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Carolina Watchman.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE BATTLE OF RAMSOUR'S MILL.

A person would form a very imperfect idea of the Battle of Ramsour's Mill without a knowledge of the times and circumstances connected with it. Of these I will give as correct an account as I can.—Rowan County took an active part in the Revolution, but it will be remembered that large districts of what was then Rowan was not so friendly to the cause of Liberty as might have been desired. We know but little about that part of it now called Davidson County, except the lower portion called "The Flat Swamp," which was the place of Col. Bryant's retreat when driven out of the Fork of the Yadkin, as will be more fully noticed in the proper place.

This latter, for a considerable distance up the river, was originally settled by a mixed population from every direction, having no general trait of National character; there were about as many Tories as Whigs among them, and a third party that, through cowardice, stood neutral.—Following Hunting Creek up to the Brushy Mountains, you would have found the inhabitants nearly all Tories throughout the mountains to the Catawba River. For the first few years of the war, they took no active part in it; but some of them caused considerable annoyance to the Whigs by their robberies, especially by horse-stealing. Having committed depredations in this way, they would fly to the mountains, and were there concealed.—But the Whigs of the Fork, assisted by their friends South of the South-Yadkin, and furnished with a sufficient force for protection, would pursue the rogues, often recover their property, and punish the offenders by Lynch law.

But as the seat of war seemed to be changing from North to South, the Tories became more active. In the beginning of the year 1780, they began to collect in companies, but the Whigs would always scatter them before they joined large bodies. In May, 1780, when Charleston surrendered to the British army, and Lord Cornwallis was full of hope that he would redeem his pledge made to his friends before he left England, (which was that if they would give him four regiments of Regulars, he would march triumphant from one end of the Continent to the other) and he had marched up as far as Camden, many of the South Carolinians joining his standard; and the news had spread through all the upper country; then all the Tories were in motion; the encampment near Lincolnton was founded the latter part of that spring, or the beginning of the summer, for when taken in June, it was found to be old camp. Their object was to be ready to join Cornwallis on his march, and a considerable body of men soon collected. The Tories were in motion in every direction. The Whigs using all means in their power to keep them down, succeeded in distressing them before they collected in large numbers; the Whigs often ventured out in one direction in the evening, and before day the next morning would be called upon to go in another. But they were always ready and willing to go, never lying down at night, without placing their arms so that they could lay their hands on them at any moment.

Col. Bryant, a citizen of the Fork of the Yadkin, a man of some talents, had considerable influence with the Tories of his vicinity; he was not idle, but was afraid to come out publicly. He, however, caused it to be reported that the war would soon end, and that all the land belonging to the rebels would be confiscated, and the King's friends would be the owners.

This drew off many of the neutral party; horse-stealing now increased; horses were in greater demand; but the Brushy Mountains were not a safe retreat, they fled to Lincolnton, and there found a market for their horses, and protection for their persons; as was evident from the fact that several horses, stolen in the Fork of the Yadkin, were recovered at the battle of Ramsour's Mill. Lynch-law was often enforced, and offenders joined the camp in Lincolnton, till a formidable body in all had been collected. This caused no little uneasiness to the Whigs, who resolved to attack them, and break up their encampment. This was in the latter part of June, 1780, and it appears to be a crime in the Revolution. If the men, for this purpose, were to be taken from the Fork and vicinity, as many from there were out on other expeditions, Bryant was to be credited behind them. They scarcely

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BRUNER & JAMES,
Editors & Proprietors.

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RULERS.



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Genl Harrison.

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knew how to raise a sufficient force, but they determined upon it.
About this time, news was received that Gen. Gates was on his way with a Northern army to assist them: this greatly encouraged them to persevere; for by breaking up that encampment, they would prevent it from causing any embarrassment to Gen. Gates, or giving any assistance to Cornwallis.

