

POETRY.

FROM THE GOSPEL MESSENGER. THE FALL OF THE LEAF.

"There, now the lonesome noise, Low whispering, lead into the leaf-strown walks, And give the season in its latest voice."

"We do all fade as a leaf."—ISA. LXIV. 6.

Ye young! behold the fallen leaf That late was fresh and gay; 'Tis thus, alas! with life so brief— It quickly speeds away.

The flush of health, the balmy breath, The bright expressive eye; Ere long, must yield to with'ring death; Ere long, must surely die.

Ye gay! behold the fallen leaf, Its Spring and Summer past; Like transient joys, by clouds of grief, And misery overcast.

Swift flee the hours of human bliss, Once gone they ne'er return; Vain airy dreams of happiness— For "man was made to mourn."

Ye ag'd! behold the fallen leaf, Its vernal beauty gone; Its mantling green, and charms so brief, Have faded one by one.

Ye young! ye gay! ye ag'd! to you The fallen leaf would say, In mine, your presag'd doom, ye view— Ye too must hence away.

Man may survive the morn of Spring, And summer's genial sky; But Autumn's chills, and Winter bring The hour, when all must die.

ORIGINAL.

FOR THE CATAWBA JOURNAL.

From the author of a Manuscript, &c.

BUFORD'S DEFEAT.

A book, entitled a sketch of the life of Gen. Marion, was written about three years past, by the Hon. Wm. D. James, one of the Judges of the state of South-Carolina, who, in his youth, was one of Marion's soldiers. One object of the book appears to be, to correct the fabulous and romantic statements given in a performance written many years ago, of the same title, by the Rev. J. L. Weems. As Judge James had not a personal knowledge of several transactions in the west, he applied by letter to Dr. Robt. Brownfield, for a statement of Buford's* defeat on the 29th of May, 1780. The Doctor, who now lives near Statesburg, South-Carolina, was raised and educated in the county of Mecklenburg; was, at the time of the defeat and to the end of the war, a surgeon in the hospital, and attended to the wounded of Buford's men from the time they obtained medical assistance; here he had an opportunity of knowing every circumstance relative to that affair, and his account is more in detail and somewhat differs from that recorded in history, but precisely as it was understood during the time of the war, and believed to be the most accurate that will ever be obtained.

The following is Dr. Brownfield's letter to Judge James, as inserted in the appendix of his book, entitled a sketch of the life of Gen. Marion:

DEAR SIR: In obedience to your request, I send you a detailed account of the defeat and massacre of Col. Buford's regiment, near the borders of North-Carolina, on the road leading from Camden to Salisbury. This regiment, consisting of three hundred and fifty men, well appointed and equipped, had marched from Virginia for the relief of Charleston, and had advanced to Santee, where they were met by intelligence of the surrender; a retreat then became unavoidable. Between this place and Camden, they fell in with Gen. Caswell, at the head of about seven hundred North-Carolina militia, whose object had been the same, and whose retreat became equally imperious. At Camden these two corps unfortunately separated; Caswell filed off to Peebles, and Buford pursued the road to Salisbury. This measure was accounted for by the want of correct intelligence of Tarleton's prompt and rapid movements, who was in full pursuit, with three hundred cavalry, and each a soldier of infantry behind him. Neglecting Caswell and his militia, the pursuit was continued after Buford to Waxhaw; finding he was approximating this corps, he despatched a flag, saying he was at Barclay's with seven hundred men, and summoned them to surrender on the terms granted to the garrison at Charleston. Buford immediately laid the summons before a

council of his officers, with three distinct propositions from himself: shall we comply with Tarleton's summons; shall we abandon the baggage, and by a rapid movement save ourselves; or shall we fortify ourselves by the wagons, and wait his approach? The first and second were decidedly rejected by the unanimous voice of the council, declaring it to be incompatible with their honor as soldiers, or the duty they owed their country, either to surrender or abandon the baggage, on the bare statement of Tarleton: they had no certainty of the truth of his assertion, and that it might be only a ruse de guerre to alarm their fears and obtain a bloodless victory. The third was also negatived on the ground, that although they might by this means defend themselves against Tarleton, but as no success was near, and as Tarleton could in a short time obtain reinforcements from Cornwallis, against which no effectual resistance could be made, this measure would be unavailable: the discussion soon resulted in a resolution to continue the march, maintaining the best possible order for the reception of the enemy. In a short time, Tarleton's bugle was heard, and a furious attack was made on the rear-guard, commanded by Lieut. Pearson: not a man escaped. Poor Pearson was inhumanly mangled on the face, as he lay on his back: his nose and lip were bisected obliquely; several of his teeth were broken out in the upper jaw, and the under completely divided on each side. These wounds were inflicted after he had fallen, with several others on his head, shoulders and arms.

