It may not be amiss to reply briefly to of any new light or shadows he has thrown attractive manner in which his arguments of presented may serve to raise doubts in the minds of casual readers of newspapers who may not have at hand the facts and arguments which are confidently relied upones proving the genuine authenticity the Meclenburg Declaration of the 20th of May.

It will be deemed sufficient simply to refer to and reproduce some of the main facts and circumstances that are relied upon as proving that this Declaration is gen-

Mr. Goodloe's theory evidently is that but was then or shortly theretofore manuactured and forged by some person or him. other and for some purpose or other—the meeting and resolutions of the 31st of May, 1775, being admitted by Mr. Goodhe to be genuine and well authenticated, Now let us examine this theory in the

light of the testimony.

There is a copy of the Mecklenourg Declaration in the State Department in Ra'eigh in the handwriting of John Mc-Kaill Alexander, according to the testi-mony of the late Dr. Samuel Henderson of Mecklenburg county. The existence of such a paper is admitted by Mr. Goodlee, but his position in regard to it is left in doubt, either intentionally or otherwise on his part. He does not state whether he discredits the testimony of Dr. Henderon as to this paper boing in J. McKnitt Alexander's handwriting, or whether he accepts that as true, and still believes the decoment a forgery. He does, however, very directly assail the credibility of Dr. Henderson's testimony, and he does this by contrasting his certificate with another certificate in relation to the same paper, and drawing the conclusion that the une cannot be reconciled with the other. The two certificates are as follows:

Dr. Joseph McKnitt says: "The foregoing (to-wit, a paper purporting to be a e py of the Mecklenburg Declaration of 20th May, 1775, as published in the Raleigh Register of April 30th, 1819, referrid to as A,) is a true copy of the paper on the above subject left in my hands by John McKnitt Alexander, deceased, I of the proceedings was sent to Hugh Williamson in New York, then writing a nistory of North Carolina, and that a copy was sent to Gen. W. R. Davie,"

D. Samuel Henderson ways : " 1, Samration of 20th May, referred to as B,) was body else. obtained by me from Maj Wm. Davie, in present situation, soon after the death of his father, Gen. Wm. R. Davie, and given to Dr. Joseph McKnitt by me. In searching for some particular paper I came across this, and knowing the handwriting of John McKnitt Alexander, took it up and examined it. Maj. Davis said to me, (when saked how it became torn,) his sisters had torn it, not knowing whit

Mr. Goodioe finds (www "irreconcilable that the paper was a copy of the paper conspired to perpetrate a most e der, while Dr. Henderson certifies that he obtained it knowing it to be in the handwriting of J. McKnitt Alexder in its present situation (that is, form.) and gave it to Dr. Jon McKnitt"strangely confounding and making one paper out of two very distinct papers.

Now according to the above certificate of Dr. McKnitt, (and there is an abundance of other testimony to the same stroyed by fire in April, 1800. It also appears from the above certificate of Dr. McKnitt (and the statement is abundantly McKnitt Alexander himself and others), hat he, McKnitt Alexander, had made at | destroyed, one of which he Gen. W. R. Davie, and the had sout to: Gen. ther to Hugh Williamson, who was then history of North Carolina, thes clearly the paper referred to by Dr. Hendersor, as well as that referred to by more. Neither of them purported to be the original, but only copies of the same original. And breatter, formooth, one of the witnesses speaks of one of them as a copy, and the other witness happens to call the other a paper, Mr. Goodloe pro-nounces the two certificates irree-neilable and rejects the evidence in total

The language of Dr. McKnitt's certificale is manifestly elliptical, and should be read thus: "The foregoing is a true copy of the papers on the above subject, which opy was left in my hands," de.,; then and on to speak of the original as burn-'a copy sent to Hugh Wilsenson and a copy sent to Gen. Davie. The other discrepancy between the two ortificates as pointed out by Mr. Goodles this: "Dr. Henderson says he obtained the paper from Maj. Davie shortly after ath of his father, Geo. W. R. Davie, which event I learn from Wheeler took place in December, 1820, whereas the pa per marked A was published in the Haiegh Espister, April 30, 1819." Now, austy a good native North Carolinian, ike Mr. Goodloe, would not allow his out in buharf of the truck of history, albeit. in derogation of the fame of his accestors. and the pride and glory of his native State, to induce him to make an assertion and bring dishoner upon the memory of respectable old gentlemen" for But to screen him from this imputation it must be supposed that he unintentionally tenfounds two papers late one, as above there. By what authority could be asindexes (so being a copy of the 20th May Dectaration, in the handwriting of John McKales Alexander, in the office of he Secretary of State, Stateigh,)
To published in the Saigigh Separate of THE COLUMBIAN UNIVERSITY, not 1916, when according to the leuti-

ed in the office of the Secretary of State. It this is the identical paper published by the Register in 1819, the proof is greatly strengthened against Mr. Goodfor's posttion, for in that case the testimony is that the paper comes directly from John Mc Knitt Alexander, through the hands of Gen. Davic in his life time, or through Dr. the letters of Mr. Dariel R. Goodloe, recent y published in the Raleigh Senti RL, assaining the gentineness of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence of the 20th of May, 1775; not because of any new that he professes to have made, nor ment had been published ten years before of any new nighter; but because the high had allow the Register to publish this pathe certificate was made. If Gen. Davie per in 1819, he would naturally have re tained it in his possession, where according to the testimony, it was found after his death. If the publication is the Raleigh Register of April, 1830, was a torgery, Geo. Davie, who was therein referred to, and was then living, would have exposed it unless he was a bad man himself and willing by silent acquiescence to become a party to a most disgraceful and bare-faced fraud and torgery. A theory quite probable and perfectly consistent and then reply briefly to the argu-ments drawn by Mr. Gondloe from what