They, therefore, collected all the men they could in Rowan, and perhaps some from Mecklenburg. All were under the command of Gen. Rutherford. Having crossed the Catawba, they were joined by Captains Bowman and Dobson from Burke; and Gen. Rutherford now finding himself at the head of a considerable body of men, moved towards the enemy's camp: about 300 mounted infantry, many of them officers, formed the advance guard, while the infantry followed on under the officer in command. The advance party, after a march of 15 miles, having reached the enemy's camp, reconnoitred it without being discovered. Some difference of opinion now arose as to the best course to pursue. Col. Locke, and perhaps some others, thought that they would better wait till the infantry arrived; Captains Falls, Armstrong, Col. Brevard, and perhaps some others, and among them Maj. James Rutherford, thought that they ought to avail themselves of the advantage of attacking by surprise. After some discussion the latter opinion prevailed. The first step was to send an express to Gen. Rutherford to hasten on with the infantry for they intended an immediate attack.

The Spartan number, 300*, with something of the Spartan spirit, now divided into two equal bodies; the first was to advance and fire, then retreat, and form in the rear of the second, in the mean time to load as they retired; the second division was to advance and fire, retreat and in like manner form in the rear and load; thus to draw the enemy on, till Rutherford came up with the main body of the army.

This was the plan of attack, with the clear understanding that each was to watch the other's motions, and act in concert. The arrangement being thus made and understood, the attack was made about sun-rise, while the Tories were engaged in preparing their breakfast. And so complete was the surprise that they found themselves falling by the balls of their enemies almost as soon as they discovered them.

The first division, after firing, retreated, opening to the right and left from the centre, for the second to advance, fire, and retreat in the same way. The enemy, notwithstanding their surprise, attempted to form a line, but a Whig of more courage than prudence rode up, seized their colors and rode off with them unhurt amidst a shower of balls. Having no rallying point, their consternation increased; and the quick succession of destructive fires, kept up by the assailants, rendered their confusion complete. The Whigs not only stood their ground, but advanced, after a few rounds, upon the enemy's camp, and in a short time obtained a complete victory, and had possession of the camp before Gen. Rutherford arrived with the main body of the army, about 1,500 men. The general engagement was only about 15 minutes long. The place had the appearance of a camp long occupied; they were well supplied with provisions, arms, &c., and at the lowest account were about 1,200 strong, some say 1,700, while the Whigs in action were 300 in number. The loss of the latter was mostly in officers, who distinguished themselves in so signal a manner, that they were selected by their enemies who had some expert riflemen. Captain Dobson and Captain Bowman, of Burke, were both killed.

Capt. Falls from the lower, and Capt. John Sloan from the upper end of Iredell, and Capt. Wm. Knox from the Eastern part of it, fell that day; also Capt. Armstrong from the region of Third Creek in Rowan. Capt. Hugh Torrence and Capt. Smith, of Mecklenburg, Capt. David Caldwell, and Capt. John Reed were unhurt. Capt. James Houston was wounded; William Wilson had a horse shot under him and was wounded the second fire.—Several inferior officers were killed.—Thirteen men from the vicinity of Statesville, lay dead there after the battle, and many more died of their wounds the next day. Joseph Wasson, from Snowy Creek, received five balls, one of which he carried 40 years to a day, when it came out

* One account says 450.

of itself; being unable to stand, he lay upon his side and loaded and fired his musket several times.

The loss of the Tories was great in men, and all their camp equipments. A number of horses was taken, some of which had been stolen in the Forks of the Yadkin. And to return to the region, the people there were much distressed at this time; for Col. Bryant, thinking this a favorable time while so many men were absent, to assemble his friends, who were ready to march at an hour's notice, gave the word and formed his camp a few miles from Riddle's ferry on the big Yadkin. He soon found himself at the head of a large body of Tories that flocked to his standard from every direction, particularly his friends in the Fork.

