

LOCAL, THURSDAY, JULY 29, 1880.

From and after the 1st day of January, 1880, the subscription price of the Watchman will be as follows: One year, \$1.50; payment delayed 3 months, 2.00; payment delayed 12 months, 2.50.

Another letter from our townsman, Mr. Wm. Murdoch, reached us this morning a day too late for this paper. Shall appear next week.

FIVE PEACHES.—Mr. Wm. A. Canble left at our office a sample of the Foster peach, raised on his farm, equal to the best possible specimens of this fruit.

MARRIED.—This morning, by D. L. Bringle, Esq., Wm. A. Bassinger and Margaret M. Holtshouser.

SCOTCH IRISH.—I have no hesitation in saying that G. A. Bingham is popular in this township for sheriff.

FIVE PEACHES.—Mr. Wm. A. Canble left at our office a sample of the Foster peach, raised on his farm, equal to the best possible specimens of this fruit.

A STRAW.—As a sign of the times we will mention the full amount of interesting news being set up a pole and raise a flag.

"The South Atlantic" for July is to hand this morning. Each No. out shows some improvement on the one preceding it.

WEST, N. C. R.—The trains now run daily on this line without exception, leaving Salisbury at 10:30 P. M., and arriving at the seat of the Road at 9:10 A. M.

The attention of teachers of Public Schools in this County is called to the fact that O. D. Davis, the County Examiner, will be at the Court House on the second Thursday, Friday and Saturday of August and October for the purpose of granting certificates to such applicants as pass an approved mental examination and produce sufficient evidence of good moral character.

BARN BURNED.—Mrs. Jane Knox, in Scotch Irish Township, had the misfortune in June last, to lose her barn together with its contents—her whole crop of wheat, two horses and two mules of her own.

Misfortunes crowded thick on this unfortunate lady: Only a week before her husband was removed by death.

"Boom! Boom!" the loud 12 pounders fell over the "bright blue sea" in the Rev. J. Rump's stable yard.

The Rowan Artillery stored their pieces in the above named place for safety, and some of our young Americans could not resist the temptation of firing them, which little bit of mischief always took place at the hour of midnight.

When it was discovered that their fun disturbed several sick persons in the neighborhood the gallant disturbers of the quiet night refrained from further demonstration.

FLAG RAISING.—The Democrats of Rowan County, in honor of the late President Lincoln, have arranged to have a grand flag raising on Monday next.

The pole is 119 feet in height, and one of the most graceful we have ever seen.

The flag, new and beautiful, is about 20x30, and will be lifted high enough to be seen for many miles around.

On last Friday we embarked for the little city of Lexington on a brief hunting excursion, and our trip was crowned with success and comfort.

Mr. Fleming was the ablest speaker in the field two days ago, and would have been elected had it not been for the crazy notion some people took up about the ability of David Barringer to save the nation from woes.

Mr. Blackmer is a man of large experience, thoroughly informed on all subjects of interest to the people, and by his influence and ability can and will, more successfully represent Rowan than any candidate who has yet signified a willingness to run.

We succeeded in having our man brought to Salisbury and safely lodged in jail. His name is Bill Johnson, the same fellow who burglarized the house of Mrs. Lizzie Correll last May.

Mr. Editor: Allow me to present to the people of Rowan for a seat in the Commons, the name of JOHN S. HENDERSON, Esq.

As for Sheriff, our people are tired of fooling away their time with men who abide the action of Conventions when they receive the nomination, but run as independents when they fail to get it.

Mr. Editor: The gentleman whose name heads this article, has been urged by his many friends both in and out of the city to allow his name to go before the several townships as a candidate for the Legislature.

