

THE STAR,

And North-Carolina State Gazette.

No. 56.

RALEIGH, (N. C.) FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1821.

Vol. XII

PUBLISHED WEEKLY,

BY THOMAS HENDERSON, JR.

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State of North-Carolina,

Bladen County,

Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions—August Term 1821.

John J. M'Nair, Esq. of John M'Nair, vs. Turpin Chester, Adm'r. Original attachment levied on land. Appearing to the satisfaction of the court that Turpin Chester has no interest in the land of the State of North-Carolina, that petitioners be made in the Raleigh State for six weeks, then unless the defendant appear at the next term of said court, to be held at the county of Bladen, at the court house at Bladenburg, on the first day of November next and proceed, answer or demur, or do as directed will be entered up against him. (From the minutes.) Test. JOHN HAYWOOD, Clerk. 25-56—price adv. 25 cts.

University of North-Carolina,

THE Committee appointed for the University of North-Carolina, wish to contract for covering the Wing of that Institution, being a house 95 feet in length, forty feet wide, and two stories high, with slating of timber or best of Pine—22 inches long, 4 inches wide, and 5-8 of an inch thick at the butt—to have square ends, and to show 24 inches to the weather. The contractor will be required to furnish the slating, nails, roofing, and every other material necessary to a completion of the work—to remove the old slating and scaffolding, and to finish and deliver the work on or before the 10th day of January next. Proposals to be made in writing, which will be received personally or by writing, by WILLIAM WALKER, Acting for the College, JOHN HAYWOOD, 5 miles of appointment. Raleigh, August 25, 1821. 25-56 1 Oct.

University of Maryland,

Baltimore, 16th August, 1821.

THE Medical Lectures will commence in the University of Maryland on the 1st Monday in October, and be delivered by the following gentlemen.

Surgeon—John M. Davison, M. D.
Professor of Anatomy—NATHAN PATER, M. D.
Chemistry—Elisha De Bats, M. D.
Astronomy—Granville Sharp Pattison, Esq.
Maternal Medicine—Samuel Baker, M. D.
Osteopathy—Richard N. Hall, M. D.
Institutes of Medicine—Maxwell McDowell, M. D.
By Order,
GRANVILLE SHARP PATTISON,
Dean of the Medical Faculty.
133 Hill 1 No. 10 25-56

Public Entertainment.

MRS ARMSTRONG informs the Members of a Society and the Ladies and Gentlemen who may wish to visit, that she is well prepared to accommodate them with board on the most reasonable terms. Her rooms are large and convenient and situated near the Court House. There is an excellent Stable on the lot well furnished with corn, fodder, &c. &c.
Raleigh, Aug. 30, 1821. 25-56

Valuable Property for Sale.

WILL be sold on Friday the 1st day of September next, at the late dwelling of *Nathaniel Godwin*, dec'd, all the personal & portable property belonging to said estate, consisting of Eleven likely Negroes; men, women & children, boys and girls; also Household and Kitchen Furniture; a young, having an elegant Glass Ship, an excellent eight day clock, Side Board, Dining Tables, Beds and Furniture, Plate, &c. &c. Also one horse, Cows and calves, Hogs, &c. Terms of Sale—Nine months credit for all sums over four dollars. Bond and approved security will be required.
JOHN DUNN,
For the Administrator.
Raleigh, Aug. 30, 1821. 25-56

A Situation Wanted.

A YOUNG Gentleman who has obtained the degree of A. M. and for some years past has superintended an Academy in this State, is desirous of engaging as Teacher in some private family for twelve months, commencing the 1st of October next. Testimonials of good deportment can be produced. Letters addressed to the undersigned at Hillsborough, (post paid) will be attended to.
A. G. WEBSTER.
Hillsborough, N. C. August 17, 1821. 25-56

Strays.

ENTERED on the stray book of Orange county, a dark bay Mare, 4 feet 7 inches high, right eye out, a spot in her forehead, had a sore back, goes somewhat lame on the left hind foot. Valued at \$20.
Entered by James Marlock, Haw-Fields, a bay Horse, 4 feet 11 inches high, saddle spots, blind of the left eye, 13 or 14 years old. Valued at \$25.
Entered by Thomas Tate, Haw-Fields, a grey Mare, 8 or 9 years old, 4 feet 7 inches high, valued at \$20.
BARNABAS O'FARRELL, Ranger.
Hillsborough, Aug. 28, 1821. 25-56

LOOK.

