

great governmental principles involving great national questions, even in dependence, and thought the men of Mecklenburg might entertain and know what principles they liked for themselves on this subject, and though they might desire to influence the Continental Congress, if they should, to the adoption of their own, yet they felt that independence was a national, not a county nor even a colony question. What they did was for the Continental Congress to judge of, not for the people of the colonies to print for it might interfere with plans and purposes of the Congress to do so, but they sent a special messenger to Congress to lay their desires before that body, though the delegates, content to submit the great national matter to their decision, and on less than a question which they deemed national, they would never have sent a messenger to Congress, on a journey which, at that day, was as long and laborious as Europe now is. At the meeting of the 20th, there was no need of allusion to the proceedings of the 20th, for the same individuals composed both meetings, and as the action of the 20th was a matter not for the people, but for the Continental Congress to determine, they preserved a silence on the subject which future events showed to have been discreet.

2. But they did publish the proceedings of the 20th. The reason was they embodied laws for the people, a rule of conduct for the country. Hence they printed that the people might know them. But does not the simple fact of their thus printing, show that they never sent a special messenger at great trouble and expense to carry to Congress a document which the new Congress would see in a few days in the public papers? Now, as a special messenger certainly was sent, and as certain, carried some document, must it not have been some other paper than that of the 20th, and did the messenger himself call the paper entrusted to him "a declaration of independence?" Was it not probably that of the 20th already produced?

Dr. H. then proceeded to say, that as the document of the 20th showed the men who made it not to have been fools, but to be men of sense, which it was difficult satisfactorily to answer on the part of those who affirmed the document made in Mecklenburg county, in North Carolina, appointed her constables and justices of the peace, the Continental Congress, to the latter, the mode of dealing with petty rogues and runaway debtors, with similar matters? It is indeed quite possible that the messenger may have had a copy of this paper of the 20th, though there was no need of it, for before 10 days it was printed and in circulation in South Carolina and on the 20th of June we know that Governor Wright, of Georgia, sent a newspaper containing it to the British government. But it is remarkable that there is no resolve among those of the 20th ordering the paper to be sent to Congress, while in Brevard's first draught there is a resolution to send that paper, and there was sense and reason in sending that for on it was to be founded an application by our delegates to the general Congress, to do for the colonies what Mecklenburg had done for herself, viz. Declare Independence!

Well, the answer came back that it was deemed premature. What! the Continental Congress informing Mecklenburg county that it was premature to make constables and justices of the peace, and to catch thieves and runaway rogues scattered around its flourishing capital of twenty houses? Why, what did the Continental Congress know or care about the temporary local arrangement on subjects of this kind? There were a hundred places in the country where that business was going on. Not a Colony existed from South to North, where the people were not on the beginning, obliged to take the business of government upon their own shoulders, and to extemporize some system of law. Whigs were to be protected and Tories watched and made powerless for harm everywhere. The general Congress left all this to local authority. They never said that work of this kind was premature.

But if this document of the 20th showed such action in Mecklenburg as was deemed by the Continental Congress to be premature? It must have been in one of two things, either in the entertainment of such sentiments as a contingent one in the public expression of them. Now we are told that the leading sentiment expressed in the document was a willingness, on certain contingency, to return again under the dominion of England. How could this be deemed premature by the Continental Congress, when she had previously in her respectful remonstrances expressed the same thing? She had said to England, "cease to tyrannize and we will be loyal subjects." Well, was it premature to say that the sentiments of the Mecklenburg men as to the best mode of improving a temporary government? Why every colony had done or was doing the same thing, and the Continental Congress not only approved of it, but actually, within a few days after the paper reached them, advised the colonies to arm, and recommended to these parts of the country where militia had already been organized by loyal authority (Mecklenburg of course was included) to the right, and a discretion plan suggested, or by adhering to their own according to circumstances.