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The Gentleman from Atwell has this floor. No of families visited. "Of Population, white, "of "colored, Total population, 3,319. No of farms occupied, 372. " "unoccupied, 15. Total farms above 5 acres 303. No of Horses 407 estimated value, \$16,230. " "Mules 270 " " 13,500. " "Bales Cotton 855 " " 44,250. " "Bu. Corn 52,300 " " 20,290. " "Bu. Wheat 15,540 " " 19,425. " "Bu. Oats 7,500 " " 2,800. Estimated value of farms, machinery, implements, stock and products for the year 1879, \$563,000. I take pleasure in acknowledging the uniform kindness and courtesy extended to me by the citizens while in the discharge of my duties. W. A. HODGK.

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Locke Township. July, 28th, 1880. Mr. Editor: We observe in the last issue of the Watchman that some person, purporting to represent Locke township, suggests the name of G. A. Bingham as a suitable candidate for sheriff. Let it be considered that all the voters of Locke endorse this suggestion, we, many voters in said township, while not disparaging the qualifications of Mr. Bingham or any one else, recommend the nomination of C. F. Waggoner for the office of sheriff. We do so, because his efficiency, fidelity and integrity have been amply tested by his long, faithful and impartial discharge of all the responsible duties of that office, and because, we believe, he enjoys, in an eminent degree, the confidence of the good people of Rowan and can poll a large vote for sheriff than any man in the county.

He is modest and unassuming, courteous and gentlemanly in all his bearings and relations, and while he has always voted the Democratic ticket, he does not feel incumbent upon himself to hide behind the public integrity of his Democracy, nor does he enjoy any military achievements to garnish his public record, or behind which he may entrench himself to solicit more acceptably the suffrages of the people. His record is before the people of Rowan, pure and unsullied. At each recurring election his fellow citizens have increased his majority, and we believe they will continue to endorse it, so long as capacity and efficiency, honesty and integrity are rightly appreciated and rewarded. MANY VOTERS.

Rowan County. BY J. R. MILITARY AFFAIRS. The Provincial Congress of North Carolina, held its fourth meeting at Halifax, beginning on the 4th of April, 1776. Rowan was represented by Griffith Balfour and Matthew Locke. This Congress was fully aware that the General Congress at Philadelphia was continuously moving towards a general declaration of Independence, and was in full sympathy with it. The North Carolina statesmen were well aware that independence could not be achieved except by a fearful struggle against the military power of Britain. In order to be ready for this emergency, the Judicial districts were made into Military districts, and a Brigadier General appointed for each. Griffith Balfour was appointed General for the Salisbury District. In Rowan county there were two Regiments and two sets of field officers. Of the first Regiment, Francis Locke was Colonel, Dubbins, Lieutenant Colonel, and James Brandon and James Smith, Majors. Of the second Regiment, (up the Catawba River) Christopher Beckman was Colonel, Charles McDowell, Lieutenant Colonel, and Hugh Brevard and George Wilfong, Majors. Among the company officers, we notice Martin Phifer, Captain; James Sumner, Lieutenant; Robert Haines and Jesse Saunders, with Lieutenants Wm. Brownfield, James Carr, William Caldwell, David Craig, Thomas Pickett, Wm. Clover, John Madaris and Pleasant Henderson. Among the officers of Light Horse companies, we notice Martin Phifer, Captain; James Sumner, Lieutenant; Valentine Beard, Cornet. These were all, or nearly all, from Rowan county. This military organization was intended for active service, whenever emergencies should arise. And the emergency for calling out the soldiers of the Salisbury District soon came. Early in June, the British Gen. Rutherford led nineteen hundred men across the mountains to scourge and hold in check the Cherokees. This was more of an excursion than a war, for there was no open enemy to face, nothing but hills and mountains and rivers to be overcome, and a secret enemy wlaying their march and firing upon them from wildernesses, or inaccessible crags along their way. But the object was accomplished and the Cherokees were compelled to sue for peace.

