

The following very singular occurrence happened during the American Revolutionary war.

Extract of a letter from Dr. M.—r.

Albany, December 27, 1778.

Business having called me hither, I went to view the hospital, where many of our army were sick; I observed with pleasure that no epidemical disease prevailed among them.

Passing through the large hall in the middle of the hospital, I perceived a soldier whose countenance struck me; he viewed me very attentively; finally called me. I drew nigh to him, and having seated myself, listened to him. I am a stranger, said he; however, can you not believe the words of an American soldier? The term of my engagement is almost expired: I have an extreme desire to return to my family, because I have heard that my brother is dead. I have found a man to take my place in the regiment. My father possesses considerable estate in Virginia; what would you think of me, should I request of you an hundred dollars? With that money I can pay the sum which I have agreed to pay, go from this hospital, and again join my relations. I have a great desire to quit this state before the fall of snow, which is very nigh: we have no posts—consequently there remain no means of informing my relations of my unhappy situation.

Struck by the bold but honest request, I examined the traits of his countenance very attentively; I consulted the secret impression which his physiognomy produced upon me, I thought that I saw the character of honesty, and granted him the sum which he had requested of me. The surprise which my facility occasioned, cut short his words for a moment; but he soon shed tears, which relieved him extremely; they were those of the most lively gratitude; he bathed my hands with them, and thanked me in the most energetic manner.

Some days after, he came to see me, informed me more particularly of the state of his family, and renewed his protestations of payment the first day of February following. I had no uneasiness, and had he never returned the sum which I had lent him, I should not have lost it; for I enjoyed an exquisite pleasure in the act which I had done, and still enjoy it, whenever it occurs to my mind. Methinks I still see all the gestures of the young man, all the traits of his countenance, expressing the return of hope and happiness. Methinks I still hear the cry of his gratitude rising towards the benefactor and towards heaven.

Five weeks after his departure, I received a letter from his father, his mother, and his uncle, a copy of which I send you (for I will preserve the original as long as I live.) Tell me, I pray you, what you think of the offers they have made me, and what I ought to do. If I accept this astonishing return of their gratitude, I shall be considered as a mercenary, who has obliged only with the view of augmenting his fortune. If I refuse entirely, may they not accuse me of pride? I know not what to do; shall I go to reside and live among strangers, by virtue of this singular adoption? I may perhaps expose myself to the reproaches of my friends, for it is not the opinion of the public I dread. Tell me I pray you, your opinion.

Virginia, Culpepper county, Nov. 18, 1778.

"I had two sons, one had already perished in these boisterous times, but he died defending his country; the other was also about to disappear, and you have saved his life by giving him the means by which he might come and rejoin his relations.

"Already afflicted by the death of the former, I became each day more unhappy, through fear that I should never again see the latter. But for you, perhaps this day we might have been childless. But tell us what was the motive which determined you to that generous action; to choose our son from among so many others, who equally merited your attention;—Blessed be the invisible hand which conducted you secretly towards his bed, and make you listen attentively to his proposal.

"He has informed us that the day was the 14th of October; let it be hereafter and epoch of annual joy in our family—I consecrate it, that it may be distinguished from others by the most fervent thanks to the Supreme Being, by a suspension of labor, and innocent pleasures. My servants shall partake with us the joy inspired by the sweet recollection. Suffer them to share in the general gratitude; do not despise the part which they may take, for they are men, and I have always treated them as such.

"You have procured for our son, health, liberty, and the pleasure of again visiting his relations: what benefits? Happily the young man has many friends and relations; had he not, the weight of his gratitude would be too much for him to bear. He has told me that you never have been a father; you cannot then conceive the joy, nor the paternal sensations which transport my heart; while nature has hidden them as a treasure from those to whom she has not given children.