There was nothing premature, therefore in entertaining the sentiments of which the document of the 20th was the exponent. Well then as to the other branch of the matter, we ask, did they suppose it premature to publish it? How could this be when the Continental Congress knew full well that it had already been printed in Wilmington and Charleston before they even saw it, that a printed copy of it was sent to the British government by Gov. Wright of Georgia, just 20 days after the document was made, and that it was reprinted in New York from the Southern papers, at the very time the messenger from Mecklenburg was in Philadelphia? But we just suppose the unprinted declaration of the 20th, which renounced allegiance and proclaimed liberty, and we may soon see from their language what it was they deemed premature. On the 8th of July, 1775, the Continental Congress sent forth a document which, from the date, must have been in preparation at or about the very time the messenger from Mecklenburg reached Philadelphia. Can it be proof that his countrymen met him there in the latter part of June. This document was entitled, "The twelve united Colonies, by the Inhabitants of Great Britain, whom it addresses, the thirteen, and the thirteen brethren." In this instrument they declare their hearty desire for reconciliation on equitable and honorable terms? In our refusal to submit to unwarrantable acts of injustice and cruelty? If so, how can it be proof that the Mecklenburg men were not equally entitled. We are accused of aiming at independence; but how is this accusation supported? By

the allegation of your minister? Abused, insulted and contemned, what steps have we pursued to obtain relief? We have carried our petitions to the throne, we have applied to your justice for relief; we have re-trenched our luxury, and withheld our trade. The advantages of our commerce were designed as a compensation for our protection. When you ceased to protect, for what were we compensated? What has been the success of our endeavors? The clemency of your sovereign is unappreciated; our petitions are treated with indignity, our prayers answered by insults. Our application to you remains unnoticed, and leaves us the melancholy apprehension of your wanting either the will or the power to assist us. Even under the most favorable circumstances what measures have we taken that betray a desire for independence? Have we called in the aid of those foreign powers who are the rivals of your grandeur? When your troops were few and defenceless, did we take advantage of their distress and expel them from our towns? Or have we permitted them to fortify, to receive new aid, and to acquire additional defence?

With this solemn and elaborate explication of themselves from a desire of independence, which they apply just on the eve of ushering into the world, it is easy to see what the Continental Congress thought premature. It was not a few resolutions providing temporary laws merely to secure peace and order in Mecklenburg county. It was that stern, stouter Declaration which was uttered in fearless tones on the twentieth that did, to use their language, "bear a desire of independence." This was premature as long as the Congress judged the slightest hope of reconciliation.

The distinguished orator was frequently and enthusiastically applauded during the delivery of the address, which was pronounced by all to be a masterly and successful effort.

Mecklenburg Declaration

(What follows is copied from the 11th chapter, volume 11, of Mass. History, the author of which was personally familiar with the events he narrates and the men who had to do with them.)

In the months of March and April, 1775, the leading men in the county of Mecklenburg held meetings to ascertain the sense of the people, and to confirm them in their opposition to the claims of Parliament to impose taxes and regulate the internal policy of the colonies. At one of these meetings, when it was ascertained that the people were prepared to meet their wishes it was agreed that Thomas Polk, then colonial commandant of the county, should issue an order directed to each captain of militia, requesting him to call a company meeting to elect two delegates from his company to meet in general committee at Charlotte on the 18th of May, giving the delegates ample power to adopt such measures as to them should seem best calculated to promote the common cause of defending the rights of the colony, and aiding their brethren in Massachusetts. Colonel Polk issued the order, and the delegates were elected. They met in Charlotte on the day appointed. The forms of their proceedings and the measures to be proposed had been

previously agreed upon by the men at whose instance the committee were assembled. The Rev. Ezekiel Jones Balch, Dr. Ephraim Brevard, and William Kennon, Esq., an attorney at law, addressed the committee, and decanted on the causes which had led to the existing contest with the mother country, and the consequences which were to be apprehended unless the people should make a firm and energetic resistance to the right which Parliament asserted of taxing the colonies and regulating their internal policy.