As a just tribute to the honor and Job-like patience of poor Pearson, it ought to be mentioned, that he lay for five weeks without uttering a single groan; his only nourishment was milk drawn from a bottle through a quill. During that period he was totally deprived of speech, nor could he articulate distinctly after his wounds were healed. This attack gave Buford the first confirmation of Tarleton's declaration by his flag. Unfortunately he was then compelled to prepare for action, on ground which presented no impediment to the full action of cavalry. Tarleton having arranged his infantry in the centre, and his cavalry on the wings, advanced to the charge with the horrid yells of infuriated demons; they were received with firmness and completely checked, until the cavalry were gaining the rear. Buford now perceiving that further resistance was hopeless, ordered a flag to be hoisted and the arms to be grounded, expecting the usual treatment sanctioned by civilized warfare; this, however, made no part of Tarleton's creed; his ostensible pretext for the relentless barbarity that ensued, was, that his horse was killed under him just as the flag was raised. He affected to believe that this was done afterwards, and imputed it to treachery on the part of Buford, but in reality a safe opportunity was presented, to gratify that thirst for blood which marked his character in every conjuncture that promised probable impunity to himself. Ensign Cruit, who advanced with the flag, was instantly cut down; viewing this as an earnest of what they were to expect, a resumption of their arms was attempted, to sell their lives as dearly as possible; but before this was fully effected, Tarleton, with his cruel myrmidons, was in the midst of them, when commenced a scene of indiscriminate carnage, never surpassed by the ruthless atrocities of the most barbarous savages. The demand for quarter, seldom refused to a vanquished foe, was at once found to be in vain: not a man was spared:—and it was the current testimony of all the survivors, that for fifteen minutes after every man was prostrate, they went over the ground plunging their bayonets into every one that exhibited any symptoms of life; and in some instances, where several had fallen one over the other, these monsters were seen to throw off on the point of the bayonet the uppermost to come at those beneath. Captain Carter, who commanded the artillery, and who led the van, continued his march without bringing his guns into action; this conduct excited suspicions unfavorable to the character of Carter, and these were strengthened by his being paroled on the ground, and his whole company without insult or injury being made prisoners of war. Whether he was called to an account for his conduct, I have never learnt: these excepted, the only survivors of this tragic scene were Captains Stokes, Lawson and Howard, Lieuts. Pearson and Jamison, and ensign Cruit. To consign to oblivion the memory of these gallant few, would be culpable injustice. When men have devoted their lives to the service of their country, and whose fate has been so singularly disastrous, there is an honest anxiety concerning them, springing

from the best and warmest feelings of our nature, which certainly should be gratified: this is peculiarly the truth with regard to Capt. John Stokes; although in his military character, perhaps not otherwise distinguished from his brother officers than by the number of his wounds and the pre-eminence of his sufferings. He received twenty-three wounds; and as he never for a moment lost his recollection, he often repeated to me the manner and order in which he received them. Early in the sanguinary conflict, he was attacked by a dragoon, who aimed many deadly blows at his head, all of which, by the dexterous use of the small sword, he easily parried; when another on the right, by one stroke cut off his right hand through the metacarpal bones; he was then assailed by both, and instinctively attempted to defend his head with his left arm, until the forefinger was cut off, and the arm hacked in eight or ten places from the wrist to the shoulder; his head was then laid open almost the whole length of the crown to the eyebrows. After he fell he received several cuts on the face and shoulders. A soldier passing on in the work of death, asked him if he expected quarter: Stokes answered, I have not, nor do I mean to ask quarter: finish me as soon as possible: he then transfixed him twice with his bayonet. Another asked the same question, and received the same answer; and he also thrust his bayonet twice through his body. Stokes had his eye fixed on a wounded British officer, sitting at some distance, when a sergeant came up, who addressed him with apparent humanity, and offered him protection from further injury, at the risk of his life: all I ask, said Stokes, is to be laid by that officer, that I may die in his presence. While performing this generous office, the humane sergeant was twice obliged to lay him down and stand over him to defend him from the fury of his comrades. Doct. Stapleton, Tarleton's surgeon, whose name ought to be held up to eternal obloquy, was then dressing the wounds of the officer: Stokes, who lay bleeding at every pore, asked him to do something for his wounds, which he scornfully and inhumanly refused, until peremptorily ordered by the more humane officer, and even then only filled the wounds with rough tow, the particles of which could not be separated from the brain for several days. Capt. Stokes was a native of Pittsylvania county, Virginia. He was early intended for the bar; and having gone through the usual course of classical and other preparatory studies, he commenced the practice with the most flattering indications of future eminence; but the calm pursuits of peace not comporting with the ardor of his mind, he relinquished the fair prospect of professional emolument, and accepted a captaincy in Buford's regiment. At this catastrophe, he was about twenty-seven years of age; his height was about the common standard; his figure and appearance, even in his mangled situation, inspired respect and veneration; and the fire of genius, that sparkled in his dark piercing eye, gave indications of a mind not only fitted for the field, but for all the departments of civil life. Shortly after the adoption of the constitution of the United States, he was promoted to the bench in the Federal Court, married miss Pearson, and settled on the Yadkin river, where the county is called Stokes after his name.

