

WESTERN CAROLINIAN.

VOL. IV.]

SALISBURY, N. C. TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 1823.

[NO. 159.]

Office of the Western Carolinian,
Salisbury, June 10, 1823.

As the expenses of this establishment are beginning to bear rather an inverse ratio to the receipts, the Editor is compelled to adopt some plan that promises a better reward for his labors in future. The practice in this office, hitherto, has been too careless. Papers have been sent to a great many who are unknown to the Editor, either personally or by report, they pay for them in advance; and it seems that is all many of them ever intend to pay, after receiving the paper one, two, and three years. In future, the terms of the Western Carolinian will be as follows:

Three dollars a year, payable yearly in advance. Every paper sent at a distance, will be discontinued after the time has expired for which it has been paid for, unless the subscriber is known to be good; in the latter case, the paper will be sent until paid for and ordered to be stopped.

Advertisements will be inserted at fifty cents per square for the first insertion, and twenty-five cents for each subsequent one. Advertisements from a distance must be paid for, or their payment assumed by a responsible person, before they can be published.

All letters addressed to the Editor, must be post-paid, or they will not be attended to.

PHILO WHITE.

Sign, Coach, and House PAINTING.

GEO. W. GRIMES begs leave to inform the citizens of Salisbury, and the surrounding country, that he still continues to execute all kinds of house, sign, coach, and ornamental painting. Having procured an ample supply of materials, and having, for a number of years past, devoted almost his whole attention to acquire a competent knowledge of this branch of business, he feels confident of being able to give satisfaction to those who may be pleased to favor him with orders in the above line. Gilding and Glazing will also be executed in a neat manner, and on reasonable terms. He also keeps on hand, for sale, copal and Japan Furnish.

Wanted, as an apprentice to the above business, one or two lads, from 15 to 16 years of age, of steady and industrious habits; to whom, if they prove themselves deserving of it, a good chance will be given.

Salisbury, Feb. 3, 1823.—29

NOTICE.

THE Commissioners appointed by Court for the purpose of contracting for the building of a Court-House in the Town of Concord, will attend at the Court-House in Concord, on the 4th day of July next, for the purpose of receiving proposals for making and delivering brick and lumber, and doing the mason and carpenter work of said Court-House, &c.

GEO. KLUTES,
P. BARNINGER,
ABRAM C. M'HEE,
JOHN PHIFER, and
JACOB STREWALD, } Comrs.

May 24, 1823. 3:59

NORTH CAROLINA.

BURKE COUNTY.

SUPERIOR Court of Law, March Term, 1823. Lovice Pennington vs. Ezekiel Pennington: Petition for divorce and alimony. It appearing to the satisfaction of the Court, that the defendant in this case resides without the limits of this State, it is therefore ordered by the Court, that publication be made in the Star and Western Carolinian for three months, that the defendant appear at the next Superior Court of Law, to be held for the county of Burke, at the Court-House in Morganton, on the fourth Monday of September next, then and there to plead to said petition, otherwise the petition will be heard ex parte, and decreed accordingly.

Copy test, W. W. ERWIN, C. B. S. C. L.
Price adv. \$4. 3m69

NORTH CAROLINA.

DAVIDSON COUNTY.

COURT of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, April Session, 1823. Nicholas Michael vs. John P. Mataw: Original attachment levied on lands. It appearing to the satisfaction of the court, that the defendant is not an inhabitant of this State, it is therefore ordered, that publication be made for six weeks successively, in the Western Carolinian, printed in Salisbury, that the defendant appear at our next Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions to be held for the county of Davidson, at the Court-House in Lexington, on the 4th Monday in July next, then and there to reply and plead, or judgment will be taken according to the plaintiff's demand.

Test, DAVID MOCK, C. C. C.
Price adv. \$2. 6:62

NORTH CAROLINA.

DAVIDSON COUNTY.

