NORTH-CAROLINA GAZETTE.

AND

"Ours are the plans offair, delightful Peace, " Unwarp'd by party rage, to live like Brothers,"

VOL. XXIII.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1822.

From Johnson's Memoirs. PARENTAGE AND FARLY LIFE OF GENERAL GREENE.

Concluded.

Another event not long after occur red, which afforded him a new oppor tunity of exhibiting his spirit and zeal in the cause he had espoused.

On the 19th of April, 1775, in the memorable affair of Lexington, the soil of America first drank the blood of her sons, shed by the hands of Englishmen. The combat was warmly kept up the whole day, and before night Rhode-Island was alarmed with the intelligence, that the people of Massachusetts were engaged in mortal affray with the English troops. The whig corps all beat to arms, and the Kentish Guards took up the line of march for Boston. Unfortunately, Wanton, the Governor of Rhode-Island at that time. was very much of a lovalist, and was not at all pleased with this exhibition of spirit in the Kentish Guards. Their rout lay through Providence, the place of his residence. He very soon dispatched a message after them, ordering them back. They received it with indignation, but the officers did not feel themselves at liberty to refuse obedience. Not so with Greene ; at communicated his intention to three. of his most trusty friends, including one of his brothers, the four immediately procured horses, and with reeking spurs, hastened on to Boston. But it was too late; the British army that night retired into Boston, and the intelligence met his gallant little band before they had passed quite balf way of their intended journey. By this time, the corps began to acknowledge that they were ignorant of the character and just claims of the man whom they had rejected as their lieutenant. His superiority and spirit became obvious to all, and the example he set of zeal and discipline as a private, convinced them, that he who knew so well how to obey, must be qualified to command. Many of them had soon an opportunity of giving a shining example of candor and disinterestedness toward him. It was now obvious to all, that the struggle between the colonies and the mother country, must end in an appeal to the sword. Great Britain persisted in her odious assertions of power, and the means to which she had resorted to enforce its exercise, plainly avowed, that she considered the colonies as holding their lives, liberties and fortunes at the will of a despotic parliament. Such measures could only have been intended to drive the colonies to open resistance, in order to furnish a plausible pretext for actual subjugation. Such has often been the policy of rulers. In producing the state of things which justified the attempts of the ministry to sweep away before her armies all the chartered rights of the colonists, the ministry were successful; but heaven denied to them the fruition of its expected consequences. Immediately after the battle of Lexington, the Massachusetts legislature resolved on collecting an armed force, and confining the British under Gage to ti e limits of Boston. Deputies were dispatched to Rhode Island and Connecticut, demanding their co-operation. The request was promptly complied with, and Rhode Island proceeded to organize what was called her " army of observation." This consisted of sixteen hundred men, enlisted till the Sist of December, 1775. In officering stance, that the eyes of all should have been turned upon an humble private in the Kentish Guards. No better evidence of the degree to which Greene grew upon all who became acquainted with him can be adduced, than this highly honourable selection ; his subsequent conduct proved the judgment of the men who chose him. Among those who were selected as officers under him, were several of the officers of the Kentish Guards. The captain of the Guards, who ranked as colonel, one of his majors." General Varnum || sual for the common account. derstanding, cheerfully surrendered in need willy coufiding in each other's

to the good of the country ; and superior to the dazzling influence of selflove or vanity, could forego their just the common chest was full to overclaims of preference in favor of one in whom they had sense to discover, and magnanimity to acknowledge superior talents for command.

RALDI

AH

The astonishing rapidity with which the Rhode Island contingent was rais. ed, organised and marched to the scene of action, adds infinite credit to the patriotism of the state.

