

into a dungeon than take a parole on that island, in its then situation.

Gov. Burke returned immediately to the State, and resumed the government, but voluntarily retired from public life at the next ensuing session of the Legislature. Soon afterwards, in a cartel for the exchange of prisoners, between General Greene and the British commander, an equivalent was allowed for his ransom, and he was relieved from the delicate and painful embarrassment in which he had been involved by his captivity.

During his "inability and absence from the State," Alexander Martin, the Speaker of the Senate, assumed and exercised the powers of Governor, according to the provisions of the Constitution, and the Government continued in all its functions and usefulness.

As soon as the seizure and imprisonment of the Governor became known, the veteran General Rutherford, who had returned from his long imprisonment in St. Augustine, raised a force in Mecklenburg, Rowan and Guilford, and led an expedition against the British post, at Wilmington, and the loyalists, who were its emissaries, and after chastising the latter in divers skirmishes, finally dispersed or drove them within the lines of the British Garrison, which, becoming informed of the advances made by Greene in the re-conquest of South Carolina, and the surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown, evacuated the town, and returned to Charleston. Thus was the British flag struck on the 18th of November, 1781, never again to be unfurled in North Carolina. But true to the great cause of America, her efforts against the common enemy ceased not with his expulsion from her borders, as they had not been postponed until his arrival within them. Immediately after the retirement of Lord Cornwallis to Virginia, her western people rallied to the call of General Sumter for service in South Carolina, and her Continental battalions being again recruited under General Sumter, with a new "aid" of militia, formed a conspicuous part of Greene's line of battle at Eutaw, and followed the flag of the Union, until the disappearance of the enemy's salts off the harbor of Charleston.

Having had occasion to refer to the Statute Book, that faithful and authentic source of instruction in the history of all nations, and especially of free governments in times of peril and revolution, I deem it fit to call your attention, in connection with the period of dread and doubt through which we have passed, to an act of the Legislature, at its first session after the proclamation of peace, held in April, 1782, respecting those citizens of the State who had espoused the cause of the enemy, "in the late unhappy war." It is entitled "An act of pardon and oblivion" and declares "that all and all manner of treason, misprision of treason, felony, or misdeemeanor, committed or done since the fourth day of July, seventeen hundred and seventy-six, by any person or persons whatsoever, shall be pardoned, released, and put in total oblivion, with the exception, 1st, of certain notorious bandits and other criminals; 2d, those who had taken commissions, and acted as officers under the British government; and 3d, those who had been named in confiscation laws passed during the war—an act of grace and magnanimity worthy of the heroic but Christian and forbearing spirit which had triumphed in the struggle just ended.

I am conscious of so tedious a narrative that I shall not abuse your patience by the reflections to which it might naturally give rise. My object has been to present an outline—merely, but in chronological order, and natural connection and dependence, some of the leading events in the struggle for our common freedom, of which my native State was the theatre, after it had become a contest of arms. Although this has been done with a prolixity and minuteness of reference to time and place, far exceeding the limits of good taste in a discourse for the hour, before an audience unfamiliar with the localities described, it is at best, I fear, but a meager and defective presentation of the subject I trust, however, in the retrospect, it may not be wholly unprofitable in the researches of the student of history. The history of the war in the North has been written with far more minuteness than in the South—that that of North Carolina has been especially neglected, will be manifest when it is remembered that so important an event, as the capture of her Chief Magistrate by the enemy, is mentioned in no professed history of the Revolution, as far as my researches have gone, and is brought to general notice for the first time, in the recent works of Wheeler and Lossing, and in them, with very little or no reference to the important question of public law, to which its consequences it gave rise. As the rapid course of time hurried us further and further from the epoch of the Revolution, filling up the intervening space with the great events of the two succeeding generations, its characters and incidents and places are becoming more and more objects of curiosity and interest. If I shall have contributed to unfold a leaf in a single book of this great epic of history, I shall regard the occasion allowed by the honored invitation of your society, as an opportunity for the fulfillment of a patriotic duty.

I however, omit to remind you, while we delight like the Athenians in the time of Demosthenes, "to praise our ancestors and tell of their trophies," that although the scenes which have been imperfectly presented to your view were enacted in a far distant part of the country, they, in their day, excited sensations which vibrated from Maine to Georgia; that every well-informed man on the banks of the Catawba, Yadkin, or Cape Fear, and every successful exploit of Greene, Morgan Williams, Davy Crockett, and their associates, added so much in thinning the ranks and overrunning the power of a British Commander-in-Chief, who at that very time, held his head quarters in the city of New York; that the force there opposed to him was a joint force of men of the Carolinas, Virginia, Maryland and Delaware, and that the General who maneuvered and marshaled it in its more important and decisive operations, with a readiness of resources, a skill and valor, never surpassed was a citizen of Shady Island. It was therefore, a union of effort for a common and the establishment of a common liberty, which, under the protection of God, was nobly accomplished. Such is the lesson we derive from Mr. Fillmore in the class with that of Washington.

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The Asheville Spectator assigned in the element of analyzing the late Address to the constituents of the Hon. T. C. Clingman. He incloses the ingredients to these poisonous elements with masterly hands. The Spectator draws a comparison between the treasury of States in the shape of Troy and that of Mr. Clingman in policies. The comparison very properly awards to the Green Mountain man an undivided victory, as he was treacherous

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We are anxious to be occupied with the next election, Mr. Clingman a Whig, who was formerly a member of the North Carolina Senate. We are glad of this, and doubt not that the people will prefer and choose a Representative of unshaken and immovable fidelity to one whose "waulding ambition" is to be in the U. S. Senate; but, by his disclaimer, changed him from a friend to an enemy in the ranks of the party in which he belonged."

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### Fillmore and Pierce—A Contrast.

The importance of the occasion demands a few passing remarks on the outgoing and incoming Administrations.

Mr. Fillmore silently and calmly glides away into the shade of privacy, retirement, and anticipating the blessings of all good men, and anticipating a peaceful reign from the current government in the bosom of his happy family. General Pierce is just entering on the threshold of new, untried, and perplexing duties involving the peace, happiness, and prosperity of millions of his fellow beings. His mind filled with all the solemn intricacies of his station, with the unclouded affections of his family, and based on every hand with countless hopes of greedy office seekers, whose conflicting claims must be reconciled, and whose importunities a continue without ceasing and without weary, his situation certainly cannot be an enviable one to those who prefer happiness to fame. Whether some future orator, who is able to say of him, when he shall have finished his earthly mission and responsibilities, and sleeps with his fathers, as has been said of the Father of the country, that he was a son of Providence to the human race, or whether his countrymen still be able to say of him at the end of his present term, "well done, thou good servant," those least present thereof, if possible, a good nation, and we will review this with some term of office, experiment having no power to test. The same compliment may be paid to Mr. Fillmore's Administration, that the nation pay in the rough of the renovated and restored Roman Empire, Titus Antoninus Pius, that it is "mured by increase advantage, surounding very few materials for history"; which is, indeed, little more than the register of the names, fates, and misfortunes of men; but the future historian will wonder the administration of Mr. Fillmore in the class with that of Washington.

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