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From the Raleigh Register.

THE LATE JUDGE MURPHEY'S HISTORY OF NORTH-CAROLINA.

The public was apprised several years ago, that this distinguished citizen had undertaken the task of writing the history of his native State. His fondness for research, which made him somewhat acquainted with almost every department of knowledge, seconded by his well known zeal for the fame and prosperity of the State, directed his enquires to this subject at an early period. Surprised to learn how little was known concerning the earlier events of the State, even among our men of study and education—how great an indifference to the subject prevailed among our people generally—that a large portion of the past was irretrievably consigned to oblivion—to which indeed the present was fast hastening, he determined to rescue, so far as he could, what was yet spared by the ravages of time. He accordingly devoted what leisure he could command from his ordinary pursuits to the investigation of the memorials of our History and sought and obtained information from many sources, hitherto but little known. When arrested by that disease which eventually terminated his life, he had been so far successful in the collection of materials, as to have commenced, and written some portions of his contemplated work—though much additional information had been expected, which never was received. Probably in no point of view has the death of this gentleman been more generally lamented, than in its disappointment of the public expectation respecting his History. The following imperfect expose of the progress and state of the contemplated work, gathered from a hasty examination of the materials and manuscripts left at his death, is presented to the public, in the belief that it may afford some gratification to curiosity on this interesting subject. It seems to have been the author's design to introduce the History of the Colony and State of North Carolina, by a cursory review of those great events, which, since the revival of learning in the fifteenth century, have changed the intellectual character and moral condition of nations. This was conceived necessary to give to the reader a just idea of the character of the early colonists, and of the structure, policy, and tendency of that Government, which they and their posterity have reared. A manuscript occupying about a quire of foolscap paper, embraces a succinct History of civilized Europe, from the discovery of Sebastian Cabot, A. D. 1494, to the time of Sir Walter Raleigh, 1568. Another of 25 or 30 pages, is found to contain a brief sketch of the revival of letters and science—the effects of their cultivation upon the arts and improvement of men—and of the progress of personal freedom, and civil, political and religious liberty in all those countries of Europe, from which our own was settled. The actual condition of the old world at the period when our History commenced, being thus presented in retrospect, the intention was, to furnish a complete narrative, thence downward to the present time. An outline only of the Colonial History was finished. It comprises, however, many interesting facts, and is divided into eras:

- 1. The 1st From the first patent granted to Sir Walter Raleigh, A. D. 1584 to his death 1600.
- 2d. From A. D. 1600 to 1663.
- 3d. From the Grant to the Lords Proprietors, 1663 to 1712.
- 4th. From 1712 to the abolition of the Proprietors Government, 1729.
- 5th. From the establishment of the regal Government 1729, to the death of Governor Dobbs, 1765.

About this latter period the struggle for our Independence began, and from this time forward the History was probably designed to be more minute. The author's manuscript, however, ceases at the period last mentioned, except some detached parts of our Revolutionary History, which were published in the newspapers of this State many years since. These, together with the introductory chapters before mentioned, and an account of four of the most powerful Indian tribes of North Carolina, to wit, the Cherokees, Catawbas, Sawras and

Tuskaroras, constitute the whole of his writings on the subject.

On the first and second eras of the author, it is believed that he had procured very little new matter. Whatever accounts may exist besides those already published of the voyages of the agents of Sir Walter Raleigh, and of their attempts to establish a Colony on Roanoke Island, are probably locked up in the office of the Board of Trade and Plantations in England. This is no doubt equally true of the History of the Province from the abandonment of the settlement on Roanoke Island in 1587, to the grant of the Charter to the eight Lords Proprietors by King Charles II, 1663. Indeed, with the exception of a small settlement in Currituck, a colony of Quakers (whom religious persecution had driven from Virginia) in the counties of Perquimans and Pasquotank, and a small colony from Massachusetts, on old Town Creek of Clarendon River, there seems to have been in Carolina previously to the year 1663, no other inhabitants, than its native beasts and savages.

3d era. After the Grant to the Lords Proprietors in 1663, Sir William Berkeley, then Governor of Virginia, was instructed to organize a Government in Carolina, which was done in the following year, and Drummond appointed Governor. Ever since this period, in some form or other, there has existed an organized Government in the province. A General Assembly was first convened in 1667. In the same year, Lord Ashley being appointed by the Lords Proprietors to prepare a form of Government for the Colonies, engaged the services of the celebrated Philosopher Mr. Locke, who framed a complicated system which was adopted in 1669. Upon the death of Gov. Drummond in this year, he was succeeded by Samuel Stephens, who survived but a short time. The Colony during this era, appears, from the author's manuscript, to have supported an unstable government was once visited by an insurrection and was torn by the factions of high churchmen and dissenters. Heavy taxes were imposed to support the Clergy of the Church of England. Printing presses were forbidden, and the Laws were learned by the Colonists, only by having them read at the Court-houses. In 1707 a colony of Huguenots settled on Treat River—and in 1709 a colony of Germans from Heidelberg, who were transported by Lewis Michell and Christopher De Graffenreid, founded the town of New Berne. The year 1711 was marked by such an extraordinary scarcity of money, that hides, deer skins, tallow, &c. were made a legal tender in the payment of quitrents, and by a most bloody massacre of the colonists by the Indians.