On the day on which the committee met, the first intelligence of the action at Lexington, in Massachusetts, on the 19th of April, was received in Charlotte. This intelligence produced the most decisive effect. A large concourse of people had assembled to witness the proceedings of the committee. The speakers addressed their discourses as well to them as to the committee, and those who were not convinced by their reasoning were influenced by their feelings, and all let us declare our independence and defend it with our lives and fortunes! A committee was appointed to draw up resolutions. This committee was composed of the men who had planned the whole proceedings, and who had already prepared the resolutions which it was intended should be submitted to the general committee. Doctor Ephraim Brevard had drawn the resolutions some time before and now reported them with amendments as follows:

I.—Resolved, That whosoever directed or in any way, or in any manner, countenances the invasion of our rights, as attempted by the Parliament of Great Britain, is an enemy to his country, to America, and to the rights of man.

on our rights and liberties and inhumanly shed innocent blood of Americans at Lexington.

III.—Third, That we do hereby declare ourselves a free and independent people; that we are, and of right ought to be, a sovereign and self-governing people under the power of God and the General Congress; to the maintenance of which independence we solemnly pledge to each other our mutual co-operation, our lives, our fortunes and our most sacred honor.

IV.—Resolved, That we hereby ordain and adopt as rules of conduct all and each of our former laws, and that the crown of Great Britain can not be considered hereafter as holding any rights, privileges, or immunities amongst us.

V.—Resolved, That all officers, both civil and military, in this county, be entitled to exercise the same powers and authorities as heretofore; that every member of this delegation shall henceforth be a civil officer and exercise the powers of justice of the peace, issue process, hear and determine controversies according to law, preserve peace, union and harmony in the county, and use every exertion to spread the love of liberty and of country till a more general and better organized system of government be established.

VI.—Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted by express to the President of the Continental Congress assembled in Philadelphia, to be laid before that body.

These resolutions were unanimously adopted as prescribed by the delegates. James Jack, then of Charlotte, but now residing in the State of Georgia, was engaged to be the bearer of the resolutions to the President of Congress, and directed to deliver copies of them to the delegates in Congress from North Carolina. The President returned a polite answer to the address which accompanied the resolutions, in which he highly approved of the measures adopted by the delegates of Mecklenburg, but deemed the subject of the resolutions premature to be laid before Congress.

Each district in a county, after that selected its own captain, in Dobbs Parish or in the Wachovia they selected the blacksmith, Henry Schmidt, at which election many of our young men presented themselves

as if for fun and gave their votes and thereby acknowledged to belong to our future military drills and to go to war and to that end they were called out in unlimited numbers and picked out for that purpose. Many of their parents had in principle to such an extent that, when it became a matter in earnest, they wanted to save their children in Salem by good advice and deeds (by hook or by crook, as Milton says). Many a young man belonging to our side came for a little while to Salem to hide until the storm would be passed, because their fathers did not wish to make a clean breast of it, when they were questioned by officers, whether they had any arms for an unfriendly purpose and declared they did not meddle with quarrels and fights (though they did not mean what they said). But many a farmer, who lived secluded on a plantation, was in reality in an evil plight, as they and their sons stood on the muster-rolls and were called out "to the tips of their fingers" for parades and drills, yet with their plausible tales they found the officers willing to believe them. But there were cases, where some of our young men voluntarily enlisted, drilled and went to fight, but not direct from Salem or Bethabara.

The Royal Governor Martin had, without doubt, delegates and confidential persons scattered among the people higher up in the country; besides, many people were loyal to the King, even some of those who had joined the association. Nobody knows what the Governor had in mind to do, for one of our brothers to whom the offer was made to get acquainted with the Governor's secret, refused to listen to any proposition whatsoever. Nevertheless, so much of the Governor's plans was made known afterwards; that his intention was with the aid of his so-called faithful minded ones, to conquer the country for the King and with that object in view the Scotch, who live between Crosscreek and Wilmington, were to give him assistance apart; but those who lived higher up in the country, were to meet him with provisions, wagons and

whose confidence in each other, and the cause which they had sworn to support, was never shaken, in the worst of times.

The Moravian Record

Following is a translation of the above German transcript from the Moravian Records in the archives at Salem, furnishing strong and indisputable proof of the authenticity of the Mecklenburg Declaration: (Reprinted from The Observer, December 18, 1905).

At the end of 1775, I cannot omit to mention, that already in the summer of the same year, that is to say in May, June or July, the County of Mecklenburg in North Carolina did declare itself free and independent from England and did make such disposition for the administration of laws, as later on, the Continental Congress established for the whole. But this Congress looked upon such a proceeding as too premature.

