nals of their history on the occasion ble of demonstration. Dr. Whately ted States he addressed a letter to readers to "Jones' Defence of North of the Centennial anniversary, wrote a book to prove that no such the Hon. John W. Stevenson, now which takes place on the 20th inst., person as Napoleon Bonaparte ever United States. Senator from Kenand it is due to us and the words of existed, and Mr. Jefferson himself tucky, and the son of the gentletruth to say, that while there may doubted the existence of Jesus man referred to, informing him that "Governor Graham's Memoirs," be some who doubt the genuineness Christ, and yet can any sane mind the missing paper had been lost and of the Declaration, there exists no deny the existence of either, not requesting his aid in finding it if it the Revolution," and other works disbelief among our people. Inas- making any reference to the reli- should be among any of his father's much as there have been at differ- gious belief held by many on this papers. Mr. Stevenson answered ent periods since 1820 occasional subject. I am not able at this day that after due and diligent search obedient servant, discussions as to the authenticity of to produce stronger testimony than among his father's papers (his fath-

he Mecklenburg Dectarction, it the traditions of a hundred years, er being dead) the missing copy of nay not be out of place for me to among an intelligent people, and no the Cape Fear Mercury could not be notice in extenso some of the argu- stronger proofs should be called for. found, but that despatches and othnents which have beer brought for- A part of the evidence which we Lard in order that they may be are able to submit, in addition to indicated that the paper had been properly and duly answered to the the cloud of testimony which can satisfaction of any unprejudiced be obtained, is the despatch of Govmind. ernor Martin to his government, in

WHEN THE DOUBTS AROSE.

The first time the authenticity of of the people styling themselves a of the British Historical Society on this Declaration was ever doubted was in 1819. In that year, as a the entire dissolution of the laws, matter of information and interest, some Massachusetts paper-the Spy, country, setting up a system of rule I think-published the Declaration, with an intimation on the part of the editor that he believed it to be genuine. Mr. John Adams, in a private correspondence with Mr. Thomas Jefferson, forwarded that gentleman a copy of the paper containing the Declaration, at the same time stating that he (Mr. Adams) believed it to be genuine. In Mr. Jefferson's reply he treated the that glorious band that met at naturally inquire for other evidence whole matter as an "unjustifiable quiz." The publication of this letter at that time created considerable excitement in North Carolina, particularly among the descendants near here, which bears the same in- doubt that Julius Cæsar lived, and of the patriots of the Revolution then living in Mecklenburg county, and measures were taken by the Legislature of North Carolina (as these silent memorials were anyit had become a State matter) to collect and arrange the documents relative to the Mecklenburg Declaration, which were published in their memory dear to the people of 1831, and by these and other publithe State, with infamy and disgrace. cations which have subsequently appeared, the authenticity of the Dec-WHERE IS THE ORIGINAL ? taration is established beyond cavil

There are those who will be ready

that I could mention.

er memoranda had been found which in the possession of his father.

## THE LOST LINK.

Had this little newspaper slip which he declares that "the resolves been found either in the possession committee for the county of Meck- in the hands of Mr. Stevenson or his lenburg, most traitorously declaring heirs there would have been no possible grounds for any controversy government and constitution of this or had not the original copy in possession of Mr. Alexander, the and regulation repugnant to the secretary of the meeting, been de laws and subversive of His Majesty's stroyed, Mr. Goodloe and other government." Equally positive doubters would not have come to should be the fact that on the tomb- the front with their peculiar and stone of the Rev. Hezekiah J. Balch, unnatural arguments to deny the one of the signers of the Mecklen- Meckleburg Declaration of the burg Declaration, at Poplar Tent 20th of May. But after all the ef-Churchyard, near this place, is in- fort to obtain this paper and the scribed that he was a member of failure to do so, in its absence we Charlotte on the 20th day of May, and we turn to that unerring tradi-1775, and declared independence. tion which can be substantiated in Also the tombstone of Rev. Hum- a hundred families in the county of phrey Hunter, buried at Steel Creek, Mecklenburg to-day. Does the world scription. No one of the pious yet who could prove it to the satis people who frequent these churches faction of a court of justice? Meckof God to pay their devotions to the lenburg has produced two Presi-Deity ever presumed to doubt that dents of the United States, Andrew Jackson and James K. Polk, both thing but the truth, the whole truth men of learning and eminence, and and nothing but the truth. To sup- both of whom in their lives gave unpose anything else would stamp hesitating belief in the Declaration of Independence which was declared at Charlotte on the 20th May, 1775,

and yet the existence of a few court records, land deeds, &c., which may

either gentleman ever lived at all.