Twenty Dollars Reward,

FOR a Negro Fellow, who left me on the 27th of March last, by the name of JIM, of dark or black complexion, rather a high forehead, and I think a little inclined to be bow-legged; of the middle size, and about 25 or 30 years of age. I had but a few days before that time purchased him of a Mr. W. H. of Northumberland county, Virginia, who states to me that the said fellow has a free wife and child in that county, where it is most probable he will endeavor to get to. I have no doubt but he will endeavor to pass as a free man, or deny his own name and his masters too. The jailors of this State, North Carolina and Virginia, are requested to examine their black prisoners for the detection of the said fellow; and if secured in any jail in the three States, so that I can again get possession of him, the above reward will be promptly paid.
The said fellow is of a good countenance, and would be considered by any person as being very likely. I cannot well describe the clothing in which he went away, but I recollect he wore a dark brown great coat with large cuffs and a velvet collar.
M. MIMS,
Edgefield C. H. June 19. 25-56

State of North-Carolina,

Treasury Office, Sept. 1, 1821.

THE acknowledged punctuality and faithfulness of the Sheriff's, and other accounting officers of the State aforesaid, would seem to supersede the necessity of giving into the usual custom of calling upon them to peruse in that course of conduct and of duty, which has hitherto proved to be less conducive to the public interest, than to the establishment of that high character, as Revenue Officers, which they have so deservedly acquired, and the public Treasurer will therefore consider he has properly acquitted himself towards all concerned, when he shall have reminded them, which is hereby meant especially to be done, that the time is now at hand when the Money due and becoming due to the State, for the current year, from Taxation of every description whatever, are required by Law to be paid into the public Treasury.

JOHN HAYWOOD, Pub. Treasurer.

HISTORICAL NOTICES

Events of the Revolutionary War in North-Carolina.

BATTLE AT RAMSOUR'S.

Fought on the 20th June, 1780.

The unsuccessful attempt made by general Lincoln to take Savannah, and the subsequent capture of the army under his command, at Charleston, inspired the royalists with hope, and induced Sir Henry Clinton to regard the States of Georgia and South-Carolina as resigned to the crown. The south was left destitute of any regular military force to support a cause of the revolution; there were no regular troops south of Pennsylvania, to oppose the British or keep the Tories in awe; and within a few weeks after the surrender of Charleston, detachments of British troops occupied the principal posts of Georgia and South-Carolina. Lieutenant Colonel Browne marched on the Savannah river and occupied Augusta; lieutenant Colonel Balfour took possession of Ninety six on the Wateree, and Lord Cornwallis pushed forward to Camden. The object of this last movement was threefold; one, to intercept the retreat of Colonel Buford, who had been hastening with a few continental troops to the relief of general Lincoln at Charleston; the second, to open an easy communication with the Scottish settlements on the Pedee, Droving creek and Cape Fear; and the third to keep in check the Whigs of the Waxha settlement on the Catawba, and of the south western counties of North-Carolina. The effect which these movements were calculated to produce upon the public mind, was increased by the defeat of Colonel Buford and the slaughter of his men. The States of South-Carolina and Georgia yielded submission to the royal authority, and the commander in chief, Sir Henry Clinton, embarked with the main army for New-York, leaving only four thousand troops for the southern service. The command devolved on Lord Cornwallis, who immediately repaired to Charleston to establish such commercial regulations as the new state of things required, and to arrange the civil administration of the State, leaving Lord Rawdon in command at Camden. North-Carolina had not yet been invaded, and the hopes of the revolution in the south seemed to rest on the efforts which that State should make.

Charleston surrendered on the 12th of May, 1780. On the 29th of that month Tarleton defeated Colonel Buford in the Waxha settlement, forty miles south of Charlotte in North-Carolina. Brigadier general Rutherford ordered on the militia in masse, and by the 5th of June nearly nine hundred men assembled near Charlotte. On that day intelligence was received that Tarleton was on his return to Camden, and on the next day the militia, after being harangued by the Rev. Doctor M'Whorter, president of the college at Charlotte, were dismissed by general Rutherford, with orders to have their arms in good repair and be in readiness for another call. Major Davie having recovered from the wounds received by him at Stono, again took the field, and part of his cavalry were ordered to reconnoitre between Charlotte and Camden.