What increased still more the distress of the Whigs in that region was a false report from the army in Lincoln, that it had been totally defeated; that Captain Armstrong was killed, and his whole company either slain or made prisoners.—This news soon reached Bryant's camp, and encouraged the Tories, some of whom threatened to rob and kill every rebel in or near the Forks, in three days. But the Whigs at home, not willing to believe such reports concerning their army, sent messengers from several neighborhoods to learn the truth; and by them intelligence of Bryant's movements reached Rutherford's army, and all the men from that quarter were dismissed to return and defend their families and property.

They left the camp the morning after the battle, and those on horseback reached home that night. The next morning was the time appointed by Captains Caldwell, Nicholas, and Sam'l. Reed, to meet at some place in the Fork to oppose Bryant. Those who had returned from Lincoln after a short rest, went to meet their friends, and a camp was formed two or three miles East of Anderson's Bridge, on Hunting Creek, known ever since by the name of Liberty Hill; it was five or six miles from Bryant's camp. When this encampment commenced they were not 100 in number; but men continued to collect during the day, and in the evening they were joined by a company of Light Horse, from the Mountains, commanded by Capt. Doak. At night they numbered between 200 and 300, and had taken about 20 prisoners on their way to join Bryant's camp.

They were in constant expectation that he would attack them, and made every effort to give him a warm reception, and convince him how much it would cost him to gratify his friends in their thirst for plunder. In the mean time he received a true account of the fate of his friends in Lincoln, and seeing the army assembling at Liberty Hill, he became alarmed, and while the Whigs were preparing to receive him, to their great surprise, he broke up his camp and fled across the Yadkin;—finding the people of the "Flat Swamp," more friendly to his cause than the Scotch Irish, the other side of the river. These latter, mingled with a few Marylanders, as brave as themselves, strove to see who would perform the noblest deeds for their country. Unlike other ambition, this strengthened the bonds of friendship between them.

Thus was the power of the Tories broken in Lincoln, and in the Forks of the Yadkin. Bryant, after spending a short time in the Flat Swamp, retired to the Eastern part of the State; and Captain Samuel Reed's company, with a few others as an army of observation, was sufficient to keep order in the Forks.

The Tories in Lincoln, being so roughly handled at the Battle of Ramsour's Mill, what of them escaped, retired to the Western part of the country, and remained there till Ferguson arrived to their assistance, whose fate is well known.

It will be seen from the above that the Whigs of Rowan and Mecklenburg were greatly relieved from the embarrassment of the Tories, and now had an opportunity to aid their friends in other parts of the country; this they did promptly. They were in service on the Pedee, at Wilmington, at King's Mountain, at the Cowpens, at Guilford C. H., with many other places of minor importance.

We might say that the Battle at Ramsour's Mill was the first of a series of misfortunes to the British arms in upper Carolina. Gates' defeat was the only action of importance in their favor.

The Ramsour battle was about the 20th of June; that at King's Mountain in October; at the Cowpens in January; at

Guilford Court House in March; all more or less favorable to the cause of the Americans.

We will mention one or two traditional anecdotes connected with the battle of which we have an account above.—Capt. Reid was ordered to take his men and flank the Tories: in doing so he had to cross a bottom and a branch and pass through some under brush. As he emerged in view of the enemy a man rushed out towards him, and got behind a tree, watching an opportunity to shoot him.—But being a good marksman Reid kept his eye on the tree, and seeing the shoulder of the Tory not entirely covered by it, he took a rifle from one of his men, and shot him through the part exposed. After the close of the battle he went among the wounded and finding one shot through the shoulder, and on enquiry as to the way he received his wound, found him to be the man he had shot, and dressed the wound for him.

In one case a Whig and a Tory were each behind a tree watching to shoot each other, when the Whig employed this stratagem to get his enemy to fire. He put his hat on the end of his ram rod and projected it beyond the tree. The Tory supposing that a head was there as well as a hat, fired a ball through it, when the Whig taking the advantage of him put a ball through his body, before he could reload.