On this era, besides the ordinary historical accounts which have been published,—the author had procured:

- 1. Transcripts from the Lords Proprietors' Minute Book.
- 2. Transcripts from the Minutes of the Palatine Court in Albemarle county, from 1694 to 1712.
- 3. Proceedings of the Governor and Council during the same time.
- 4. Extracts from "the History of the British Colonies of North-America, from the first discovery by Sebastian Cabot in 1497, to the treaty of Peace 1763." Printed at London, 1773—author unknown. These extracts were obtained by the Hon. N. Macon, from the Library of Congress.
- 5. Pamphlet containing a letter of 63 pages, written from Charleston 1710, describing Carolina for the edification of those who might be disposed to migrate hither.
- 6. He had access also to "Lawson's Journal of a thousand miles travelled thro' several nations of Indians" in 1701—being usually styled "Lawson's History of North-Carolina."

The 4th era commences with the Indian War, which was brought to a close by the defeat of the Tuskaroras in 1713, soon after which they emigrated to the Northward. Hyde, then Governor of the colony, having died about this time, the Government was administered by Thomas Pollock, President of the Council, until the arrival of Charles Eden, who was appointed Governor, 1714. The succeeding year 1715, is the period at which the Legislation of the colony first assumed form and system—the common law of England was declared to be in force—and our Statute Book of the present day commences with the acts of that year. At this session was also passed, the first act directing bills of credit to be issued, a system of relief legislation from which the Colonists suffered much in subsequent times. Gov. Eden's administration terminated with his death in 1722, when the Government was again committed to President Pollock, who dying in the course of six months, Wm. Reed President, assumed the reins until the arrival of Governor Barrington, 1723. He being found in a short time inadequate to the government of the province, was removed from office, and Sir Richard Everard was appointed his successor. It was during this

era, in the year 1722, that Court-houses were first established by the General Assembly, the Courts of Justice having been previously held in private houses. The boundary line between this province and Virginia was begun on the sea-shore, and run for sixty miles, about the same period. In the year 1729, the Crown purchased the interests of all the Lords Proprietors of Carolina, except that of John, Lord Carter, afterwards Earl Granville, who retained his eighth part. No materials are found in the author's collection, having particular relation to this period, except some of those already mentioned under era 3d.—It appears, however, from his manuscript outline, that he had derived much from the Acts of Assembly during that time and from other sources.

5th era. The prosperity of the Colony was greatly promoted by the establishment of the legal government—more especially after the appointment of Gabriel Johnston as Governor, in 1734. In 1737, the boundary line with South-Carolina was in part settled. In 1738, the General Assembly first met at Newbern, having held its session from 1715 until that time, at Edenton. In 1741, they first assembled at Wilmington, and enacted many wholesome laws, which yet remain in force. Swan's Revision of the Laws was proposed and published by act of Assembly in 1746, and all the laws therein contained were confirmed by the Legislature 1749. The line between Earl Granville and the Crown was begun in 1743, and in 1746 was extended west of Saxapahaw (now Haw) River. The population of the Colony increased largely in the administration of Governor Johnston. That of the middle and western counties consisted almost entirely of dissenters from the established Church, and were principally Moravians and Pre-byterians. A colony of Highland Scotch, under Neill M'Neill, also settled on Cape-Fear, in Cumberland county, 1749. On the death of Gov. Johnston 1752, the Government was conducted under the direction of Nathaniel Rice and Mathew Rowan, Presidents, successively, of the Council, until the appointment and arrival of Arthur Dobbs, Governor, in 1754. In the same year was passed an act of the General Assembly to encourage James Davis to set up and carry on the business of a Printer in this Province.