In the organization and drill of these military companies strange scenes were sometimes enacted. Mingled among the patriots there were often men disaffected to the cause of freedom. Some of these men had been regulators a few years before, and were in possession of that contest, terrible oath had been imposed upon them, which now entangled their consciences. When the Declaration of Independence had been made, and it was understood that they might soon be called to fight against the troops of England the disaffected began to draw back. In the company from the Forks of the Yadkin one of these strange scenes was once enacted. Captain Bryan of that company was disaffected, while the lieutenant, Richmond Pearson, was a whig. On the muster a dispute arose upon political matters between these two officers, and the company decided that this great national question should be decided by a fair fist fight between the Captain and the Lieutenant, and that the company should go with the victor. The fight came off in due time and manner, and Lieutenant Pearson succeeded in giving Captain

Bryan a sound thrashing. The Forks company after that became zealous whigs, while the crowd from Dutchman's Creek followed Captain Bryan and his lieutenant, Captain Pearson with his company to the field against Lord Cornwallis, as he passed through North Carolina. They were present at Cowan's Ford on the 1st of February, 1781, when General Davidson fell. Captain Richmond Pearson, the distinguished Chief Justice of North Carolina for so many years.

Capt. Bryan became a confirmed loyalist, and was the notorious Col. Bryan, who, according to Dr. Caruthers, on the spur of the moment collected eight hundred Tories in the Forks of the Yadkin, and marched them off to Anson Court House, to be put under the control of Lord Cornwallis. White Colonel Fanning headed the loyalists in the region of Deep River and the upper Cape Fear, and Colonels McNeil, Ray, Graham and McDougal did the same for the region of the lower Cape Fear and Pee Dee, and Col. Johnson Moore, with Major Welch connected with the Tories in the region of the loyalists' cause in Lincoln, Burke and Rutherford Counties. Colonel Bryan and Hampton, and Major Elrod were the Tory leaders of Rowan county. The chief field of their operations was the region called the Forks of the Yadkin. This was an extensive tract lying between the main Yadkin and the South Two streams, about five miles from Salisbury, called "The Point," and extending from "the Point" northward and westward for a distance of forty or fifty miles. There Col. Bryan ranged over plains and hills, through the Brushy mountains, to the foot-hills of the Blue Ridge. He was connected with the Tories of Fanning's troop only in a general way, and does not seem to have been like him, a cruel and blood thirsty man. In 1781 Col. Bryan headed his troop of loyalists in the partisan warfare in South Carolina. He was under Major Carden, at the military post established by Lord Rawdon at Hanging Rock, in South Carolina, in 1781. Major Wm. R. Davie, of North Carolina, with his cavalry troop and some Mecklenburg militia, under Col. Higgins, hastened to attack this post at Hanging Rock. As he was approaching he learned that three companies of Bryan's loyalists were encamped at a farm house, on their return from a foraging expedition. He immediately went in search of them, and soon made a "vigorous" attack upon them in front and rear, completely routing them and killing or wounding all of them but a few. The spoils of this victory were sixty horses and one hundred muskets. Major Davie, though an Englishman by birth, was a law student in Salisbury during the first years of the war. In 1779 he was elected lieutenant in a troop of horse raised in Mecklenburg and the Waxhaws, and was attached to Pulaski's legion. He soon rose to the rank of Major. But being wounded in the battle of Stono, below Charleston, he returned to Salisbury and resumed his studies. In the winter of 1780 he again raised a troop of cavalry, and in the absence of any statement to the contrary, he died honorably, and his company was raised in Rowan county, especially since Lieut. George Locke of Rowan, was in it. It was with these troops, and the Mecklenburg militia, that he cut to pieces Col. Bryan's companies at Hanging Rock. It was thus that our people were arrayed against each other, in this terrible struggle for liberty.

Col. Bryan was afterwards tried by the Courts of North Carolina for disloyalty to his country, but no act of inhumanity was proved against him, and no charge was made out except that of being in arms against his country.