Up till now most of the inhabitants of the county had banded themselves together against Great Britain and exercised patience towards those that did not join their association; and over and above they had to take a solemn oath that they would keep silence and not in any way act contrary to the sacred interest of the Association; but as these did not keep silence, on the contrary, in word and deed endeavored to act for the King, the above mentioned inhabitants commenced to take various measures against them. This was made manifest that the "non-associated" had to give up their arms which were forcibly taken from them; and is proved by officers from Rowan, who say that many people living near South Fork and Hope and Surry complained of "Colonel Armstrong and his men" for telling him to abstain from such manner of acting, and also wrote to other officers to make restitution of their arms (guns); but nothing came of it. But the worst was yet, that the taking away of arms was repeated on several occasions and each time by a new officer and in raids.

Each district in a county, after that selected its own captain, in Dobbs Parish or in the Wachovia they selected the blacksmith, Henry Schmidt, at which election many of our young men presented themselves

horses and at the opportune moment the banner of the King (should be unfurled)." End of page 1776th year.

MORE IMPORTANT EVIDENCE.

Toast Offered at Fourth of July Celebration in Charlotte in 1808 and Another Toast in 1825 by Marquis De Lafayette.

The following letter to Prof. Alexander Graham, is the latest one and of the most interesting bits of evidence bearing on the authenticity of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence: My Dear Sir:

The toast to which I alluded was in an account of a Fourth of July celebration at Charlotte in 1808. It will be found in The Raleigh Register (file in State Library) for July 28, 1808, is as follows: "By Jos. Pearson. The patriots of Mecklenburg—the first to declare independence. May their sons be the last to acknowledge themselves slaves."

Another toast (though later than the 1819 controversy) was offered by the illustrious Marquis de Lafayette when entertained at a public dinner in the Governor's mansion at Raleigh on March 2, 1825, and is reported in Raleigh Register of March 8, 1825, as follows:

"The State of North Carolina, its metropolitan and the 20th May, 1775, when a generous people called for independence and freedom, of which may they more and more forever cherish the principles and enjoy the blessings."

As to your request for permission to publish this reply to your inquiry, of course I have no objection.

M. DELANCEY HAYWOOD.

THE MORAVIAN SCHOOL CHANGES

The Rev. Dr. J. H. Clewell to Succeed Rev. Dr. J. Max Hark Here—Rev. Howard E. Rondthaler to Be Head of Salem Academy.

The Provincial Elders' Conference of the Moravian Church has announced the acceptance of the Rev. John Henry Clewell, Ph. D., president of the Salem Academy and College for Women, at Winston-Salem, N. C., to become principal of the Moravian Seminary for Young Ladies here, in place of the Rev. Dr. J. Max Hark, who has resigned, to take up work in the ministry of the Moravian Church. Dr. Clewell will come to Bethlehem during the summer in order to assume charge of the seminary in the fall.

The Rev. Howard E. Rondthaler, resident professor at the Moravian College and Theological Seminary, will succeed Dr. Clewell as head of the Salem Academy and College for Women. The exchange of the two well-known Moravian educators was brought about by a compromise, the trustees of the Salem Academy only yielding when the Provincial Elders' Conference of the Northern Province and the trustees of the Moravian College and Theological Seminary con-

at the beginning of the present administration in connection with the Salem School the number of pupils (1884) was approximately 80, and the methods of instruction and caring for the pupils were of the old-fashioned and rather crude type. Through the past year the number of pupils has been increased until in the present year the boarding pupils number 200, day pupils 150, special pupils in the school of music, school of expression, school of domestic science, etc., approximate 100, which, together with teachers, officers, employees, etc., run the number of those connected with the establishment well up to and over 500 persons; truly an unusual development for one man to witness as the result of his own labor.

The most liberal policy has been that of the present administration. Extensive traveling has been conducted throughout the entire Southland in the interests of the school, the trips extending into South Carolina, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, Tennessee, Kentucky, Texas, Virginia, and of course, largely in North Carolina. This intimate relationship with the patrons and friends of the school has resulted in a most desirable class of girls and young women as pupils, many of the oldest and most influential families of the entire South having their representatives in the school.

