

ION, William A. Graham delivered the 6th lecture of the course before the Historical Society on the 20th, at Metropolitan Hall, before a numerous audience. The subject of his lecture was "The British Invasion of North Carolina."

Mr. G. commenced his lecture by saying that he had ventured upon the subject he had chosen for their consideration to-night, as one appropriate to the character of the Historical Society. It was not till he had read the account in a lecture that had been delivered in the course by a distinguished gentleman, on the same subject; but from the recourse he had to public documents, he was persuaded that what he had to say on the history of North Carolina would not be wholly uninteresting. Having given a graphic sketch of the events immediately preceding the revolutionary struggle, he said:

In the spring of 1776, a formidable invasion of North Carolina was attempted by a military and naval command, under Sir Henry Clinton and Sir Peter Parker, at the mouth of the Cape Fear, and a large military force was called out to repel it. But its attention was soon directed to the more tempting prize of Charleston, where, on the 29th of March, it was captured. The capture of this city, which has given immortality to the name of Moultrie. With the exception of a large detachment from this armament, which was landed, and committed some depredations in the county of Brunswick, the British army, after the capture of the private mansion of the patriot, Gen. Howe, no British force had entered the territory of North Carolina until the period announced in the outset of these remarks, the latter half of the year 1780. The geographical position of the State, or the military plans of the enemy, had thus long delayed his visits, he now came with a prestige of success, which threatened entire subjugation. South Carolina and Georgia had been driven to concealment, exile, or submission to the victorious arm. Charleston had fallen on the 12th of May. Improving his success with the skill of a veteran commander, Lord Cornwallis moved on to the city of Charlotte, near the centre of the State; and on the 20th of that month, his light troops, under Lieutenant Colonel Carleton, overpowered and massacred a Virginia regiment under Colonel Bradford, at the Cowpens. On the 26th of August, in a pitched battle, near Camden, he had signally defeated and routed the main army, which had been rallied for the defence of the South, under General Gates, the hero of the South. And although some consolation was administered to the patriotic spirit of the American General under this crushing defeat, by the success of General Sumter in capturing about the same time a convoy of the enemy, the British daring and vigilant officer was himself, after the battle of the Clouds, and his force of eight hundred men put to route and dispersed, with the loss of his artillery, arms, and baggage, at Fishing Creek, two days afterwards. Thus, says a spirited writer, "the triumph of the 16th of August, and the catastrophe of the 15th, of the army of the South became a second time nearly annihilated."

To this unbroken succession of reverses to our arms, it must be added that the resources of North Carolina to meet the emergency had been greatly impaired by the events of the war. A large number of her people, dispersed and broken down in health by service the two preceding years in the low and insalubrious country of South Carolina, had returned to their ordinary and military supplies exhausted in the maintenance of these and other expeditions; all her continental troops, and more than a thousand of her militia, made prisoners at the surrender of Charleston, and paroled and yet in the hands of the enemy, more than fifty thousand men, including some of the most popular and influential officers, taken at the battle of Camden, and now in confinement at St. Augustine. These are circumstances not to be overlooked in estimating the magnitude of the crisis and the merits of a brave resistance.