From the time that Lord Cornwallis left the Forks of the Yadkin in the early part of 1775 until 1780, there were few, if any British troops in North Carolina. But during all these four years, the flower of the North Carolina soldiery were far from their homes in the North under Gen. Washington, or in the South under Gen. Lincoln, Gates or other National Commanders. Thus we read in history that the North Carolina Continentals and a brigade of militia under Gen. John Ashe, were present at Charleston, June 28th, 1776, when Sir Peter Parker was beaten off from Fort Mifflin on Sullivan's Island. At the same time Gen. Rutherford, of Rowan, with Colonels Polk of Mecklenburg and Martin of Guilford, marched nineteen hundred men against the Indians in the State of Tennessee. Early in 1777 the North Carolina Continentals went to the support of General Washington in the North. The whole of the North Carolina Continentals were with General Washington at the battle of Brandywine, Sept. 11th, 1777. North Carolinians were also at the battle of Princeton. At Germantown, also North Carolina troops made for themselves a glorious record, and on that fatal field was poured out some of the best blood of the State. There Gen. Francis Nash, of Orange County, brother to Gov. Abernash, commanded a brigade under Gen. Washington, and fell in battle. There too fell Col. Edward Bland and Col. Lew. besides a large number of subalterns and privates. In 1778 the North Carolina Continentals were found engaged in the battle of Monmouth. Shortly after this time all the North Carolina battalions, except the third and fifth were transferred under Gen. Lincoln to Charleston, South Carolina. In 1779 the North Carolina Continentals, militia under Gen. Ashe, at the battle of Brier Creek, in Georgia. In consequence of the precipitation of Gen. Lincoln in rushing untrained militia upon dangerous ground, this affair of Brier Creek, was a defeat. But immediately after this disaster, the North Carolina troops ordered the enrollment of eight thousand new levies. These were placed under the command of Gen. Richard Caswell. In the year 1779, Gen. Lincoln's forces at Charleston consisted chiefly of six North Carolina battalions. These, by years of service, had become veterans. Gen. Lincoln divided these battalions in the centre, while Major Wm. R. Davie with his mounted troops led on the right, at the bloody battle of Stono. And when on the 12th of May 1780, Gen. Lincoln surrendered Charleston to Sir Henry Clinton, all the North Carolina Continentals and a thousand of her militia, became prisoners of war. This was a terrible blow to North Carolina, at this particular juncture. Lord Cornwallis at once assumed charge of the British forces and marched towards North Carolina, at the very time when her entire forces of trained soldiers were consigned to an enforced military inactivity. But to make matters worse Caswell, with a considerable portion of the North Carolina militia, became connected with Gen. Gates's army, and on the 15th and 16th of August of the same year, sustained the disastrous defeat near Camden, South Carolina. General Rutherford, with Colonels Lockhart and Geddy were among the captives. Major Davie with his small band of troops, still held the ground around the Waxhaws, while General Jethro Sumner and Col. Davidson still kept the field with a few North Carolina militia on the borders of the State. But even these were pressed back as far as Charlotte by the British forces. With one hundred and fifty cavalry, and fourteen volunteers under Major Graham, Colonel Davie gave Tarleton's legion a warm reception at Charlotte Court House. But they could not hold their ground against overwhelming numbers. Retreating on the Salisbury Road a skirmish occurred between Charlotte and Sugar Creek Church, at which Lieut. George Locke was slain. Lord Cornwallis did not remain long at Charlotte. So hostile were the people,

and so much did bodis of armed men harass his troops on their foraging excursions, that Cornwallis bestowed upon that section the name of the "Hornet's Nest," a name that every patriotic son of Mecklenburg cherishes as fondly as an Englishman does the title of Knight-hood, or the decorations of the Star and Garter. Col. Tarleton says, "It was evident, and had been frequently mentioned to the King's officers, that the counties of Mecklenburg and Rowan (Rowan) were more hostile to England than any others in America. The vigilance and animosity of these surrounding districts checked the exertions of the well affected and totally destroyed all communication between the King's troops, and loyalists in other parts of the province. No British commander could obtain any information in that position which would facilitate his designs, or guide his future conduct." Steatman says that the only way they could secure their foraging parties from destruction was for Lord Rawdon to take one half of the army one day, and Colonel Webster the other half the next day to protect them from the inhabitants.

