an invasion from thence—that there was no internal navigation, and that the best means of transportation from the fortile valley of the Roanoke and from the scaboard to the army, at Hillsborough, Salisbury or Charlotte, was by the ordinary wagoh of the clanter, and that no inconsiderable portion of the supply of these had been lost in the route ensuing the defeat of General Gates, the furnishing the most indispensable accessaries of feat and death of Ferguson, at King's Mountain, life was a Herculean task. The ordinary producwhole force, both regulars and loyalists, killed, ably in diminished quantities in many sections wounded, or taken prisoners, together with all by reason of the interruptions of labor, from the the supernumerary arms with which he had been heavy drafts for military service, in South Carofurnished for the inhabitants of the country who lina, as well as at home, during the year; but in might join the royal standard. Of this memos the circumstances of siege, which environed the rable exploit, achieved within a mile or two of State, the great trivation was in the want of salt, the boundary between the Carolinas, on its son- without which animal food entiret be preserved there side, by the co-operation of Colonels Camps or vegetable enjoyed - a privation which was a belt, of Virginia; Chaveland, Shelby, Sevier and like felt by the army and the people of the country; and it is quite apparent from the correspondence of this board, that an army essentially larger than that which was brought into the field. could not have been long maintained. In their communications with General Greene, the com missioners expressed their regret, that in conseonence of the exhaustion of the treasury, the one can, however, contemplate the gatherings of legislature had adopted the policy of relying on these intrepid "Sons of Liberty," under the lead- the militia for the public defence. This species of force was usually called to tours of duty of their issuing forth, as did the largest portion of three months duration; and as they generally turned out on horseback, occasioning a large cousumption of subsistence, it seems to have been agranged that but a limited number should be ordered to his aid, except in the immediate expeco be sustained by the grass of nature, and the tation of a general engagement. Accordingly, soldier from the homely contents of his wallet, large detachments, numbering in all 4,000 men,

mand to Gen. Gates, to assume the command of her militia that were or should be called into ser-

vice; a measure originating, doubtless, in no

feeling of disrespect to Governor Nash, the ac-

tual occupant of the executive chair, and prompt-

courage, and overwhelming victory-without be- consume the scanty stores of the continental roldier. At the next session of the Legislature, which commenced on the 18th of January, 1781. ta, and early Home, or to the memorable defence acts were passed to discontinue the Board of of the Swiss cantons against the invasion of Aus- War, and "establish a Council Extraordinary," to consist of "three persons of integrity and abil ities, such as the General Assembly can have the greatest confidence in," and to invest the actual Governor (Abner Nash) and this council, with executive powers of government, after the expiration of his official term, provided the invasion of the enemy should prevent the holding of the elections, and the meeting of the Legislature at the usual time. But I have seen no record of the organization of this council, or any proceedings under these statutes. The result of the campaign probably rendered them unnecessary. It is to be regretted, that among the documents of this period there has been but a meagre preservation of the correspondence of Governor Nash In the infancy of the government, no law required the executive correspondence to be recorded and, there being as yet no permanent seat of gov-

ernment, such papers had no other depository than in the private mansion of the incumbent, He died some four years after the war, still high in the public confidence, and at the time of his flemise a member of the Congress of the confed command of Col. Hamilton, a Scotch merchant the State in every practicable method. At its eration. Having made this allusion to the measurement of the control of the contr ares of defence adopted by the State government in this, to her, the darkest hour of war, I cannot withhold the expression of my gratification, that joined General Gates, in command of a brigade of militia, and in the defeat at Camden, on the 16th ter the war, was his Britannic Majesty's consultation of Sall, and all kinds of mer-

of August, was wounded, and taken prisoner by Norfolk. From these, it was hoped that dis- chandise, for the use and consumption of the Board of War, there breathes the loftiest spirit of the enemy; and, therefore, does not appear in the affection would be encouraged, that the State good people of the State." And now, to pur defiance towards the enemy, and an unquailing