There was no impediment to the onward progress of Lord Cornwallis except the want of supplies, which he impatiently awaited at Camden, and on the 20th of September, he moved on to the town of Salisbury, and the first point of his destination, lay parallel to the great rivers of the country and crosses the side boundary upon an imaginary line. In the absence of maps, so much of geography may be necessary to comprehend the movements of the British army, which may be comprised in a few words. The Broad and Catawba rivers are the chief tributaries of the Santee, and the Yadkin of the Pedee, parallel streams, rising in the mountains of North Carolina, and running in the easterly direction from west to east, nearly with the parallel of North Carolina and Virginia. But there is an episode to our narrative, before pursuing the march of the invading army. The disastrous tidings of the battle of Camden, spread rapidly through the country, reaching to the heart of the patriot, cheerful and joy to the royalist, and inciting the wavering and irresolute to the course of royalty. Early in June, the militia of the counties of Mecklenburg and Rowan, comprising more than six thousand men, were ordered under Brigadier General Rutherford, to oppose the triumphal march of the British General. Some of the militia assembled at the place of rendezvous, about twelve miles east of Charlotte, when intelligence arrived of the assembling of a body of loyalists at Ramoth, in the county of Tryon, and within a few miles of the present village of Lenoir. In view of the present village of Lenoir, unwilling to weaken the force he had gathered to impede the advance of the British army, General Rutherford dispatched orders to Col. Francis Pickens, and other faithful officers, to collect the available force of the several neighboring parishes, and suppress the insurrection at the earliest practicable moment. It appeared that one John Moore, of the county of Tryon, (now Wayne,) who had joined the enemy in South Carolina the preceding winter, had returned, dressed in a tattered suit of British uniform and a sword, and announced himself a lieutenant colonel in the well-known regiment of North Carolina Loyalists, commanded by Col. James Hamilton. He brought detailed accounts of the siege and surrender of Charleston, and an authoritative message from Lord Cornwallis that he would march into that section as soon as the then ripening harvests were gathered, so as to afford a support for his army. Very soon, therefore, Major Nicholas Welby, of the same vicinity, who had been in the British service for eighteen months, and bore a Major's commission in the same regiment, and a purse of gold, which was ostentatiously displayed to his admiring associates, with artificial specks in aid of the cause he had embraced. He also gave the first information of Buford's retreat, and reported that all resistance on the part of the Whigs would be unavailing. Under these leaders, then, was collected, in a few days, a force of thirteen hundred men; who were encamped in an advantageous position, preparatory to being marched to effect a junction with the British army.

Colonel Locke, and the other officers who had received the orders of General Rutherford, all readily referred to, proceeded to execute them with the utmost alacrity and promptitude. In less than five days they had joined their several regiments, and crossing the Catawba at various points, effected a junction, within sixteen miles of the camp of the royalists, on the 19th of June, with three hundred and fifty men. At sunrise the next morning, with this unequal force, and without any other preparation, they commenced the operations of battle, except that three companies of horse, which constituted their cavalry, should go in front, they assaulted the camp of

the British, containing, as already mentioned, thirteen hundred men, and after a well sustained and bloody engagement of an hour, compelled them to retreat. The particulars of this action, did time permit us to recur to them, are of much interest. Blood relatives and familiar acquaintances fought in the opposing ranks, and when the smoke of the battle occasionally cleared away, recognized each other in the conflict, the forces warring their well known badges of green and white from their breasts, and waving a similar badge of white paper, which was in some instances taken as a mark by the enemy, and occasioned the warriors to be slain in the field. These were the only means of distinguishing the two parties in the conflict, which neighbor met neighbor in deadly strife, with the rifles carried in hunting, and in the use of which weapon one hundred men on either side were as expert and entering as any like the Frenchmen in the time of Boon. Seventy men, including five or six hundred forty captives, were left dead on the field, and more than two hundred wounded, the loss being shared about equally by the respective sides.

It is a remarkable omission, in the history of the war of the revolution, that neither Smith or Marshall, Lee, Ramsay, Butts, or any other that I have consulted—makes mention of this important battle of Ramoth's Mill. The only intelligible record of it, *in extenso*, was published in the newspapers of North Carolina, thirty years since, and is here copied by Mr. Wheeler in his recent collection of *Historical Notices of North Carolina*. It is likewise noticed by Mr. Lossing in his recent work, the "Field Book of the Revolution." For daring courage on the part of the British army, and for the gallant and intrepid conduct of the enemy out-numbered them in the proportion of five to one, and had great advantage in position, it is surpassed by few events of the war; and as a chastisement and check upon the rising and the British in the South, it is one of the disasters to our arms in South Carolina, the result of the same nature, and almost equal, in its salutary effects, to the victory of Caswell and Lillington, at Moore's Creek, four years previous.

I have failed, earlier, to mention that Colonel Locke and his brave associates, after resolving to engage the enemy, despatched a messenger to carry this information to General Rutherford, and requested his co-operation, if possible; but did not receive a reply till the 20th of August, and hence it has been difficult to supply line sufficient only to meet the ordinary wants of the community. It has been always too expensive to warrant its employment for agriculture, and its success will operate favorably, producing a change in the working of the sulphurets. The probability is that many others, in which the copper has been lost, from ignorance of the value of the substance, will be worked so as to save the copper, or to work them as copper mines exclusively.