Alexander had allowed him to make, or with the two certificates is that Dr. Mche is pleased to term the intrinsic evidence had given him, as he had given copies to he is pleased to the Declaration itself of its Dr. Williamson and Gen. Davic. In 1819 Dr. McKnitt caused this to be published in the Raleigh Register. After Gen. Davie's the Mecklenburg Declaration, so called, of death, more than a year afterwards, Dr. Henderson found his Davie's 20th May, 1710, was never heard of and in his papers in the hand writing of John Henderson found his, Davie's, copy smong fact had no existence prior to that time, McKnitt Alexander, and knowing Dr. McKnitt's interest in the matter, sent it to The statements made, or the allegations

that such statements were made, by John McKnitt Alexander and others to the effect that he, J McK. A., had made and sent to Gen. Davie and Hugh Williamson each a copy of the Mecklenburg Declaration prior to the year 1800, are all talse according to Mr. Goodloe's theory. So the copies thus alleged to have been made and sent, at least the one in the archives in Raleigh, are forgeries, and the statements concern ing their origin, are all false; and in like manner the copy published by the Raleigh Register in 1819, whether the identical Davie copy or some other, was a rank and recent forgery.

But the herculean labor which Mr.

Goodloe has undertaken of discrediting and disgracing these "respectable old gentlemen," is not yet ended. The Rev. Humphrey Hunter, another respectable ald gentleman of that eventful period has had somewhat to say of that occur rence, and he must be disposed of. He says he was present on this 20th of May, 1775, in Charlotte, a deeply interested spectator, then twenty years old and some days. Dr. Hawks says of him that "after retiring from the service, having fought through the war, he became a clergyman in that region of country, exercising his office for more than thirty years with unblemished character." Being of a very literary turn of mind, he kept a journal th which he recorded the proceedings of find it mentioned on file that the original May, 1775, and a copy of the paper read book was burned April, 1800; that a copy by Col. Thomas Polk from the courthouse steps. This record he says he made contemporaneously with the events themselves. It was afterwards published to the world and is found to agree substan nel Henderson, do certify that the paper that accurence, which were written or that accurence, which were written or forced by J. McKnitt Alexander or sometially with the other papers relating to forgad by J. McKutt Alexander or some-

How do you suppose Mr. Goodloe gets over this old gentleman's statements?

Just like he gets over the statements of all the others, by saying he does not be lieve a word of it! Those old people, stsong whom the Rev. Mr. Hunter exercased his cierical office for thirty years, were mistaken in supposing he was a man of "unblemished character." Goodloe's theory is correct, he was a mis. erable old imposter and the truth was not Mr. Goedice finds (we "irreconcliable d strepancies" between these certificates as follower First "The McKnutt states as follower "The McKnutt states as follower First "The McKnutt states as follower "The McKnutt states as fol as follows: First, 'Dr. McKentt states Henderson, and a number of others, he and unmitigated falsehood in order to en-

graft a fraud and a chest upon the anna's of their country's history. But why and how does Mr. Goodlee find out that the Rev. Mr. Hunter is not telling the truth? Simply from the fact that "unfortunately his statement is taken verbatim from the same report I have just examined." In other words Hunter's account written in 1775 is in the same words effect) the dwelling, with the papers of one written in 1830; therefore the formula John McKeitt Alexander, including the original Declaration of May 20th, was determined by the containing much more reasonable to suppose that the writer of of one written in 1830; therefore the forter! It would be certainly much more reasonable to suppose that the writer of the report referred to, who was simply compiling and recording the events, had adopted the language of Hunter in order corroborated upon the authority of John to be perfectly accurate, than that a gentleman of the high character of Mr. Hunesst two copies of the original paper be foring somebody else's account and faisely alleging that the same was written by him contemporaneously with the event.

Still another formidable piece of evi-dence stands in the way of Mr. Goodloe's theory that the Meckleaburg Declaration Dr. McKnitt, was a copy and nothing 1819, and that all these statements and certificates to the effect that John McKnitt Alexander sent copies of it to Hagh Willismion and Gen. Davis, and perhaps others, before the year 1800, are false. It is this: Montford Stokes, who was Governor of North Carolina in 1831, asserted while Governor that in the year 1793 he asw in the possession of Williamson a copy of the document of the 20th May, 1775, in the hundwriting of John McKnitt Alexander / ' And how does Mr. Goodloe dispose of this testimony? Not by saying he does not believe, as in the case of the other witnesses, for he must feel that he has well nigh exhausted the pa-

> Gov. Stokes' testimony in a more complacent but equally effectual way-As token no notice of it at all. In another article the subject will be pursued and the intrinsic studence which Mr. Goodies thinks the document itself formshes of its own spurious character, will be noticed, and then extracts will be, given from the writings of a number of the most eminent statesmen and historians of North Caralins, including Hon. B. F. Moore and Gov. D. L. Swain, showing that with perfect unanimity they have procisimed to the world full faith in the Meckienburg Ductaration of 20th May as

tience of his readers in assailing the credi-

bility of witnesses. So he disposes of

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