On the 8th of June general Rutherford was informed of the advance of part of the troops under Lord Rawdon to Waxha creek, thirty miles south of Charlotte, and issued orders for the militia to rendezvous on the 10th at Rees's plantation, eighteen miles north-east of Charlotte. The militia, to the number of eight hundred, promptly assembled; and on the 12th, having heard that Lord Rawdon had retired to the Hanging rock, general Rutherford advanced ten miles to Mallard creek. On the 14th the troops under his command were organized. The cavalry, sixty-five in number, under major Davie, were equipped as dragoons, and formed into two troops under captains Simmons and Martin; a battalion of three hundred light

* Since general Davie, with a life guard of twenty cavalry, visited the Catawba Indian towns, six or eight miles distant from his encampment. These towns are situated above the mouth of Twelve Mile creek, on the east bank of the Catawba River. The warriors, headed by their general, New River, had left their towns on the preceding evening to join the troops under general Rutherford. Curiosity alone seemed to have induced Lord Rawdon to visit the towns; but his approach frightened the Indians, who fled from their houses. His detachment discovered two white men and four or five Indians armed, moving briskly down the west bank of the river, and thinking it to be a movement to intercept his return, he hastened at full gallop to his encampment.

infantry was placed under the command of col. William L. Davidson, a regular officer, who could not join his regiment in Charleston after that place was invested, and now joined the militia. Five hundred remained under the immediate command of general Rutherford. In the evening of the 14th he received intelligence that the Tories were embodying in arms beyond the Catawba river, in Tryon county, about 40 miles to the north west of his then position. He issued orders to Colonel Francis Locke, of Rowan, and major David Willson of Mecklenburg, to captains Falls and Brandon, and also to other officers, to make every effort to raise men to disperse the Tories, it being deemed impolitic by general Rutherford to weaken his own force, until the object of Lord Rawdon's expedition was better ascertained.

On the 15th general Rutherford advanced two miles to the south of Charlotte. On the 17th he was informed that Lord Rawdon had retired towards Camden; and that the Tories were assembled in force at Ramsour's mill, near the south fork of the Catawba. A man by the name of John Moore, whose father and family resided about six miles from Ramsour's mill, had joined the British army the preceding winter, and leaving the detachment under Cornwallis on the march from Charleston to Camden, he arrived at his father's on the 7th of June, wearing a sword and an old tattered suit of regimentals. He announced himself as lieutenant Colonel of the regiment of North-Carolina loyalists, commanded by Colonel John Hamilton of Halifax county. He gave to the people of the neighborhood the first particular account which they had received of the siege and capture of Charleston, & the advance of the British troops to Camden. He appointed the 10th of June for an assembling of the people in the woods, on Indian creek, seven miles from Ramsour's. Forty men assembled, and Moore told them it was not the wish of Lord Cornwallis that they should embody at that time; but that they, with all other loyal subjects, should hold themselves in readiness, and in the mean time get in their harvest; that before the getting in of the harvest, it would be difficult to procure provisions for the British army; and that as soon as the country could furnish subsistence to the army, it would advance into North-Carolina and give support to the royalists.

Before this meeting broke up, an express arrived to inform them that Major Joseph McDowell, of Burke county, with twenty men, was within eight miles of them in search of some of the principal persons of their party. Confident of their strength they resolved to attack McDowell, but some preparations being necessary, they could not march until the next morning; when finding that he had retired, they pursued him to the ledge of mountains which separate the counties of Lincoln and Burke, and not being able to overtake him, Moore directed them to return home and meet him on the 18th at Ramsour's. On that day two hundred men met Moore, and they were joined on the next day by many others, among whom was Nicholas Welsh, a major in the regiment commanded by Colonel Hamilton. He had lived in that neighborhood, and had joined the British army eighteen months before. He was directly from the army of Lord Cornwallis, and gave information of Colonel Buford's defeat. He wore a rich suit of regimentals, and exhibited a considerable number of guineas, by which he sought to allure some, whilst he endeavored to intimidate others by an account of the success of the British army in all the operations of the south, and the total inability of the Whigs to make further opposition. His conduct had the desired effect, and much more confidence was placed in him than in Colonel Moore. They remained encamped until the 20th, during which time a detachment commanded by Colonel Moore made an unsuccessful attempt to capture Colonel Hugh Brevard and Major Joseph McDowell, each of whom, with a number of Whigs, came into the neighborhood to harass the Tories who were assembling.

By the 20th nearly thirteen hundred men had assembled at Ramsour's, one fourth of whom were without arms. General Rutherford resolved to concentrate his force and attack them, as soon as he learned that Lord Rawdon had retired to Camden. With this view he marched, on Sunday the 18th, from his camp south of Charlotte, to the Tuckasegee ford on the Catawba, twelve miles nearer to Ramsour's. In

* Afterwards brigadier general Davidson, who fell in the action at Cowan's ford, on the Catawba.
† Since divided into the counties of Lincoln and Rutherford.

‡ In the year 1771, governor Tryon having defeated the regulators at the battle of Alamance, detached general Waddle with a brigade to the western counties, and directed him to cause the people to assemble at certain stations and take the oath of allegiance to his majesty George the 3d. A part of Waddle's command had halted at Ramsour's, and most of the men in the adjoining country had taken the oath. These men thought that this oath imposed upon them an obligation that neither the change of circumstances nor the conduct of his majesty's government could impair. They adhered to the royal cause from conscientious motives. There were few among them who had sufficient information either to understand or explain the true grounds of the contest.