Owing to these causes, and further, to the destruction of Ferguson, at King's Mountain, the 7th of October, Lord Cornwallis determined to return to South Carolina. Such was the condition of matters in North Carolina at the time when Lord Cornwallis re-entered the State, the 20th of Jan. 1781. During this time the able bodied men were either in the troops of Col. Davie, Col. Locke, or Colonel William Davidson, or were prisoners of war, or on parole, and therefore prevented from taking up arms. As a consequence the women of that day were left at home, often entirely unprotected, or with only the old men and the boys, the former too old, the latter too young, for military duty. But these ladies were the mothers, the daughters, the sisters, and sweet-hearts of heroes on the tent field, and their hearts burned with patriotic feelings. Those whom they loved were exposed to hardship and danger in behalf of their homes and families, and thus the love of the patriots, cause was not with them an abstraction, or a mere sentiment, but an undying passion. As an illustration of the feelings of the ladies, an illustration of "The Picture Book" (vol. 2, p. 626, note 2.) "On one occasion, the young ladies of Mecklenburg and Rowan entered into a pledge not to receive the attentions of young men who would not volunteer in defense of the country, they being of the opinion that such persons as stay loitering at home, when the important calls of the country demand their military services abroad, must certainly be destitute of that nobleness of sentiment, that brave and manly spirit, which would qualify them to be the defenders and guardians of the fair sex." (From S. C. Gazette, Feb. 1780.) As early as May 1776, the young ladies of Rowan had taken important action upon this subject. At a meeting of the Committee of Safety of that date, we have the following entry upon the Minutes, viz: "A letter from a number of young ladies in the county, directed to the Chairman, requesting the appointment of a committee to a number of persons, to be named, entered into, and signed by the same young ladies, being read."

Resolved, That this Committee present their cordial thanks to the said young ladies for so spirited a performance, look upon these resolutions to be sensible and politic; that they merit the honor, and art worthy the imitation of every young lady in America.

What a pity that we have not a copy of these spirited resolutions, and the names of the fair signers! They were probably similar to those entered into by the Mecklenburg and Rowan ladies four years later, including perhaps a resolution in behalf of simplicity in dress, abstinence from luxuries, and sympathy with the cause of Independence, not yet declared at Philadelphia. And then the names! Who were they? Daughters of the Brandons, Lockes, Youngs, Chambers, Gillespies, Osbornes, Davidsons, Winslows, Simontons, Brevards, Sharpes, no doubt, but the dainty signatures to the "spirited performance" are lost, and the fair fingers that signed them have mouldered away. For it is not 104 years since all this was done! A further illustration of maternity love and self denial in behalf of the cause of liberty will be recited in its proper place.

Oxford Turnip: We have in our possession a sweet potato that is twenty-six years old. It is of the "yam" species and was raised on Mrs. Martha Taylor's farm near Oxford. It was dug on the 24th of October, 1854, and then weighed ten and three-quarter pounds. It now weighs less than one pound. Mrs. Taylor kept this potato on the mantelpiece, in her sitting room for five or six years, during which time the vines grew and ran over the clock up to the ceiling. This same potato was exhibited at the Henderson Agricultural Fair in 1855, and is now on its way to the Agricultural Museum at Raleigh. The vineyards and orchards of the North Carolina Wine Company are situated on the line of the Raleigh & Gaston Railroad, one a half miles from Kittrell Depot. They were started in 1867 by S. B. Hunt, Esq., who has added to his vineyard every year since, until it now covers sixty acres of land. The Scuppernon, Ives, Hartford, Catawba, Concord and Clinton varieties are cultivated. The Ives makes the finest claret. It requires one bushel of grapes to make four gallons of wine. The Concord and Hartford Prolific are most subject to rot. Hartfords and Ives are the earliest varieties and the Ives is regarded the most profitable.

ANNOUNCEMENTS. To the Voters of Rowan County: I hereby announce myself as a candidate for re-election to the office of Register of Deeds of Rowan county, subject to the action of the Democratic County Convention. July 29th, 1880. H. N. WOODSON.