In 1907 the subject of this sketch launched a move, with the sanction of the board of trustees, for the formation of an association to known as the Association of Southern Presidents of Women's Colleges, the object of which was the establishment of a bond of sympathy between all educational elements in North and South Carolina. This move was met with hearty response from about thirty colleges for women and in 1908 the first meeting was held at Salem Academy and College. Dr. Clewell having been elected president for the first year of the association's history.

During the last three years great efforts have been put forth to raise the standard of the school to the level of a high school of the highest scholastic standard. No money or pains have been spared to attain this desirable end. The various departments of the Academy and College have been placed under specialists in their own line of work. This has applied to the department of music, and to the reputation of being the peer of any similar school in the South, being headed by a professional man of rare ability, with a large corps of professors and instructors. The vocal department has been placed in charge of a highly competent person, a graduate of one of the Northern conservatories. The school of domestic science, the school of natural science, that of trained nursing, language, literature, elocution and expression, the preparatory departments, etc., all having been made self-sustaining, and having received the highest efficiency with the large numbers of pupils to be handled.

To the staff of officers has been added a special office known as academy representative, the duty of this man being solely to travel throughout the year among the patrons and friends of the school for the purpose of keeping interest alive and promoting not only a large attendance, but a class of the most desirable pupils as well. A most important feature of the present administration has been the relationship which has been fostered between the college and the outside world, particularly in connection with the people of Winston-Salem. This relationship has grown and developed until the attitude of the townspeople has become one of the happiest features of the institution, enabling many things to be accomplished which would otherwise be next to impossible. One feature of this relationship will be of interest. Trouble has always been experienced in the matter of shielding the pupils of girls' col-

leges from the annoying and under cover of the "society" co-operation between towns and colleges. By means of this plan has been in effect for a number of years. It is a very commendable and unprincipled policy, but has been conducted in a manner which has attracted the attention of the State authorities. The matter has been brought to the attention of the State immediately into court, a preliminary injunction was granted at times has been granted, making it a public offense to engage in such a plan. This is a very commendable and unprincipled policy, but has been conducted in a manner which has attracted the attention of the State authorities. The matter has been brought to the attention of the State immediately into court, a preliminary injunction was granted at times has been granted, making it a public offense to engage in such a plan.

Dr. Clewell's term of administration at the Salem Female Academy, now incorporated under the title of Salem Academy and College for Women, during the 25 years of his service been one of improvement and advancement; numerous large buildings have been erected, and older ones remodeled and beautified. In 1888 the new wing of the building was added, more room so that for August of this year work was begun on what is now known as Annex Hall, a building which accommodates the two younger room companies. Later a first-class gymnasium was added. In 1890 Park Hall was added as an addition to the buildings already on the campus, this building being used primarily for the domestic science department, senior class room and laboratory; and to this building in 1901 a piazza and other attractions were added which enabled the establishment of a new infirmary. The buildings of the college thus far have been South Hall, 1888; Main Hall, 1858; Annex Hall, 1888; Park Hall, 1890; and to this handsome group in 1892 a new building was added known as Society Hall.

A few of the many desirable improvements which have resulted in this administration are as follows: Electric lights, improved modern plumbing, new furniture, beautified rooms and chapel, a host of class memorials, and valuable improvements in connection with the extensive campus which covers a number of acres of land adjoining the buildings.

The scholastic work has during the administration kept pace with these more material changes. A commercial course has been established, and also a post-graduate course. The education work has been systematized for graduation; the department of domestic science has been added, and a course in the care of the sick, or nursing, has been established, together with quite a number of other departments.

About five years ago overtures were commenced, which have resulted in an intimate relationship between the Salem Academy and College for Women in the North, chief of these being Bryn Mawr, Columbia University, the Boston Conservatory, etc., and while the school has always maintained a complete and finishing course of its own, by this arrangement students may prepare at Salem for entrance into any Northern school for women.

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Mecklenburg County Court House and the Monument to the Signers.