§ The fords referred to in this narrative, are:
1. Tuckasegee, lowest on the river, twenty miles from Ramsour's.
2. Tool's, ten miles higher up, twenty-two miles from Ramsour's.
Beattie's, eight miles above Tool's, eighteen miles

the evening of that day, he despatched an express to Colonel Locke, advising him of his movement and of the enemy's strength, and ordering Locke to join him on the 19th in the evening, or on the 22nd in the morning, a few miles in advance of the Tuckasegee ford. The express was negligent and did not reach Colonel Locke. The morning of the 19th was wet and the arms of general Rutherford's men were out of order. At mid-day the weather cleared up, and orders were given to the men to discharge their guns. This discharge produced an alarm in the neighbourhood, and the people thinking the Tories were attempting to cross the river, many of them came in with arms and joined Rutherford. In the evening he crossed the river and encamped, sixteen miles from Ramsour's. When Rutherford crossed the river, it was believed that he would march in the night and attack the Tories on next morning; but expecting that his express had reached Col. Locke, he waited for Lock's arrival, that he might on the next day march in full force to the attack. At 10 o'clock at night Colonel James Johnston, of Tryon county, reached Rutherford's camp. He had been despatched by Colonel Locke to give notice of his intention to attack the Tories at sunrise the next morning, and requesting Rutherford's co-operation. Rutherford, in the confident expectation that his express had reached Colonel Locke shortly after Colonel Johnston had left him, made no movement until the next morning.

In pursuance of the orders given to Colonel Locke and other officers at Mallard's creek on the 14th, they severally collected as many men as they could; and on the morning of the 18th, Major Willson, with sixty-five men, passed the Catawba at Tool's ford, and joined Major McDowell, with twenty-five men. They passed up the river at right angles with the position of the Tories, to join the detachment of their friends who were assembling at the upper fords. At McDowell's ford being joined by Captain Falls, with forty men under his command, they continued their march up the east side of Mountain creek; and on Monday 19th, they joined Colonel Locke, Captain Brandon, and other Officers, with two hundred and seventy men. The whole force united amounted to four hundred. They encamped on Mountain creek, sixteen miles from Ramsour's. The officers met in council, and they were unanimous in the opinion that it would be unsafe to remain in that position, as the Tories could attack them after a march of a few hours, and from the inferiority of their force they had no doubt the Tories would march on them as soon as they learned where they were.

It was first proposed that they should recross the Catawba at Sheriff's ford, six miles in their rear, and wait for reinforcements, believing that with their force they could prevent the Tories from crossing. To this it was objected, that a retrograde movement would embolden the Tories, whose numbers were increasing as fast as probably their own numbers would increase after they had recrossed the river, and no additional security could therefore be obtained by such a movement.

It was next proposed, that they should march directly down the river and join general Rutherford, who was then distant from them about thirty-five miles. It was said this movement could be made without risk, as in making it, they would not be nearer to Ramsour's than they were. To this prudent proposition it was objected, that nearly all the effective Whigs of that section of the country were from home, either with them or general Rutherford, and such a movement would leave their families unprotected and their houses exposed to pillage; that it would be also a dangerous movement to themselves, as the Tories might be in motion and they might encounter them in their march. It was insinuated that these propositions proceeded, if not from fear, at least from an unwillingness to meet the Tories, and therefore

A third proposition was made, which was, that notwithstanding their disparity of force, they should march during the night and attack the Tories in their camp exactly next morning. It was said that the Tories, being ignorant of their force and suddenly attacked, could be easily routed. The more prudent members of the council could not brook the insinuation of cowardice, and trusting to that fortune which sometimes crowns even rashness with success, it was unanimously resolved immediately to march, and at daybreak attack the Tories. Colonel Johnston being well acquainted with the country, was instantly despatched to apprise general Rutherford of this resolution.

Late in the evening they commenced their march from Mountain creek, and passing down the south side of the mountain, they halted at the west end of it about an hour in the night, and the officers convened to determine on the plan of attack. It was agreed that the companies commanded by Captains Hall, McDowell, and Brandon should act on horseback and go in front; no other arrangements were made, and it was left to the officers to be governed by circumstances after they should reach the enemy. They resumed their march, and arrived within a mile of the enemy's camp at daybreak.

from Ramsour's.
4. M'Ewen's, four miles above Beattie's, twenty miles from Ramsour's.
5. Sheriff's, six miles above M'Ewen's, twenty-five miles from Ramsour's.