COURT of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, April Session, 1823. Jesse Hargrave vs. John P. Mataw: Original attachment, levied on lands. It appearing to the satisfaction of the court, that the defendant is not an inhabitant of this State, it is therefore ordered, that publication be made for six weeks successively in the Western Carolinian, printed in Salisbury, that the defendant appear at our next Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions to be held for the county of Davidson, at the Court-House in Lexington, on the 4th Monday in July next, then and there to reply and plead, or judgment will be taken according to the plaintiff's demand.

Test, DAVID MOCK, C. C. C.
Price adv. \$2. 6:62

House for Sale.

I WILL sell my House and Lot in Salisbury, on accommodating terms. Apply to T. L. Cowan, Esq. or to myself, in Raleigh. There is a good office, belonging to the lot, convenient for a Lawyer or Physician.

JOHN BECKWITH.
Salisbury, March 8, 1823.—444

BATTLE OF KING'S MOUNTAIN.

FROM THE KENTUCKY REPORTER.
TO THE PUBLIC.

In the course of the battle, we were repeatedly repulsed by the enemy, and driven down the mountain. In this succession of repulses and attacks, and in giving succour to the points hardest pressed, much disorder took place in our ranks; the men of my column; of Campbell's column, and a great part of Sevier's, were mingled together in the confusion of the battle. Towards the latter part of the action the enemy made a fierce and gallant charge upon us, from the eastern summit of the mountain, and drove us near to the foot of it. The retreat was so rapid, that there was great danger of its becoming a rout. While I was attempting to rally the men, at the distance of about 200 yards from where the scene of action had been, I looked down the mountain, and saw Col. Campbell sitting on his bald-face black horse, about 200 yards further off, apparently looking right at me. He was in the same trim (with his coat off) that he had put himself in to fight the battle. I stopped my horse, and raised myself up in my stirrups, to shew him that I saw him. He did not move while I looked at him. Our men were soon rallied, and turned back upon the enemy, who, in a few minutes after we again came into close action with them, gave way. We gained the eastern summit of the mountain, and drove those who had been opposed to us along the top of it, until they were forced down the western end, about 100 yards, in a crowd, to where the other part of their line had been contending with Cleveland and Williams, who were maintaining their ground below them. It was here that Fergusson, the British commander, was killed—and a white flag was soon after hoisted by the enemy, in token of surrender. They were ordered to throw down their arms; which they did, and surrendered themselves prisoners at discretion. It was some time before a complete cessation of firing, on our part, could be effected. Our men, who had been scattered in the battle, were continually coming up, and continued to fire, without comprehending, in the heat of the moment, what had happened; and some, who had heard, that at Buford's defeat, the British had refused quarters to many who asked it, were willing to follow that bad example. Owing to these causes, the ignorance of some, and the disposition of others to retaliate, it required some time and some exertion on the part of the officers, to put an entire stop to the firing. After the surrender of the enemy, our men gave, spontaneously, three loud and long shouts.

It was not till 15 or 20 minutes after the enemy hoisted the flag of surrender, nor until some minutes after the shouts of our men had announced the victory, that I saw Col. Campbell on the west point of the mountain, with his light colored coat buttoned around him, coming down on foot, with three others, (all of whom I knew,) to where the prisoners were. He came directly to me, and stood by my side, and, after a short space, ordered the prisoners to sit down. He then proposed a second cheer, which, though joined in by many, was neither so general nor so loud as the first.

Before Col. Campbell came up, the flag of the enemy, and the sword of their commanding officer Dupoitier, had been received, not by me, but by my brother, Major Evan Shelby.

About 10 o'clock, on the day after the battle, I was standing alone, about 40 yards south of the spot where Col. Campbell came to me after the surrender, enjoying the warmth of the sun, for I had been very wet the day before, and was exposed to the cold dew of the mountains all night, when I saw Col. C. leave the line of guards that surrounded the prisoners, and walk slowly towards me, with his sword under his arm, till he came near touching me; he then in a low tone of voice than usual, and with a slight smile on his countenance, made the following expression; "Sir, I cannot account for my conduct in the latter part of the action."