I may conclude this letter by say-

Carolina," "Foote's Sketches of North Carolina," Wheeler's Historical Sketches of North Carolina;'

I am, very respectfully, your

CHARLES R. JONES.

Putting Off the Old Putting On the New.

Our forefathers, by the adoption of the 20th of May Declaration, as far as they could, uprooted all form of government and left matters in chaos. By the adoption of the resolutions of the 31st of May, they set up a provisional or temporary government, by investing previous magistrates and crown officers, with

authority under this provisional government. But the fires kindled n Mecklenburg began to grow until the same sentiments actuated a very large majority of the people of

North Carolina, and it then became necessary for the preservation of society that the government de facto set up in Mecklenburg, should be superceded by a government de jure, in which the people of other counties in the State should share. A Convention was called to meet at Hillsboro in August, and another in she had representatives at a preliminary meeting at Newbern.

Mecklenburg sent as delegate to the meeting at Newbern, 25th August, 1774, Benjamin Patton; and to the meeting at Hillsboro', 21st August, 17fl5, Thomas Polk, John Phifer, Waightstill Avery, Samuel McKnitt Alexander.

To the meeting at Halifax, 4th April, 1776, she sent John Phifer, to the determination of Congress or Robt. Irwin, and John McKnitt Convention. Alexander.

general, that all officers, who are to on as instructions, but as charge exercise their authority in any of to which you are desired to ta the said districts, be recommended special heed as the general rule to the trust only by the freemen of your conduct as our Represent said division-to be subject, however, to the general laws and regula-"Lossing's Pictorial Field Book of tions of the State. If this should not be substantially confirmedprotest.

> 7. You are instructed to move and insist that the people you immediately represent be acknowledged to gress or Convention as is pointed be a distinct county of this State as out to you in the above instruction formerly of the late province, with the additional privilege of annually electing in their own officers both civil and military, together with

the election of Clerks and Sheriffs, by the freemen of the same. The choice to be confirmed by the sovereign authority of the State, and the officers so invested to be under the jurisdiction of the State and liable to its cognizarice and inflictions, in case of malpractice. If this should not be confirmed, protest and remonstrate.

8. You are instructed to vote that no chief justice, no secretary of State, no auditor-general, no surveyor-general, no practicing lawyer, no clerk of any court of record, no sheriff, and no person holding a military office in this State, shall be a representative of the people in Congress or Convention. If this should not be confirmed-contend for it.

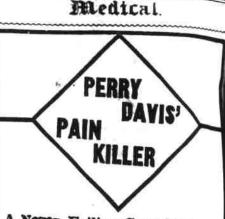
9. You are instructed to vote that all claims against the public, except such as accrue upon attendance of Congress or Convention, be first submitted to the inspection of a committee of nine or more men, inhabitants of the county where said claimant is a resident, and without the approbation of said committee. it shall not be accepted by the public, for which purpose you are to Halifax in the succeeding April, and move and insist that a law be enacted to impower the freemen of each county to choose a committee of not less than nine men, of whom none are to be military officers. If this should not be confirmed-protest

and remonstrate. 10. You are instructed to refuse to enter into any combinations of secrecy as.members of Congress or Martin, James Houston, and John Convention, and also to refuse to subscribe any ensnaring jests binding you to an unlimited subjection

> 11. You are instructed to mov and insist that the public accounts fairly stated shall be regularly kept in proper books, open to the inspection of all persons whom it may concern. If this should not be confirmed-contend for it. 12. You are instructed to move and insist that the power of County Courts be much more extensive than under the former constitution. both with respect to matters of property and breaches of the peace.

tives, and we expect you will exe yourselves to the utmost of you ability to obtain the purposes give you in charge, and wherein you f either in obtaining or opposing, y are hereby ordered to enter you protest against the vote of the Co

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have seen its m it to be a good article rom I. S. Potter, U. S. Consul at Crefele Rhenish Prussia:

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or doubt.

It is unnecessary for us, at this late day, to calumniate the charac ter of Mr. Jefferson, resting as it oes on a more sold and enduring oundation than the comple writing f the American Dc. Instition of Inlependence at Elizabilia, but at he same time it is inth necessary and proper for us to vindicate and defend the honors which justly and truly belong to

MECKLENBURG AND HER SONS.