To the Voters of Rowan County: I hereby announce myself as a candidate for re-election for the office of County Treasurer, subject to the action of the Democratic County Convention. J. SAM'L. McCUBBINS, JR. July 29th, 1880.

BILIOUS FEVERS. Obstructions of the Liver, Weakness of the Stomach, Torpor of the Bowels, caused by the clogging of the secretory organs, are what prey the way for fevers. Set the liver and stomach at work, cleanse the blood, and fever can obtain no hold. The one way to do this is by using Dr. Flag's Improved Liver and Stomach Pills. No doses are to be taken.

Better Times. The Democrat, New Orleans, La., says: "Suffering among such as have been troubled with diseases of kidneys and liver, has been perceptibly better since the introduction among us of Warner's Safe Kidney and Liver Care."

"ACORN COOK STOVE" WILLIAMS BROWN. Has the exclusive sale of this celebrated Cook Stove and they are going off like hot cakes. 7-11

R. Frank Graham GROCER AND CONFECTIONER. At the Old Book-Store Stand, next door to Barker's Drug Store. COUNTRY PRODUCE Bought for Cash. His friends are respectfully invited to call and see him.

The Gentleman from Atwell has this floor. No of families visited. "Of Population, white, "of "colored, Total population, 3,319. No of farms occupied, 372. " "unoccupied, 15. Total farms above 5 acres 303. No of Horses 407 estimated value, \$16,230. " "Mules 270 " " 13,500. " "Bales Cotton 855 " " 44,250. " "Bu. Corn 52,300 " " 20,290. " "Bu. Wheat 15,540 " " 19,425. " "Bu. Oats 7,500 " " 2,800. Estimated value of farms, machinery, implements, stock and products for the year 1879, \$563,000. I take pleasure in acknowledging the uniform kindness and courtesy extended to me by the citizens while in the discharge of my duties. W. A. HODGK.

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In the organization and drill of these military companies strange scenes were sometimes enacted. Mingled among the patriots there were often men disaffected to the cause of freedom. Some of these men had been regulators a few years before, and were in possession of that contest, terrible oath had been imposed upon them, which now entangled their consciences. When the Declaration of Independence had been made, and it was understood that they might soon be called to fight against the troops of England the disaffected began to draw back. In the company from the Forks of the Yadkin one of these strange scenes was once enacted. Captain Bryan of that company was disaffected, while the lieutenant, Richmond Pearson, was a whig. On the muster a dispute arose upon political matters between these two officers, and the company decided that this great national question should be decided by a fair fist fight between the Captain and the Lieutenant, and that the company should go with the victor. The fight came off in due time and manner, and Lieutenant Pearson succeeded in giving Captain

Bryan a sound thrashing. The Forks company after that became zealous whigs, while the crowd from Dutchman's Creek followed Captain Bryan and his lieutenant, Captain Pearson with his company to the field against Lord Cornwallis, as he passed through North Carolina. They were present at Cowan's Ford on the 1st of February, 1781, when General Davidson fell. Captain Richmond Pearson, the distinguished Chief Justice of North Carolina for so many years.