The History of the contests between the prerogative of the Crown and the freedom of the Colonists during the fifth era of our author, is highly interesting. They contributed much to nurture and embolden that spirit of liberty which animated our citizens in the first dawning of the Revolution. The ministers of the King believing that too much freedom was enjoyed by the Colony, for the safety and policy of his Government, assailed their privileges, first by reducing the number of Representatives from five to two, in each county—and next, by claiming for the King the right of erecting counties and boroughs and annulling them again at his pleasure. In 1754 he accordingly declared void the laws by which thirteen counties and five boroughs had been erected intending to create new counties and boroughs by the royal charter, to exist at his will. A legal consequence of this repeal, which was perhaps supposed to be unknown in the colony to-wit, that upon cessation of an act of incorporation, the property of the corporate body reverts to the original grantors, produced such general indignation, that Gov. Dobbs consented to a law re-establishing the counties "saving however the prerogatives of the Crown." As a further protection to their liberties, the General Assembly requested that their Judges should be commissioned to hold their offices during good behaviour. The breach between the Governor and Council on the one hand and the Provincial Assembly on the other, became so great, that in 1761, the latter appointed an agent to reside in London and solicit their affairs at Court. An excessive jealousy continued between the two branches of the Legislature until the abolition of the Colonial Government.—It was so far restrained as not to disturb ordinary legislation, but not unfrequently broke out into open collision.

On this last era, the author had proceeded:

- 1. Bricknell's North-Carolina—containing a natural history of the Colony, with an account of the trade, manners and customs of the Christians and Indian inhabitants, strange beasts, birds, fishes, &c. from observations in 1730-1, printed at Dublin 1743.
- 2. Records of the Register's office from 1754 to 1765.
- 3. North-Carolina Magazine—a weekly paper, printed at Newbern, from 1764 to 1765.
- 4. Copies of Gov. Johnston's correspondence and manuscripts.

A valuable addition to the collection on this period, was expected in the papers of Gen. Hugh Waddell, a distinguished Colonial officer, which were loaned to Dr. Hugh Williamson when he wrote his History of the State, and are now supposed to be in the

possession of his executor, Dr. Hosack, of New York.

After the year 1765—the period at which the author's outline of the 1st part of his proposed History terminates—his materials were much more voluminous and ample. Many gentlemen yet living had kindly furnished sketches from memory, of events within their personal knowledge, and the descendants of almost all of the illustrious dead, who bore conspicuous parts in the formation of our History, contributed freely, at the solicitation of its author, whatever matter was in their possession. Arranged somewhat according to chronology, they are as follows:

- 1. An anonymous Pamphlet on the abuses of the Government and Courts of Justice generally, ascribed to Herman-Husbands, a leader of the Regulators in Orange—printed.
- 2. Address of George Sims to the People of Granville, on the abuses of the Officers of the Courts of that County MSS. furnished by the Hon. N. Macon.
- 3. Record of the Superior Court of Hillsborough. Entries made by the Regulators at the riot, March Term 1770 when the Court was broken up by the rioters.
- 4. A Sermon by the Rev. George Micklejohn, preached before Gov. Tryon after the defeat of the Regulators at the battle of Alamance and the suppression of the insurrection.
- 5. A pamphlet by Maurice Moore, on the right of the parliament to tax the Colonies.
- 6. Records of the Proceedings of the Committee of Safety at Wilmington 1774-5-6, and of the Cumberland Association in the County of Cumberland.
- 7. A Pamphlet on the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, May 20th 1775!—Proclamations of Gov. Josiah Martin on 8th August 1775 and 1790.
- 8. A Pamphlet Journal of the Congress at Hillsborough, August 20th, 1775—and of that at Halifax, April 1776, in the latter of which our Delegates in Congress were instructed to vote for absolute Independence.
- 9. A Pamphlet Address of the Presbyterian Ministers of the city of Philadelphia, to the Ministers and Presbyterian Congregation in North-Carolina,—dated 10th day of July 1775.
- 10. Copies of the Correspondence of Cornelius Harnett, William Hooper, Joseph Hewes, John Penn, Abner Nash, Francis Nash, Governors Caswell, Burke, S. Johnson, Alexander Martin.
- 11. Military History.—Tarleton's Campaigns, Letters and Statements of Col. Sutherland of Wake, Col. James Saunders of Caswell, Col. William Polk of Raleigh, Gen. Jos. Graham of Lincoln Gen. Sumner, and others narrating many particulars not recorded in any History of the Revolution, and correcting some errors into which our Historians have fallen.

After the Peace of 1783 the materials collected are not very abundant, but many others are supposed to be accessible to research.

The Acts of the Independent State of Franklin in 1785—a part of our Territory which has since been erected into the State of Tennessee, and which then attempted to resist the authority of North-Carolina are found among the manuscripts—the author had also the numbers of the North-Carolina Journal, a weekly paper published at Halifax, from 1792 to 1798 and of the Raleigh Minerva, from 1803 until 1820, besides Williams's History of North-Carolina.