At the time of which we write nearly half a century had passed since the Declaration had been made. Mr. Jefferson, from being a prominent member of the Continental Congress, had gone on step by step in the path of fame, until he had reached, so to speak, the acme his mansion was destroyed by fire, of human greatness. To have acknowledged that he had copied any tant document was burned. The portion of his immortal Declaration, Declaration was printed in the which was so solemnly and formal- Cape Fear Mercury, one of the two ly adopted and signed at Philadel- papers then published in North phia on the 4th day of July, 1776, Carolina, a copy of which was sent from a set of "resolves" adopted to his government by Governor thirteen months before by the pa- Martin on the 30th of June of the triots (who were mostly farmers, same year, then a refugee on one of and men then unknown to fame,) of His Majesty's ships of war in the Mecklenburg, would be to rob at Lower Cape Fear, and denounced least one jewel from the diadem that by him as above quoted. In the had been awarded him by the whole year 1863 Colonel John H. Wheeler, American people. He accordingly North Carolina's most able histodenounced the whole thing as a rian, visited London, carrying with "hoax," and did what he could to him a letter of introduction from make other people as incredulous as the Hon. Z. B. Vance, then Governhe himself was; but such an abun- or of North Carolina, to the Hon dant array of evidence was pre- James Mason, then Commissioner sented as to no longer leave any of the Confederate States in Engdoubt about the whole matter. So land, with a view of gathering up great was the feeling that in 1825 such evidence as might be attainaan immense celebration was held in ble in regard to the colonial history Charlotte, and in the procession of North Carolina. He found many which took place were not less than documents relating to the early his seventy-five old men, none of them tory of North Carolina, both as a less than seventy-five years of age, colony and as a State, of which he each of whom wore a badge, on took copies, with a view of publishwhich was printed, "20th May, ing them in a second edition of his 1775," thus giving, at one time, "Historical Sketches of North Caroseventy-five living witnesses of the lina." He found the despatch of truth of the Mecklenburg Declara Governor Martin relating to the tion. Here were living, truthful Declaration, but the copy of the witnesses, uncontradicted, and men Cape Fear Mercury, which was said

to exclaim, "If the Declaration took place as is now asserted, why is it that the original copy has not been preserved ?" Tradition informs us that there were a series of meetings held by the citizens of the county both anterior and subsequent to the 20th of May, and some have even claimed that a set of resolutions, ing that whatever doubts may exist adopted on the 31st of May of the same year, and which were more conciliatory in their character than

those denounced by Governor Martin, was the only declaration even lenburg, and although there is no made. In answer to the query ] substantial grounds for disbelief, in will state that the Secretary, John the name of my people I thank the commerce, to a negative of a con-McKnitt Alexander, kept the only HERALD, the greatest news paper of record of the proceedings which the age, for its effort to unveil the were known to be in existence in truth of history, however obscure it 1800, and that in April of that year the people of Mecklenburg, the deand the book containing the impor-Revolution, have nothing to fear the truth or falsity of our claims. The name of Mecklenburg will ever Convention-protest. adorn the pages of the history of our great country. Her action in the days of '76 was all that her most loving son to-day would have de-1812 as well as in the days of the Revolution in answer to her coun-

with Mexico there were no truer remonstrate. defenders of the Stars and Stripes than the sons of Mecklenburg, and last, though not least, when the in 1861 the Charlotte "Hornets" made one company of the first regiment which met the federals at "Bethel," the troops on the Confederate side being commanded by Gen. D. H. Hill, a citizen of Charlotte, and of the 115,000 troops from this State who went to the front under Lee, in the further struggle of that at Manassas and Bull Run and who surrendered to Grant at Appomatfurnished considerably more than

be destroyed by fire within the next The following instructions were twenty-four hours, are the only evigiven to the delegates from the peodence, legal of course, that we have ple, extracted from a Charlotte newspaper in 1837. It was found among that they ever formed part of our the old surviving papers of John community, and, with these papers McKnit Alexander, and he is the destroyed, a hundred years hence author of them. They are dated 1st the world might safely doubt that September, 1775 :--

> Instructions for the Delegates of Mecklenburg County, proposed to the consideration of the County, viz:

1. You are instructed to vote that on the part of the world at large in the late province of North Carolina regard to the Declaration which we is and of right ought to be, a free claim, there exists none whatever and independent State, invested with on the part of the people of Meck- all the power of Legislation, capable of making Laws to regulate all its

tinental Senate. 2. You are instructed to vote for Articles excepted and not to be im-the Execution of a civil Government posed on dissenters by the act of under the authority of the People toleration; and clearly held forth in may appear, satisfied as I am that for the future security of all the the confession of faith compiled by Rights, Privileges and Prerogatives the assembly of divines at Westscendants of the patriots of the of the State, and the private, natural and unalienable Rights of the confrom the closest investigation into the text of four objects the stituting members thereof, either as Men or Christians. If this should not be confirmed in Congress or Papal, and that the full, free and

3. You are instructed to vote that cured to all and every constituent an equal Representation be established, and that the qualifications be required to enable any person or persons to have a voice in Legislasired. But that is not enough; she tion, may not be secured too high, sent forth her sons in the war of but that every Freeman who shall be called upon to support Government either in person or property, may be admitted thereto. If this try's call; and again in the war should not be confirmed, protest and test and remonstrate.