The Tories were headed by Col. John Moore, Maj. Welsh, and Captains Keener, Williams and Warlick; the latter and a Whig by the name of Winston, were neighbors, and rivals at shooting matches: both good marksmen. They met, and one said to the other, "The time has come," alluding to some understanding they had before between them. Their guns were unloaded, and each took a tree for shelter. The Whig succeeded in loading first and looked around his tree, just as the Tory shut his pan, knowing that his opponent would look around his tree before pointing his gun, the Whig aimed his, and the moment the other put his head behind his tree, shot a ball through it.

Traces of the battle may be seen now at the battle ground, about three quarters of a mile from the Town of Lincolnton, on a ridge, situated between Clark's creek and one of its tributaries; some of the graves are yet visible; the pine trees still standing there, it is said bear the marks of the musket balls.

In their confusion, and retreat some of the Tories, attempting to escape cross the mill dam by a narrow bridge, pushed each other off and were drowned: some too rushed into the pond and were mired in the mud and never escaped.

The Whigs did not pursue them, for fear the smallness of their numbers would be discovered; in all, the battle lasted about two hours, and was brought to a close by a flag of truce sent out by a Tory of the name of Blackburn. There was no general officer in command at this battle: Col. Francis Locke was present but did not take the command for fear of being tried by court martial for exceeding his orders.

The above is for the most part in the words of the different narrators, from whom the traditions have been taken down.
EXAMINER.

Mr. Clay.—In noticing the return of the Hon. Henry Clay to his home from his visit to New Orleans the Lexington Observer says:

"After spending Saturday and Sunday at Ashland with his family, he was summoned to Winchester early on Monday morning to fulfil a professional engagement in a great will case which came up for trial on that day in the Clarke Circuit Court. This case, (Joel Quisenberry's will) in which a large amount of property is involved, we learn by a letter from a friend in Winchester, was most ably and elaborately argued on Wednesday and Thursday by Hon. Chilton Allan and Hon. Garrett Davis, in favor of the will, and by Samuel Hanson, Esq., and Mr. Clay in opposition. The speeches of all the gentlemen fully sustained their well-earned reputations as forensic debaters. The speech of Mr. Clay is said to have been more able and eloquent than the one which he delivered in the same case last fall, and produced a fine impression. The jury failed to find a verdict, and another trial at the next term of the Court will be necessary."

A company of emigrants to Texas from Monroe Co., Georgia, were attacked with cholera, after leaving New Orleans, and at the last accounts eighteen of the company had been buried—seven negroes in one grave. Some died in three hours after they were attacked. The party was composed of six families with their servants, in all 77 persons.

MEETING IN CATAWBA.

A large and respectable meeting of the citizens of Catawba was held at the Court House, in Newton, on Tuesday the 10th instant, (Court week) to take into consideration the route of the proposed Turnpike from Salisbury to the Georgia line. On motion, Martin Sigman, Esq., was called to the Chair, and Jonas Bost, appointed Secretary. The object of the meeting being explained by M. L. McCorkle, Esq., the following gentlemen were appointed a committee to draft resolutions expressive of the sense of the meeting, viz: Dr. A. M. Powell, J. M. Lowrance, Esq., Jonas Bost, Esq., Col. W. L. Mehaffy, and Col. M. H. Rudisel.

The Committee retired, when M. L. McCorkle, Esq., was called on. Mr. M. addressed the meeting at some length, not only contending for the usefulness of the Turnpike contemplated, but internal improvements, generally; he concluded with the hope that the road would pass through Newton, as being the most direct route. Mr. McCorkle delivered himself ably, and his remarks were well received.

A. H. Shuford, Esq., being called on, gave some facts, relating to the bill, but declined taking part in the meeting, as he was one of the Commissioners appointed to lay off the road.