"We are unacquainted with each other, it is true, but virtuous men are united by the bonds of intellectual consanguinity. Hereafter consider me as your friend; I will neglect nothing to merit that name: by the law of nature, I am the father of that son whom you have relieved; you are the adopted father whom nature hath given him in the critical moment when he was abandoned and in want; we are then brothers, and

heaven grant this new union may last forever! Come and join us, come and partake with us the possession and enjoyment of all we have. You are already incorporated in our family; come and take possession of that chair which awaits you at our table.

"My wife!—But who can express the chagrin, the affliction, the joy, the surprise, the love and all the different movements of her maternal sensibility! It was only by the most vehement wringings of her hands, by her tears, and by her sighs, that you could conceive the whole extent of her gratitude: Not only our whole family, but all our neighbourhood, to whom your name has already become dear, will receive you as you deserve, and will convince you that there are still souls which have not lost, among the cruelties of this war, those sentiments which distinguish virtuous men.

"To convince you that this letter is not formed of vague words, inspired by the sudden joy of sentiments which will soon evaporate, and be forgotten; to convince you that the impression made upon our hearts by your generosity, shall be as durable as the service which you have rendered us; the bearer of this letter, who is my brother's son, will deliver you an authentic and legal contract of one half of the plantation of ———, accompanied by a negro which I give you, a second coming from my son, a third from my wife's mother, and a servant from each of my brothers.

"This contract as well as the bill of sale as you will see by the indorsement, are signed, sealed and recorded according to law. This new property is irrevocably yours. Happy if our soil, our government, and our climate can persuade you to reside among us!—Join this small present to your fortune; come and dwell in Virginia, where your talents, your mercy and your humanity are already known, and will procure you all the advantages which the esteem of a grateful family, and an enlightened neighbourhood can procure. May the messenger which I send find you safe and sound, and bring you to our arms.

W—A—S—"

NEWYORK, July 25.

In the stores of some of our dry good merchants, we observe a neat tribute to the memory of the illustrious WASHINGTON—It is a pocket handkerchief, lately imported from Glasgow in Scotland, on which is wrought a scene representing the death of the Gen. attended by his two physicians, Mrs. Washington, and one of his domestics. On each side of the plate are appropriate inscriptions, of which the sentiments are so impressive that we cannot deny ourselves the pleasure of copying them.

On one side.

"He united and adorned many excellent characters; at once the patriot and politician; the soldier and the citizen; the husbandman and the hero; the favorite of the Genius of Liberty; the Father of American Independence; the promoter of her extensive and brotherly union; the pillar of her constitution; the President of her the Senate; and the Generalissimo of her armies.

"He was great in the Council and in the Field."

On the other side.

He possessed and displayed extraordinary abilities, exalted virtues and unexampled self command and self-denial; moderate in Prosperity, undaunted amid danger, unbroken by adversity, firm and unmoved amid the violence or reproach of faction, unperverted by great and general applause.

"He was great in Arts and in Arms."

Under the whole.

"First in War, first in Peace, and first in the hearts of Americans; first in the eyes of the World: he was unrivalled as a Statesman, as a Soldier, as a Senator; and he is embalmed by the tears of America, entombed in the hearts of his countrymen, admired by the enlightened of all lands, immortalized by his own great actions, and the regrets of mankind."

To this print is a companion, representing the Genius of Liberty, weeping over the Urn of her Hero.

Over it.

"How are the mighty fallen, and the weapons of war perished!

"How lov'd, how valued once, avails thee not, &c."

On one side.

"Why doth America weep? Why are her courts and her churches covered with funeral black? Why are her sons clad in sable, and appointed to long mourning?"

"Senator. We lament him who gave stability to our constitution and energy to our councils.

"Citizen. The guardian of our rights and liberties, civil and religious, of our peace and prosperity is withdrawn."

On the other side.

"Know ye not that there is a prince and a great man fallen in Columbia? The immortal Washington is gone. He to whom all eyes were turned in the hour of danger is gone.

"Soldier. And have we survived? Must we no more behold him who led us forth to Victory and to Glory?"

"Sailor. He who protected our trade, and reared our Navy, and made our ports the resort of the world is no more."

Under the whole.

"Sic transit gloria mundi."