An enterprise so daring, and a victory so complete, was supposed to entitle the officers who had conducted and achieved them, to some testimonials of their country's approbation. The legislature of Virginia, voted to Col. Campbell a horse, sword, and pistols; and the legislature of North Carolina, at their next session, were pleased to distinguish the services of Col. Sevier, myself, and others, by voting to each of us a sword.

Such is the history of the battle of King's Mountain, and of the incidents connected with it, so far as they relate to the present controversy. Of those circumstances which relate to Col. Campbell personally, and which might have a tendency to diminish his reputation, I have seldom spoken, except in confidence,

or to those who were previously acquainted with them. I am sure that I may say, with perfect truth that I have never spoken of them in a spirit of detraction.

I had long ceased to be a citizen of North Carolina. The awards voted by her had never yet been presented, although years had passed away. Of the one which was voted to me, I had for a long time rarely thought, until about the year 1810, when the prospect of approaching hostilities with Great Britain naturally roused in me ancient feelings, and recollections of our Revolutionary war, and when, also, I learned from a relation of Mr. Preston, that the state of Virginia had given to him, as the representative of Col. Campbell, the elegant sword which had been voted to the latter, for his services at the battle of King's Mountain. These circumstances, and the reflections to which they gave rise, did produce some feelings of emulation and solicitude, and a sense that equal justice had not been done to all who participated in that memorable achievement.

In this state of mind, my letters, bearing date in 1810, were addressed to my old friend and fellow soldier, Col. Sevier. The object of them was to concert with him the means of reminding North Carolina of her ancient promise, and of obliterating those swords which, thirty years before, had been voted to us, as the honorable memorials of our good conduct, and our country's approbation. In the course of this correspondence, after mentioning the magnanimous example which Virginia had given to Carolina, by the honors conferred on the memory of Col. Campbell, I ventured to make some comparison of the services of Sevier and myself with those of Col. Campbell. I stated, in substance, that the enterprise, which resulted in the battle of King's Mountain, was not set on foot by Col. Campbell, but by Sevier and myself, and that some address was necessary to induce him to unite with us. That the greater part of the men who crossed the mountains on that occasion, may be fairly said to have been embodied by Sevier and myself; that Col. Campbell was not present in the latter part of the action, or when the enemy surrendered, nor for some minutes after; and that on the next day, he apologized to me for his conduct.

These statements are all true within my own knowledge. They are more particularly explained and illustrated in the narrative which I have given above of the battle, and the circumstances which led to it. But Mr. Preston has denied them—has impeached my veracity; and imputed to me the vilest and most dishonorable motives. It is yet in my power to establish the truth of these statements by the most respectable and unquestionable testimony. They are verified by the letters of Col. Sevier, written in reply to mine; by the statements of Gen. Thomas Kennedy, Col. John Sawyers, James Cooper, Henry Blevins, John Long, Major William DeLaney, Col. Matthew Willoughby, Col. John Sharp, William King Esq. George Morrison, Jacob Isely, Jacob Bealer, Joseph Bealer, John Peters, Maj. Christopher Taylor, Rev. Felix Earnest, William Willoughby, Robert Elder, the affidavit of Col. Moses Shelby, and a multitude of others that might be added—all of whom either participated in the battle of King's Mountain, or speak from long tradition and the information of those who did, and who are now no more.

In Col. Sevier's letter to me of the 17th January, 1810, he says, "It is true that Col. Campbell was not within one quarter of a mile when the enemy surrendered to yourself and me." In another letter of the 27th of August, 1812, when speaking of the battle of King's Mountain, he says "It is well known you were in the heat of the action. I frequently saw you animating your men to victory; at the surrender you were the first field officer I recollect to have seen. I have no doubt you must recollect Col. Campbell was some considerable distance from that place, at that time, and that you and myself spoke on the subject the same evening. I perfectly recollect on my seeing you at the close of the action, that I swore by G—d they had burnt off your hair, for it was much burnt on one side. It is well known by some hundreds in Tennessee that you were Colonel on that campaign, and that we were the only persons who set on foot the expedition, and had considerable trouble to get Campbell to join us."