The Committee, then, reported as follows: Whereas, a publication has appeared in some of the papers, purporting to be the proceedings of a public meeting, held somewhere north of the central line, for the purpose of making an impression upon the public mind that a northern route, for the Western Turnpike, would be most beneficial to those for whose interest the work has been projected; and whereas, such an impression would be extremely erroneous, inasmuch as the lower route, the greater would be the travel—therefore

Resolved, That a route from Salisbury, via Newton, is the most central, passing through a finely cultivated and densely populated region; and that we, the citizens of Catawba, will exert our united efforts to have the road take this location, fully persuaded that this would be in accordance with the interests of a very large majority of those who are anxiously looking to derive some benefit from the contemplated improvements.

Resolved, That a judicious location of the Turnpike on the most central and practicable route, is of the utmost importance to our people; and, that to run it any considerable distance north of Newton, would entirely defeat the object intended to be gained by it; for it is clear, that the farther south the road is located, the larger will be the transportation upon it.

Resolved, That we approve of the Internal Improvement Convention, to be held in Salisbury, in June next, to take into consideration the important Acts of the Legislature, and that a committee of six be appointed a delegation to attend that Convention.

The following gentlemen were appointed the committee: M. L. McCorkle, A. M. Powell, W. J. Gunter, A. H. Shuford, Geo. Setzer, J. W. Gabriel.

On motion, the Chairman and Secretary were added to the committee.
On motion, it was

Resolved, That the proceedings be published in the Lincoln Courier, Carolina Republican, Salisbury Watchman, and Raleigh Standard.

The meeting then adjourned.
MARTIN SIGMAN, Ch'n.
JONAS BOST, Secretary.

The Subtreasury.—We presume that, by general consent, the Subtreasury will now go down under the force of public opinion. We entirely agree with a writer on this subject, who says that the Subtreasury is the most absurd of all absurdities, and infinitely more injurious than "the Monster" was, in its palmy days, because the latter had the power to relieve a stringent money market with its deposits from Government and individuals; but the Subtreasury "opes its ponderous and marble jaws" to receive nothing but coin, and there it lies to rust till the Government has a debt to pay. Whenever the sums in the Subtreasury become large the money market is tightened, and by consequence money becomes dear, business unsatisfactory, &c., and such a state of things often occurs in the large cities, especially New York, where receipts from customs are so large. The Subtreasury being the monster of the times, it should be demolished with as little delay as possible.—Alex. Gazette.

The charter election in Columbus, Ohio, took place last Monday, and resulted in the total defeat of the Locofocos by an unprecedented majority. The Whigs have elected their Mayor, marshal, and five out of the six councilmen. The vote was unusually large, and the most strenuous exertions had been made by the Locofocos to bring out their entire vote, with the full anticipation of a victory. The Whig majority for Mayor is 173.

TWO DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE.

The steamship *Hermann*, from Southampton, arrived at New York on Friday. She sailed on the 26th March, and brings London papers two days later than before received.

All the efforts used by the Governments of France and Great Britain to renew the armistice between Sardinia and Austria have failed. Hostilities would therefore recommence, and be carried on with great vigor on both sides. Although European sympathies were strongly enlisted on the side of the Italian cause, yet it was generally feared that King Charles Albert would be beaten by his powerful enemies, who to the number of 100,000 strong, meditated a direct march upon Turin, there, as Radetzky's manifesto stated, to negotiate the terms of peace.

The latest accounts from Hungary abundantly proved that the Imperialists were not making much headway against the valiant Magyars, as success had latterly crowned the arms of the latter, and the Austrians had several times been beaten with considerable loss.

The Republic of Palermo has rejected the constitution and proposals made by the King of Naples. The French and British fleets were about to withdraw, and the Sicilians were preparing for the hostilities which would immediately ensue. The King of Naples could with great difficulty keep his throne, as a formidable insurrection was about breaking out in Calabria, and the Neapolitans themselves were unquiet.

The proposal to appoint the King of Prussia Emperor of Germany was rejected by the Frankfurt Parliament on the 21st March. This unexpected decision caused great excitement, and would, it is feared, lead to unpleasant consequences between Prussia and Austria.