4. You are instructed to vote that Legislation be not divided right, and to the utmost any particular church that no man, or body of men be in- or set of clergymen being invested vested with a negative on the voice with power to decree rites and ceretocsin rung throughout this country of the People duly collected, and that monies and to decide in controverno honors or dignities be conferred, sies of faith to be submitted to unfor life, or made hereditary, on any der the influence of penal lawsperson or persons, either legislative you are also to oppose the estabor executive. If this should not be lishment of any mode of worship to confirmed-protest and remonstrate. be supported to the opposition of 5. You are instructed to vote that the rights of conscience, together all and every person or persons, with the destruction of private seized or possessed of any estate, property. You are to understand real or personal, agreeable to the that under modes of worship are last establishment, be confirmed in comprehended the different forms of their seizure and possession, to all swearing by law required. You are bitter contest-who met McDowell intents and purposes in law, who moreover to oppose the establishing have not forfeited their right to the an ecclesiastic supremacy in the protection of the State by their sovereign authority of the State. criminal practices towards the same. You are to oppose the toleration of tox four years later-Mecklenburg If this should not be confirmedprotest. test and remonstrate.

6. You are instructed to vote that Deputies to represent this State in a

If not confirmed-contend for it. 13. You are instructed to assent and consent to the establishment of

the Christian Religion as contained in the scriptures of the Old and internal policy, subject only in its New Testaments, and more briefly external connections and foreign comprised in the 39 Articles of the Church of England, excluding the

37th Article, together with all the AN INVILUABLE BEMEDY. Dr. Clarke's Gonnorrhea minster, to be the Religion of the State, to the utter exclusion forever Ptlin. of all and every other (falsely socalled) Religion, whether Pagan or

peaceable enjoyment thereof be semember of the State as their unalienable right as Freemen, without the imposition of rites and ceremonies, whether claiming civil or ecclesiastic power for their source, and that a confession and profession of the Religion so established shall be necessary in qualifying any person for public trust in the State. If this should not be confirmed-pro-

14. You are instructed to oppose the popish idolatrous worship. If this should not be confirmed-pro-

whose words could not be contra- to have contained the Declaration her quota; and, knowing them as I 15. You are instructed to move do, I have no hesitation in saying dicted, giving plain, unmistakable referred to, was not to be found, and Continental Congress be appointed and insist that not less than four-in and by the supreme Legislative fifths of the body of which you are that they would be just as quick to evidence, which could not be set its absence left room to doubt either aside. In addition to these wit- that it never existed or that it did answer a call of the government tobody of the State, the form of nomi- members, shall, in voting, be deemday as they were in 1776, in 1812, nation to be submitted to, if free, ed a majority. If this should not be nesses, I may state that the com- not contain the Declaration, as in 1846 or in 1861. and also that all officers the influ- confirmed-contend for it. mon traditions of the whole country claimed by our people. A note in ence of whose office is equally to ex- 16. You are instructed to give Pardon me for this digression tend to every part of the State, be your voices to and for every motion sustain the 20th of May Declara pencil stated that it had been taken out of the office by Governor An- from the main subject, and allow appointed in the same manner and and bill made or brought into the n. drew Stevenson, of Kentucky, then me only to add that the time at my form-likewise give your consent to Congress or Convention, where THESE AL. ..... ich have come Gyan to us on the Minister of the United States to the command will not allow me to col- the establishing the old political they appear to be for public utility nch have come Gyan is is so the Minister of the United States to the command will not anow me to con-ges of history, which are is broad Court of St. James, and that it had late such facts as I might be able to the earth itself, which, when never been returned. Upon the re- do had I time; but I will take On such establishments taking place 17. Gentlemen, the foregoing inproof is demanded, are not suscepti- turn of Colonel Wheeler to the Uni- pleasure in referring you and your you are instructed to vote, in the structions, you are not only to look

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