Capt. Bryan became a confirmed loyalist, and was the notorious Col. Bryan, who, according to Dr. Caruthers, on the spur of the moment collected eight hundred Tories in the Forks of the Yadkin, and marched them off to Anson Court House, to be put under the control of Lord Cornwallis. White Colonel Fanning headed the loyalists in the region of Deep River and the upper Cape Fear, and Colonels McNeil, Ray, Graham and McDougal did the same for the region of the lower Cape Fear and Pee Dee, and Col. Johnson Moore, with Major Welch connected with the Tories in the region of the loyalists' cause in Lincoln, Burke and Rutherford Counties. Colonel Bryan and Hampton, and Major Elrod were the Tory leaders of Rowan county. The chief field of their operations was the region called the Forks of the Yadkin. This was an extensive tract lying between the main Yadkin and the South Two streams, about five miles from Salisbury, called "The Point," and extending from "the Point" northward and westward for a distance of forty or fifty miles. There Col. Bryan ranged over plains and hills, through the Brushy mountains, to the foot-hills of the Blue Ridge. He was connected with the Tories of Fanning's troop only in a general way, and does not seem to have been like him, a cruel and blood thirsty man. In 1781 Col. Bryan headed his troop of loyalists in the partisan warfare in South Carolina. He was under Major Carden, at the military post established by Lord Rawdon at Hanging Rock, in South Carolina, in 1781. Major Wm. R. Davie, of North Carolina, with his cavalry troop and some Mecklenburg militia, under Col. Higgins, hastened to attack this post at Hanging Rock. As he was approaching he learned that three companies of Bryan's loyalists were encamped at a farm house, on their return from a foraging expedition. He immediately went in search of them, and soon made a "vigorous" attack upon them in front and rear, completely routing them and killing or wounding all of them but a few. The spoils of this victory were sixty horses and one hundred muskets. Major Davie, though an Englishman by birth, was a law student in Salisbury during the first years of the war. In 1779 he was elected lieutenant in a troop of horse raised in Mecklenburg and the Waxhaws, and was attached to Pulaski's legion. He soon rose to the rank of Major. But being wounded in the battle of Stono, below Charleston, he returned to Salisbury and resumed his studies. In the winter of 1780 he again raised a troop of cavalry, and in the absence of any statement to the contrary, he died honorably, and his company was raised in Rowan county, especially since Lieut. George Locke of Rowan, was in it. It was with these troops, and the Mecklenburg militia, that he cut to pieces Col. Bryan's companies at Hanging Rock. It was thus that our people were arrayed against each other, in this terrible struggle for liberty.

Col. Bryan was afterwards tried by the Courts of North Carolina for disloyalty to his country, but no act of inhumanity was proved against him, and no charge was made out except that of being in arms against his country.

From the time that Lord Cornwallis left the Forks of the Yadkin in the early part of 1775 until 1780, there were few, if any British troops in North Carolina. But during all these four years, the flower of the North Carolina soldiery were far from their homes in the North under Gen. Washington, or in the South under Gen. Lincoln, Gates or other National Commanders. Thus we read in history that the North Carolina Continentals and a brigade of militia under Gen. John Ashe, were present at Charleston, June 28th, 1776, when Sir Peter Parker was beaten off from Fort Mifflin on Sullivan's Island. At the same time Gen. Rutherford, of Rowan, with Colonels Polk of Mecklenburg and Martin of Guilford, marched nineteen hundred men against the Indians in the State of Tennessee. Early in 1777 the North Carolina Continentals went to the support of General Washington in the North. The whole of the North Carolina Continentals were with General Washington at the battle of Brandywine, Sept. 11th, 1777. North Carolinians were also at the battle of Princeton. At Germantown, also North Carolina troops made for themselves a glorious record, and on that fatal field was poured out some of the best blood of the State. There Gen. Francis Nash, of Orange County, brother to Gov. Abernash, commanded a brigade under Gen. Washington, and fell in battle. There too fell Col. Edward Bland and Col. Lew. besides a large number of subalterns and privates. In 1778 the North Carolina Continentals were found engaged in the battle of Monmouth. Shortly after this time all the North Carolina battalions, except the third and fifth were transferred under Gen. Lincoln to Charleston, South Carolina. In 1779 the North Carolina Continentals, militia under Gen. Ashe, at the battle of Brier Creek, in Georgia. In consequence of the precipitation of Gen. Lincoln in rushing untrained militia upon dangerous ground, this affair of Brier Creek, was a defeat. But immediately after this disaster, the North Carolina troops ordered the enrollment of eight thousand new levies. These were placed under the command of Gen. Richard Caswell. In the year 1779, Gen. Lincoln's forces at Charleston consisted chiefly of six North Carolina battalions. These, by years of service, had become veterans. Gen. Lincoln divided these battalions in the centre, while Major Wm. R. Davie with his mounted troops led on the right, at the bloody battle of Stono. And when on the 12th of May 1780, Gen. Lincoln surrendered Charleston to Sir Henry Clinton, all the North Carolina Continentals and a thousand of her militia, became prisoners of war. This was a terrible blow to North Carolina, at this particular juncture. Lord Cornwallis at once assumed charge of the British forces and marched towards North Carolina, at the very time when her entire forces of trained soldiers were consigned to an enforced military inactivity. But to make matters worse Caswell, with a considerable portion of the North Carolina militia, became connected with Gen. Gates's army, and on the 15th and 16th of August of the same year, sustained the disastrous defeat near Camden, South Carolina. General Rutherford, with Colonels Lockhart and Geddy were among the captives. Major Davie with his small band of troops, still held the ground around the Waxhaws, while General Jethro Sumner and Col. Davidson still kept the field with a few North Carolina militia on the borders of the State. But even these were pressed back as far as Charlotte by the British forces. With one hundred and fifty cavalry, and fourteen volunteers under Major Graham, Colonel Davie gave Tarleton's legion a warm reception at Charlotte Court House. But they could not hold their ground against overwhelming numbers. Retreating on the Salisbury Road a skirmish occurred between Charlotte and Sugar Creek Church, at which Lieut. George Locke was slain. Lord Cornwallis did not remain long at Charlotte. So hostile were the people,