The returns of the Bank of France were not quite so favorable for the trade of Paris as some of the previous returns.

A manifesto on the part of the Socialists and Communists was expected at Paris on the 26th. Great military precautions were to be taken by the Government to preserve the public peace. Lord Aberdeen's speech in the House of Lords relative to European affairs had produced a good effect on the Paris Bourse; the three per cents. were 52 7/10; 5 per cents. 32 9/16.

The French Government had received telegraphic despatches announcing that the Sardinian army had crossed the Ticino on the 20th March, in three divisions. On the 21st an Austrian corps had passed the same river, and experienced some resistance. It was supposed the King, Charles Albert, would be forced to recross the Ticino, and that a great battle would be fought on the plains of Verceili.

A French expedition of 12,000 men was ready to sail immediately the Austrians should set their foot in the Pontifical States.

The produce markets were unchanged and dull.

The advices by the Sarah Sands and Europa had reached Havre, and produced a slight reaction on the cotton market of that city.

Business generally in the French manufacturing towns was improving, and active spring trade was expected if the new elections passed off favorably to the existing Government, of which there was not much doubt.

In London it was stated that the navigation laws could not be carried, and that they would be rejected in the House of Lords. A change of Ministry was, therefore, expected.

The Archbishop of Paris has handed 60,000fr. to the Pope's Nuncio, being the first instalment of the collection made in the churches of Paris, for his Holiness.

An attempt was made at Bordeaux, on the 19th, by the Socialists, to create a disturbance by parading the streets at midnight, singing seditious songs, and vociferating "Ca ira!" "Les aristocrates a la lanterne!" "Dansons la Caranagole!" The nocturnal vocalists were, however, speedily surrounded by a body of police and lodged in prison.

Cardinal Orsini has died at Gaeta, and Cardinal Mezzofanti, the celebrated linguist, at Rome.

The principal leaders of the ultra Republicans have left Rome and accepted some mission abroad. The greatest anarchy prevailed at Rome, and the people even regretted the Government of Stierli.

READ THE NEWSPAPERS.
John H. Prentice, in his recent valedictory on retiring from the Editorial chair, which he had filled for forty-two years, gives the following good advice:

"No man should be without a well-conducted newspaper. Unless he reads one, he is not upon an equal footing with his fellow-man who enjoys such advantage; and is disregardful of his duty to his family, in not affording them an opportunity of acquiring a knowledge of what is passing in the world, at the cheapest possible teaching. Show me a family without a newspaper, and I venture to say that there will be manifest in that family a want of amenity of manners and indications of ignorance, most strikingly in contrast with the neighbor who allows himself such a rational indulgence.—Young men especially should read newspapers. If I were a boy, even of twelve years, I would read a newspaper weekly, though I had to work by torch light to earn money enough to pay for it. The boy who reads well, will learn to think and analyze, and if so, he will be almost sure to make a man of himself, having vicious indulgence, which reading is calculated to beget a distaste for."

MEDICAL CONVENTION.
On Monday last, in pursuance of previous notice, number of Physicians assembled in this City; and on Monday evening, at seven o'clock they proceeded to organize. Dr. Fredrick J. Hill, of Brunswick County, was chosen President of the Convention; and Dr. William H. McKee, of Wake, was appointed Secretary.

After some debate and due consultation, a Committee was appointed to prepare a Constitution and By-Laws for a State Medical Society, and was directed to report to the Convention yesterday at ten o'clock, A. M.

In our next we shall lay before our readers a detailed account of the Proceedings of this intelligent and highly respectable body.
North Carolina Standard.

The elections in the cities of New Orleans and Cincinnati, for city officers, have resulted, in both cases, in favor of the Whigs.

Appointment.—It is officially announced that George Little, of Raleigh, N. C., has been appointed Marshal of North Carolina, in place of Wesley Jones.