He was very desirous, during his life that the office of the Board of Trade and Plantations in England should be searched for information respecting our Colonial History and made repeated endeavors to procure from the Hon. F. X. Martin of Louisiana, the documents from which his History was written. It is no doubt recollected that a few years ago he presented a memorial to the Legislature praying pecuniary assistance to accomplish these ends—as well as to prosecute his work to completion, according to a plan published at the same time. The extensiveness of this plan was so generally disappointed, that it is believed to have been abandoned. And had he been blessed with health, even from the publication of his memorial until his death, he would, in all probability, have produced a work, which would have added much to the credit of the State, and the general Literature of the Country. What memorials he could have obtained from the public records of the State, to which he was allowed access by an act of the Le-

This Journal mentions several incidents which afford additional proofs of the authenticity of the Declaration of Independence by the People of Mecklenburg County.

gislature—what facts he had selected from the books within his reach—what resources he would have drawn from the rich treasure of learning, with which a studious life had stored his mind, there are no means of ascertaining. Industry or accident may discover all the sources of information to the future antiquarian, which were opened to him, but it is greatly to be feared that the same spirit, zeal, patriotism and talent will never be enlisted upon such a work again. Mr. Murphey was certainly the best qualified for the task of all our citizens who were disposed to undertake it—if he were not superior to any who could have been selected. He brought to the subject not only great skill and facility in composition, capacity and patience for research, a mind inured to constant and minute observation, and to tracing effects to their appropriate causes, but he had an intimate personal acquaintance with the people of the State, greater perhaps in extent than has fallen to the lot of any other individual. He had been connected with the administration of the Government, in the Legislative and Judicial Departments for many years and was animated by a patriotic zeal amounting almost to enthusiasm. Born in the midst of the Revolution, and educated among those who had been active in that struggle, as well as in the difficult and critical operation of settling and establishing this Government, which succeeded it, he had accumulated much traditional lore and formed a kind of connecting link between the past and present age. When another son of the State with equal competency shall find leisure or courage to make a similar attempt, time only can determine. As yet we may with great propriety adopt the complaint of the Roman Orator in his first book of Laws, "abest enim historia literis nostris." ROSCOE.

EFFECTS OF VENTRILOQUISM.

M. St. Gille, a grocer of St. Germain en Lay, whose performances have been recorded by the Abbe de la Chapelle, had occasion to shelter himself from a storm in a neighboring convent, where the monks were in deep mourning for a much esteemed member of their community who had been recently buried. While lamenting over the tomb of their deceased brother the slight honour which had been paid to his memory, a voice was suddenly heard to issue from the roof of the choir, bewailing the condition of the deceased in purgatory, and reproving the brotherhood for their want of zeal. The tidings of this supernatural event brought the whole brotherhood to the church. The voice from above repeated its lamentations and reproaches, and the whole convent fell upon their faces, and vowed to make a reparation of their error. They accordingly chanted in full choir a *de profundis*, during the intervals of which the spirit of the departed monk expressed his satisfaction at their pious exercises. The prior afterwards inveighed against modern scepticism on the subject of apparitions, and M. St. Gille had great difficulty in convincing the fraternity that the whole was a deception. Another Ventriloquist, Louis Brabant, who had been valet de chambre to Francis I. turned his power to a more profitable account. Having fallen in love with a rich and beautiful heiress, he was rejected by her parents as an unsuitable match for their daughter. On the death of her father, Louis paid a visit to the widow, and he had no sooner entered the house than she heard the voice of her deceased husband addressing her from above. "Give my daughter in marriage to Louis Brabant, who is a man of large fortune and excellent character. I endure the inexorable torments of purgatory for having refused her to him. Obey this admonition, and give everlasting repose to the soul of your poor husband." This awful command could not be resisted, and the widow announced her compliance with it. As our conjuror however required money for the completion of his marriage, he resolved to work upon the fears of one Cornu, an old banker at Lyons, who had amassed immense wealth by usury and extortion. Having obtained an interview with the miser he introduced the subject of demons and spectres and the torments of purgatory, and during an interval of silence, the voice of the miser's deceased father was heard complaining of his dreadful situation in purgatory, and calling upon his son to rescue him from his sufferings by enabling Louis Brabant to redeem the Christians that were enslaved by the Turks. The awe-struck miser was also threatened with eternal damnation if he did not thus expiate his own sins; but such was the grasp that the banker took of his gold that the ventriloquist was obliged to pay him another visit. On this occasion, not only his father, but all his deceased relations, appealed to him in behalf of his own soul and theirs, and such was the loudness of their complaints that the spirit of the banker was subdued, and he gave the ventriloquist ten thousand crowns to liberate the Christian captives. When the miser was afterwards undeceived, he is said to have been so mortified that he died of vexation.