Indeed, when posterity shall distribute justice with impartial hand among the states, Rhode Island, diminutive as it is in territory, will stand preeminent for the spirit and vigour with which she supported the revolutionary war. It was not with her the cause of Massachusetts; there was nothing to be ascribed to contiguity or consanguinity; jealousies and ill will had prevailed between these two states. Rhode Island viewed Massachusetts as the oppressor and persecutor of her forefathers, and Massachusetts, in addition to the feelings which accompany a consciousness of having done an injury, never cordially forgave the Rhode Islanders, for having eluded her claims of dominion: These early causes have left their traces so deeply engraven, all hazards, he was resolved to fly to that to this day there is a want of corthe assistance of the whigs, and having dial feeling plainly to be discovered, at least, among the less enlightened classes in these two states. But every disagreeable recollection was magnanimously sacrificed by Rhode Island. And in the short space of forty-eight days, at the requisition of Massachusetts, she raised, officered, equipped, and marched to the rendezvous, sixteen hundred men, of as high promise, and as well disciplined and officered, as any that were assembled. Rhude Island has not yet had her historian to palliate her faults and blazon her fame in the eyes of posterity. But when, one shall arise, he will find other events beside this to relate highly to her honour. The great states of Virginia and Massachusetts are contending for the honour of having led in the revolution, but perhaps, upon inquiry it will be found, that the first daring and decisive act was done in Rhode Island. This was in taking possession of the King's artillery, as soon as the proclamation reached them prohibiting the exportation of arms and ammunition from Great Britain; and openly, by an act of the government, encouraging the importation from other quarters, of the articles necessary to equip themselves for war. And even in declaring for independence, Rhode Island took the lead of most, if not all, the states. In April, '76, this bold and decisive step was taken, in the midst of internal dissention, and under the eye of a powerful British army. A tribute of respect was also paid that state by the common enemy, which no other state can boast of. Long as the British army was in possession of Newport, they made no serious efforts to reduce the country. And very cautious were they at all times, how they ventured from the security of their insular situation and entrenchments. The more credit is due this state, also, from having both the governor and lieutenant-governor decided lovalists, so that the secretary of state, the first whig in the descending line, was obliged to sign the commissions of the officers; and all other acts of the whigs were authenticated in the same manner.

distrust, no wrangling settlements ever took place among them : but when flowing, some purchase was made by common consent, or some addition to their living or accommodations. It is a very singular fact, and almost unprecedented in these times of commerce and of lust of wealth, that the two brothers, who at present own the Potowome Mills, have toiled together for sixty years, and reared and set out thei families, living in common, and having never had a statement of accounts in all that time. nor ever intending to have one. Yet their business has been lucrative and extensive. Such are the benign effects of purity of heart and disinterestedness of conduct. It was in a school like this, that Greene acquired his habits of self-devotion. Accustomed from early life to consider himself only as a member of a little community, to labor fir the common interest, and covet no enjoyment but what he was ready and desirous of participating in common with his fellow labourers, selfish feeling, that foul destroyer of all virtue and all happiness, was in him early subdued, or perhaps never felt. The motives that govern the hearts of men, are soon discovered by the discerning, through the veil too commonly thrown over human actions ; often before the individual is himself conscious of their full effect in influencing his conduct. Nothing attaches the hearts of men, or commands their confidence so much as that dignified simplicity of conduct which results from a consciousness that we have no motive to conceal, and not a wish inconsistent with the just claims of others. When these qualities are blended with a strong mind, quick parts, and a cultivated understanding, they form the most happy combination for public usefulness. Hence Greene never failed to acquire not only the confidence, but the affections of all who became acquainted with him. And it may be truly said of him, that he never lost a friend, whose worth entitled him to that honourable appellation, nor public esteem, but whilst his character was obscured by calumny or misconstruction. The most honourable proof of this observation is to be found in the fast hold he ever held in the esteem and confidence of the commander in chief. Washington soon distinguished him among the numerous military acquaintance introduced to him before Boston. There is a sympathy between talents and integrity, by which those who possess these qualities intuitively discover them in others. And in addition; there was in our hero a calmness that nothing could ruffle, a firmness that nothing could shake, and a deference of manner and inviting openness of countenance, that ever rendered him a favorite with his officers and soldiers. It will be found in the course of these pages, that he became the object both of admiration and of individual attachment to most of the celebrated men, both natives and foreigners, who figured in the American revolution; and there are living witnesses who have heard the late Gen. Hamilton declare, that he wanted nothing but an education to have made him the first man in the United States. Gen. Hamilton no doubt meant, with the exception of the commander in chief, and uttered himself with his characteristic warmth, not a little heightened by individual feeling; for Greene's quick eye had first marked him out for future cele-