and so much did bodis of armed men harass his troops on their foraging excursions, that Cornwallis bestowed upon that section the name of the "Hornet's Nest," a name that every patriotic son of Mecklenburg cherishes as fondly as an Englishman does the title of Knight-hood, or the decorations of the Star and Garter. Col. Tarleton says, "It was evident, and had been frequently mentioned to the King's officers, that the counties of Mecklenburg and Rowan (Rowan) were more hostile to England than any others in America. The vigilance and animosity of these surrounding districts checked the exertions of the well affected and totally destroyed all communication between the King's troops, and loyalists in other parts of the province. No British commander could obtain any information in that position which would facilitate his designs, or guide his future conduct." Steatman says that the only way they could secure their foraging parties from destruction was for Lord Rawdon to take one half of the army one day, and Colonel Webster the other half the next day to protect them from the inhabitants.

Owing to these causes, and further, to the destruction of Ferguson, at King's Mountain, the 7th of October, Lord Cornwallis determined to return to South Carolina. Such was the condition of matters in North Carolina at the time when Lord Cornwallis re-entered the State, the 20th of Jan. 1781. During this time the able bodied men were either in the troops of Col. Davie, Col. Locke, or Colonel William Davidson, or were prisoners of war, or on parole, and therefore prevented from taking up arms. As a consequence the women of that day were left at home, often entirely unprotected, or with only the old men and the boys, the former too old, the latter too young, for military duty. But these ladies were the mothers, the daughters, the sisters, and sweet-hearts of heroes on the tent field, and their hearts burned with patriotic feelings. Those whom they loved were exposed to hardship and danger in behalf of their homes and families, and thus the love of the patriots, cause was not with them an abstraction, or a mere sentiment, but an undying passion. As an illustration of the feelings of the ladies, an illustration of "The Picture Book" (vol. 2, p. 626, note 2.) "On one occasion, the young ladies of Mecklenburg and Rowan entered into a pledge not to receive the attentions of young men who would not volunteer in defense of the country, they being of the opinion that such persons as stay loitering at home, when the important calls of the country demand their military services abroad, must certainly be destitute of that nobleness of sentiment, that brave and manly spirit, which would qualify them to be the defenders and guardians of the fair sex." (From S. C. Gazette, Feb. 1780.) As early as May 1776, the young ladies of Rowan had taken important action upon this subject. At a meeting of the Committee of Safety of that date, we have the following entry upon the Minutes, viz: "A letter from a number of young ladies in the county, directed to the Chairman, requesting the appointment of a committee to a number of persons, to be named, entered into, and signed by the same young ladies, being read."