THE GREAT value and importance of limestone has created a demand for it, both as an article essential in construction, as well as in agriculture. In a very large part of North Carolina, the rock occurs in such abundance, and hence it has been difficult to supply line sufficient only to meet the ordinary wants of the community. It has been always too expensive to warrant its employment for agriculture, and its success will operate favorably, producing a change in the working of the sulphurets. The probability is that many others, in which the copper has been lost, from ignorance of the value of the substance, will be worked so as to save the copper, or to work them as copper mines exclusively.

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SMITH'S COPPER MINE, IN GUILFORD COUNTY, N. C.

FROM THE FORTHCOMING REPORT OF PROF. EMMETT, FROM THE REGISTER, Raleigh.

It has been known for a long time, that the auriferous pyrites consisted in part of the sulphurets of iron, and in part, of the sulphurets of copper. An extracting the gold from the sulphurets, the latter has been neglected and allowed to flow away in the washings. Lately, however, attempts have been made, not only to save the copper of the auriferous pyrites, but to work the veins exclusively for copper. Smith's mine, near the town of Hillsboro, is a fine example of this. It was profitable, but its owner, Mr. Fentress, had given up the business of working it for gold, and it was lying waste to himself, when Mr. Smith proposed working the sulphurets for copper. Two shafts had been sunk upon the vein, to a depth of 215 feet; and for some distance from each shaft, the ore had been removed and worked for gold. The vein runs N. 30 degrees E. dip N. W. At the depth of about 72 feet, the vein of pyrites divided into two. A flat vein, which dips about 5 degrees, and a vein dipping between 60 and 70 degrees. The flat vein consists of a gangue of quartz, arranged somewhat in columns, and the vein of sulphurets, ranging in width from 4 to 12 inches; the whole width of the quartz and sulphurets being about 10 feet. This flat vein dips towards the steep dipping vein; finally becomes incorporated with it, when it becomes the main and important vein of the mine. The progress of the work becomes entering more favorable, and a vein of sulphurets of copper is likely to be discovered, and, indeed, is so, by the present operations. The double sulphurets are changed to the single sulphurets, and it is found to yield from 32 to 40 per cent of copper. The mine is valuable, and its success will operate favorably, producing a change in the working of the sulphurets. The probability is that many others, in which the copper has been lost, from ignorance of the value of the substance, will be worked so as to save the copper, or to work them as copper mines exclusively.

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kind in my Report of the Geology of New York. In the Northern Counties of that State iron is the great mining product, it is accompanied with neither copper, lead, zinc, or gold—mean that it preponderates over every other metal. Iron occupies an important place in North Carolina; and I may here say that the advantages for making bar iron of the best quality are very great. The ore in the first place is abundant and of an excellent quality; in the second place, wood for charcoal is equally abundant, and as the growth of trees is rapid, fuel will never fail if system is observed in its cutting and the preservation of young timber. The resources of the forest in North Carolina are immense, not that it is a fertile soil, but that it has afforded certain portions of it for some time past. The famous long leaf pine is a magnificent tree of the forest. It yields its turpentine and resin in profusion—one of the great sources of wealth and prosperity have been its pine and the Magnolia among the trees of the forest is like a gigantic rock.

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They are to be chosen by the different Legislatures in the Union. Each is to choose two. It is to be supposed that in the exercise of this power the utmost prudence and circumspection will be observed. We may presume that they will elect two of the most respectable men in the State—two men who had given the strongest proofs of attachment to the interests of their country.

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with bad and abandoned man and woman, too. I cannot submit to this gross outrage upon my repose and life any longer. Mr. Smith, I must be provided with separate maintenance." She was firm and determined I saw, and there was something in her eye that told me that the hour of her repentance had come; and as Sir Harcourt says, "my grashus" how my heart did palpitate.

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Notice. GENERAL LAND OFFICE. Octomb 14th, 1852.

NUMEROUS applications having been made to this office on the subject, it has been decided, in full consideration of the recognized rights of Land Warrants, when executed before two witnesses and acknowledged before a Notary Public; in all cases, however, to be accompanied by a certificate under seal from the proper authority, of the official character of the Notary, at the time of taking such acknowledgements, and of the genuineness of his signature.

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