USEFUL POLITICS.

NEW-YORK. The legislature of this state met on the 2d inst. The next day, the Governor, Dr. Wm. CLYTON, transmitted his message, which occupies between eight and nine columns, small type, of the National Advocate.— It treats upon a great variety of topics, many of which are not less interesting to the Republic at large, than to that portion of it to which they are immediately addressed; and throughout it evinces that ability which characterizes all the productions, whether of a literary, scientific, or political nature, of that distinguished individual. We propose to make some extracts from it; and as our space is limited, we shall confine them to such parts as relate more particularly to that state, but which offer powerful examples to other states, of what may be effected by public spirit, enlightened enterprise, and liberal appropriations of the funds of a state for the promotion and accomplishment of objects of general and permanent utility. The following just reflections will meet the approbation of every one:— In thus improving our social institutions, it is pleasing to contemplate their benign influence on individual happiness and general prosperity; and to feel assu-

red that a republican government may be transmitted in full purity and vigor to the remotest period of time. Even the troubled democracies of Greece and Italy, with all their deprecatd vices were preferable to the hateful tyrannies that surrounded them. The former were sometimes relieved by ennobling virtues—but the latter were always engulfed in hopeless debasement. Now that the representative system is well understood, and its capacity to unite liberty and power by federal combinations has been successfully tried, it will be our own fault if its duration prove not as permanent as its blessings are inestimable. In all governments whether republican or monarchical, free or despotic, cupidity and ambition will address themselves to the sovereign authority for gratification. In free states, these applications will of course be made to the people, who confer either directly or indirectly the honors and emoluments of office—and hence the excitements which arise from the operation of these passions as well as from real differences of opinion. But with all these evils, republics still exhibit a decided superiority. Their agitations and attendant mischiefs, are more diffused and more feeble. And the people who feel their influence have, generally speaking, no inducement to act wrong. It is their interest as well as their duty to select meritorious officers, and to establish a wholesome administration. The vices of faction, intrigue, falsehood, dissimulation and corruption, are rendered more intensely profligate by their concentration around the person of the monarch. His interest and that of his favorites too often become distinct from that of the community, and the general welfare is merged in personal gratifications. A republican government is certainly most congenial with the nature, most propitious to the welfare, and most conducive to the dignity of our species. Man becomes degraded in proportion as he loses the right of self government. Every effort ought therefore to be made to fortify our free institutions—and the great bulwark of security is to be found in education—the culture of the heart and the head—the diffusion of knowledge, piety and morality. A virtuous and enlightened man can never submit to degradation—and a virtuous and enlightened people will never breathe in the atmosphere of slavery. Upon education we must therefore rely for the purity, the preservation, and the perpetuation of Republican government. In this sacred cause, we cannot exercise too much liberality. It is identified with our best interests in this world, and with our best destinies in the world to come. Much indeed has been done, and we have only to cast our eyes over the state, and rejoice in the harvest which it has already yielded. But much more remains and ought to be done—And the following statement is exhibited with a view to animate you to greater exertions.

The number of children taught in our common schools during the last year exceeds 400,000, and is probably more than one fourth of our whole population. Ten thousand three hundred and eighty-three have been instructed in the free and charity schools in the city of New-York, a number by no means proportioned to the wants of its population. The students in the incorporated academies amount to about 2,682, and in the colleges to 755. The fund for the common schools may be stated at upwards of \$1,739,000; and its annual income at \$98,000, to which may be added the interest on the future sales of lands and on the disposal of escheated property, the proceeds of which latter item may be added to the capital.

However imposing this fund may appear, it is sufficiently obvious that it ought to be augmented. This state is capable of supporting fourteen millions of inhabitants. This appropriation will therefore soon be found far behind the progress of population and the requisitions for instruction.

Deeply impressed with the momentous nature of this department of our social policy to the cardinal interests of the state, I cannot withhold one important fact derived from past experience. Of the many thousands who have been instructed in our free schools in the city of New-York, there is not a solitary instance known of any one having been convicted of crimes. In furtherance of this invaluable system, I recommend to your consideration the education of competent teachers on the monitorial plan, its more general introduction, and the distribution of useful books.