Gen. Kennedy (who belonged on that day to Sevier's column) states, that he was a captain in the battle of King's Mountain, and fought on the eastwardly quarter where Campbell's regiment was also engaged; that he saw me frequently, but does "not recollect to have seen Col. Campbell during the action," &c. In his statement he further says, "I was within sixty or seventy yards of the enemy when they raised the flag, and was close in with

them in a minute or two afterwards, and I well recollect to have seen Col. Shelby there, one of the first men I met with. I remember to have heard several men enquire for Col. Campbell before he came up, which was, I think, about fifteen minutes after the surrender. I also recollect to have heard it talked of in the army after the action, and for many years after when in conversation with men who were in that battle, that Col. Campbell was not at the surrender for some time after the enemy had laid down their arms."

Col. John Sawyers, (than whom there is no man more entitled to credit, as certified by the most distinguished gentlemen of Tennessee, states, that "Isaac Shelby, late Governor of Kentucky, held the command of Colonel at the battle of King's Mountain; that I was a captain in his regiment, and know that he first planned the expedition with John Sevier," &c. "He (Shelby) was also among the first at the surrender. I saw him and Col. Sevier when the enemy laid down their arms, but did not see Col. Campbell for some time afterwards. I also state, that Maj. Evan Shelby, brother to Isaac, and not Isaac Shelby, Sevier, or Campbell, as I have heard that some now state, received the flag and sword. I also state, that from this circumstance, I was led to think of Col. Campbell at the time, looking for him among the officers, and do believe if he had been there I should have seen him, and that he did not come up for 15 or 20 minutes after the enemy had laid down their arms and been placed under guard. I also know that it was the general talk at the time, and I have frequently since heard it spoken of by men who were in the action, as an indisputable fact, that he was not in the latter part of the action, or at the surrender. I also recollect distinctly to have heard it said amongst the officers before we left the mountain, as well as on the way home, and since, that Campbell himself admitted it, and in a private conversation with Col. Shelby, on the mountain, had said he could not account for it. I remember to have intended to ask Col. Shelby if this was so, but it has so happened that I have never mentioned this subject to him or him to me."

Maj. William DeLaney states, that "I was an orderly sergeant in the action of King's Mountain; that I was with Col. Shelby, and rode with him while placing a guard round the enemy after the surrender; that I did not see Col. Campbell in the latter part of the action, or at the surrender, for some minutes afterwards, and that I heard this spoken of at the time, as well as since. It is also my belief from what I understood at the time, (although I did not see it myself) that it was Major Evan Shelby, and neither of the four Colonels, that received the sword from the British officer in command."

Colonel Moses Shelby states upon oath, that he was twice wounded in the action on King's Mountain; that he was assisted down to a branch some small distance from the foot of the mountain on the east end, and that he saw Col. Campbell there, sitting on his black horse: this was about the middle of the action, and he knows that Col. Campbell did not leave that place until the battle was over, or until the firing had ceased."

Jacob Bealer states, that he was in Capt. Pemberton's company in the battle of King's Mountain, "and amongst the very first at the place of surrender." "The commander asked for our General, and gave his sword first to Major Evan Shelby, who kept it until Col. Campbell came up, which was twenty minutes, and I think longer, afterwards. From the discourse which I heard between Col. Shelby and the British officers, I know that Campbell was not there, and that it was that length of time before he came up."

Joseph Bealer certifies, that "I was at the surrender with my brother (Jacob Bealer) at his side, and saw and heard what he has stated in the above certificate, and know it to be true, and have always spoken of them, and heard them spoken of by those who were there, in this way."

John Peters also states, that he "was in Capt. Pemberton's company with Jacob and Joseph Bealer, and amongst the first at the surrender. That I know of my own knowledge that what Jacob Bealer has stated in his certificate is true; that the enemy surrendered, and there was a ring made round them, 15 or 20 minutes before I looked up, and saw Col. Campbell coming with two or three others down the mountain; this is what I have always heard, and never heard it contradicted."