NORTH CAROLINA.

COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE, August 10, 1800.

THE Clerks of the several Superior and County Courts within the state aforesaid, and the Masters in Chancery, who have hitherto failed to forward to this Office, their Returns or Accounts of Tax Fees, and Fines, for the year 1799, are hereby informed, that expresses will be dispatched after all such as shall be found wanting on the first day of October next, agreeably to law, in which case the Clerks will bear in mind, that the expence of the expresses must be defrayed by them.

JOHN CRAVEN, Compt'r.

NOTICE.

WILL be sold on the 29th day of August next, at Rockford, or as much thereof as will satisfy the tax due thereon for the year 1799, and the charges for advertising the same:

A tract of Land in Surry county, lying on the North Spring of the Double Creeks, containing two hundred acres, supposed to belong to the heirs of John Dyer, dec. said land has not been given in for taxation agreeable to law.

LEVI JARVIS, D. S.

Surry county, July 16, 1800.

STATE OF NORTH-CAROLINA,

HILLSBOROUGH DISTRICT.

IN EQUITY, APRIL TERM, 1800.

William Littlejohn & George Alston, Surviving Partners of Young, Miller & Co.

vs.

Thomas Critcher and others.

IN this cause the Court ordered that publication be made three weeks successively in the North-Carolina Minerva, That unless James Critcher, Thomas Critcher and Nathaniel Rochester file their answers within the three first days of next term, the bill as against them shall be taken *pro confesso* and decreed accordingly.

ROBERT BELL, C. M. E.

STATE OF NORTH-CAROLINA,

HILLSBOROUGH DISTRICT.

IN EQUITY, APRIL TERM, 1800.

William Littlejohn & George Alston, Surviving Partners of Alston, Young & Co.

vs.

Thomas Critcher and others.

IN this cause the Court ordered that publication be made three weeks successively in the North-Carolina Minerva, That unless James Critcher, Thomas Critcher and Nathaniel Rochester, file their answers within the three first days of next term, the bill as against them shall be taken *pro confesso* and decreed accordingly.

ROBERT BELL, C. M. E.

SHERIFF'S SALES.

ON the 20th day of September next, at the Court House in Kinston, will be sold for the taxes due thereon, for the year 1799, the following Town Lots, being part of the town of Kinston, in the county of Lenoir:

Nos. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 63, 67, 75, and half of 76, 77, 78, 82, 83, 84, 87, 88, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144.

Also 128 acres of land, the property of John Lowry, lying on the South side of Neuse river, on Joshua's creek. The above lots and lands has not been given in for the year aforesaid.

WILLIAM GOODMAN, Sheriff.

Lenoir county, August 10, 1800.

RALEIGH SCHOOL.

A SCHOOL will be opened at Raleigh on the 28th inst. for the instruction of young Gentlemen and Ladies, in the most useful and necessary branches of Education, viz. The Sciences, Classics, Arithmetic, English Grammar, Reading, Writing, Needle-work, &c.

The tuition of the young Gentlemen, to be conducted by Mr. German Guthrie; that of the young Ladies, by Mrs. Langley.

TERMS.—For Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, and Needle-work, Nine Dollars per annum; or Two Dollars and a half per quarter, for a less period than a year.—For English Grammar, the Classics, and Sciences, Thirteen Dollars per annum, or Three and a half Dollars per quarter.

The reputation which Mr. Guthrie has acquired as a teacher in the Pittsborough Academy, renders it unnecessary to say any thing in his favour; and Mrs. Langley's talents in this line, have already been experienced to be such as deserve patronage.

Mrs. Langley will receive Boarders at 50 Dollars per annum, or 12 1-2 Dollars per quarter, (the Boarders finding their own bedding) and to such as she may be favoured with, she engages to pay the strictest attention. Boarding may also be had at other houses in the city.

Applications to be made to Peter Casso, Raleigh, (if by letter, the postage must be paid) of whom any further particulars relative to this establishment may be had.

Raleigh, July 15.