Internal improvements occupy a prominent place in the message; and they are viewed by the Governor with the eye of a statesman, deeply sensible of their importance, not only to the prosperity of his own state, but to the welfare of the country generally, and the perpetuity of the Union. We have only room for the following extracts:

The Erie canal (which is the longest in the world) and which, in conjunction with the Champlain canal and the contemplated communications with lake Ontario and the minor lakes, will produce the most extensive and important inland navigation ever witnessed) would have been finished last season, had it not been for the intervention of unexpected impediments. It is, however, so near to its completion

as to render it necessary to form a permanent system for the preservation of the canals, for the collection of the revenue, for the extinguishment of the debt, and for a vigilant superintendence, both of their particular concerns and of their general interests. A plan ought to be adopted, combining economy with efficiency, and having regard to future as well as present operations. I consider these works, but as the first, in a series of great undertakings. We must, however, pursue our objects with prudence as well as with energy, in every stage of our progress, looking for support in the wisdom and patronage of the people. And it is a source of high felicitation to know that the debt may be speedily satisfied without resorting to taxation, without discontinuing our efforts for similar improvements, and without staying the dispensing hand of government in favor of the great departments of education, literature and science, or the cardinal interests of productive industry.

A board for the promotion of internal improvements, composed of well informed citizens, ought to be constituted, with authority to consider and report on all subjects relative to communications by land and by water, by roads, railways, canals, bridges and water courses, and with a general superintending power over their construction. All applications and proposals on such subjects would, of course, receive the full consideration of the board before they were accepted by the legislature; and would be carried into execution in accordance with the exigency of the case, the importance of the object, and the ability of the state. The field of operation is immense, and the harvest of honor and profit is unbounded. And if our resources are wisely applied, and forcibly directed, all proper demands for important avenues of communication may be answered in due time and in ample extent.

The primary design of our artificial navigation is to open a route by canals between the Atlantic ocean and the great lakes. The Erie and Champlain canals will, in a great measure, accomplish this object; but it will not be fully realized until the waters of Lake Ontario shall be connected with the Erie canal and with Lake Champlain. The importance of this design will be duly appreciated, when it is understood that the lake coast, not only of this state, but of the United States, is more extensive than the sea coast.

The next leading object is to unite the minor lakes, and the secondary rivers with the canals; to form a junction between important rivers, and to produce such a junction between the bays on the sea coast, as will insure the safety of our boat navigation in time of peace against the tempests of the ocean, and in time of war, against the depredations of an enemy.

The debt due on account of the canal, and the subsidiary works, is \$7,407,779 99, of which \$4,524,270 99, bear an interest of five per cent. and the residue an interest of six per cent. making an aggregate annual interest of \$375,925 55.— The revenue from the tolls the present year, will exceed \$310,000—and the duties on salt \$100,000, which, with the other sources of income belonging to the canal fund, will, in all probability, produce an excess of revenue above the interest of the canal debt, of near \$300,000. Should any discrepancy appear between this statement and the annual report of the comptroller, it will be only apparent, his having reference to the fiscal, and this to the natural year.

It is believed that next year the revenue will be nearly doubled, if the Erie canal arrive to the lake in due season, and its progressive expansion will be commensurate with the prosperity of the state, and the growth of our country. From these data, a just estimate may be made of the rapid operation of a judicious sinking fund in extinguishing the whole debt, and of the prospective fiscal resources of the state.

It is estimated that 10,000 boats have passed at the junction of the Erie and Champlain canals within the last season. Boats with commodities proceed at the rate of 55 miles in 24 hours; and boats with passengers near 100 miles in the same time. As late as the 15th December, a boat laden with merchandise arrived at Utica from Albany.

Internal trade is most flourishing when profits are small, and its returns quick. And the desirable effect is produced by the brisk circulation of commodities through canals. An important recommendation of this communication is the facility which it affords to emigration and change of habitation; its conveyance of bulky articles which are forbidden to land transportation; the cheapness, safety, and certainty of travelling, and its consequent increase. Hence the promotion of rapid settlement and concentrated population. All these propitious circumstances go to establish the permanency of the magnitude of the income to be derived from our canals, and to demonstrate the superior profit of judicious investments in them. The advantages of a condensed over a scattered population, proceed from furnishing great markets for sale and purchase; from extending the sphere of ingenuity and skill; from expanding the sphere of employment by subdividing the exertions, and augmenting the productive power of labor, and by concentrating great capitals subservient to all the purposes of life. In conducting extensive markets, in communicating the benefits of a dense to a sparse population, and in destroying the inconveniences of distance, canals may be emphatically designated as the great labor-saving machines for internal commerce.

* Col. Buford is yet living in Scott county, state of Kentucky, 10 miles beyond Lexington.

* Not Benjamin Carter of Camden.