The statements of the other individuals who are above named tend to confirm the same facts. They are subjoined. With respect to the certificates published by Mr. Preston, I shall leave the public to compare with them the facts I have stated, and form their own judgment. I will observe, however, that John McCulloch is the only one of those whose

statements have been published, that I have had an opportunity of communicating with, and he has certified that he never signed the certificate published as his. The statement which he there makes, "that he saw Col. Campbell at the enemy's march," &c. is very unimportant and proves nothing. That "march" was at the east end of the mountain and 400 or 600 yards from where the enemy surrendered.

The testimonials which I have now exhibited, will satisfy the world that the statements contained in my letters are true.

I deeply and sincerely regret the necessity that has been cast upon me of discussing in defence of my own character, a subject so delicate and so invidious. It is a controversy that I have not sought; it is one that I would have avoided if any alternative had been left me. My letters to Col. Sevier were written in all the confidence of a private correspondence with an old friend. I question not the motives that influenced his son to publish them after the death of his father. But certainly it was an event altogether unexpected by me. The circumstances under which those letters were written, the person to whom addressed, and their private and confidential character, must convince the world that I did not write them for the purpose of defaming the memory of Col. Campbell, or with any design of giving invidious publicity to the unpleasant truths which they contain. And if to have spoken the truth require an apology—if one be due either to the living or the dead, the circumstances of the case amply furnish it; and ought to have mitigated the violence and injustice with which Mr. Preston has assailed me. I do not say this to deprecate the wrath or censure of any one;—for I am conscious of no impropriety and I fear no consequences.

Mr. Preston states, that I have charged Col. Campbell with cowardice. I have made no such charge. I have stated facts only, and cowardice is the inference or construction he chooses to make. The facts stated, I know to be true, yet I do not believe Col. Campbell was a coward. I believe that in the commencement and first part of the action he acted bravely; and that his subsequent conduct was the effect of some unaccountable panic, to which the bravest men are subject. Such at least are the sentiments which I have indulged and cherished; and these combined with my regard for Col. Campbell, and his relatives and connections, will not only furnish a ready answer to the question so exultingly asked by Mr. Preston, why I did not long ago denounce his ancestor to the world as a coward and paltrian?—but will also account for my long and habitual silence on the subject. They will account, too, when taken in conjunction with Col. Campbell's good conduct during a part of the action, for the expressions which Mr. Preston has quoted as used by me in the epigraph letter to which he alludes. I can only say that I have no recollection of that letter. I pretend not however to doubt its existence, since it is affirmed by Mr. Preston; and it having ever been my wish to shield the memory of Col. Campbell from reproach.

As to the document of "curious character," (the report of the battle, &c. signed by the officers) to which Mr. Preston so triumphantly refers as furnishing corroboration to the statements contained in my letters; it may be remarked that it was not drawn up on King's Mountain, nor until some days after we had left it—that it is nothing more than a brief and hurried account in general terms of the expedition and the battle, drawn up to authenticate the intelligence of our victory and give tone to public report. This document, inaccurate, indefinite as it is in some particulars, furnishes none of those contradictions which Mr. Preston has supposed to exist.

To make out one of those supposed contradictions, he quotes that part of it which states; "The troops upon the right having gained the summit of the eminence, obliged the enemy to retreat along the top of the ridge to where Col. Cleveland commanded, and were there stopped by his brave men;—a flag was hoisted," &c. Having interpolated, in parenthesis, after the word "right," in the above quotation, the words "Colonel Campbell's division," Mr. Preston exclaims, thus it is given under Colonel Shelby's own hand in 1780, that the enemy was routed by the division under Colonel Campbell in person." The document authorizes no such conclusion, and it is only rendered plausible from the interpolation which he has made. The truth is, as I have before stated it, that a great part of the column commanded by Sevier owing to the heavy fire in front of the two centre columns, was drawn into the action. This fact is proved by the certificates of Messrs. Kennedy, Taylor, and Earnest, who belonged to Sevier's column on that day.