the sensitive feelings of military pride [integrity and moderation. No jealons | street, where the following conversation | steeple would give the alarm too soon. took place-He asked me the news-I replied, none that I know of-He said, hy George ! we can't live so. I replied, how will we do? He said, we can to very well, if you can find any one to userst us-will you join? I asked him, now do you mean? He said, why ! to break the voke. I replied, I don't know. He asked me, suppose you were to hear that the whites were going to kill you, would you defend yourself? I replied, I'd try to escape. He asked, have you lately seen Denmark Vesey, and has he spoken to you particularly. I said no. Well, then, said he, that's all now; but call at the shop tomorrow after knocking off work, and I will tell you more ! We then parted. I met him the next day, according to appointment, when he said to me, we intend to see, if we can't do something for ourselves, we can't live so. I asked him, where he would get men? He said, we'll find them fast enough, we have got enough, we expect men from country and town, But, how, said I, will you manage it. Why, we will give them notice, said he, and they will march down and camp round the city. But what, said I, will they do for arms. He answered, they will find arms enough, they all bring down their hoes, axes, &c. I said, that won't do to fight with here. He said, stop ! let us get candidates from town with arms, and we will then take the Guard-House and Arsenal in town, the Arsenal on the Neck and the Upper Guard-House, and supply the country people with arms .---How, said I, will you approach those Arsenals, &c, for they are guarded? Yes, said he, I know that, but what are these guards, one man here, and one man there, we let a man pass befor us. Well, said I, but how will the black people from the country, and those from the islands, know when you are to begin, or how will you get the town people together. Why, said he, we will have prayer meetings at night, and there notify them when to start, and when the clock strikes twelve, all must move. But, said I, the whites in the back country, Virginia, &c.; when they hear the news, will turn to, and kill you all. and besides, you may be betrayed. Well said he, what of that, if one gets hanged. we will rise at that minute. We then left his shop, and walked towards Broad st. when he said, I want you to take notice of all the shops and stores in town with arms in them, take down their numbers and give them to me. I said, I will see to it, and then we parted. About the 1st of June, I saw in the public papers a statement that the white people were going to build missionary houses for the blacks, which I carried and shewed to Peter, and said, see the good they are going to do for us; when, he said,-What of that?-Have you not heard, that on the 4th of July, the whites are going to create a false alarm' of fire, and every black that comes out will be killed, in order to thin them? Do you think they would be so barbarous? (said I) Yes! (said he) I do !- I fear they have a knowledge of an army from San Domingo, and they would be right to do it; to prevent us joining that army, if it should march towards this land ! I was then very much alarmed. We then parted, and I saw no more of him till the guards were very strict, (about a fortnight ago.) At that time I saw Peter and Ned Bennett standing and talking together, at the corner of Lambol and Legare-streets. They crossed over and met me by Mrs. Myles', and Ned Bennett said to me-did you hear what those boys were taken up for the other day ? I replied, No ! but some say it was for stealing. Ned asked me if I was sure I had never said any thing to the whites about what Peter Poyas had spoken to me about? I replied, No! Says Peter-You never did? No! I answered. Says Ned to me-How do you stand? At which I struck the tree box with my knuckles and said, as firm as this box-I'll never say one word against you. Ned then smiled and nodded his head, and said-That will do! when we all separated.-Last Tuesday or Wednesday week, Peter said to me-You see, my lad, how the white people have got the windward of us? You won't, said I, be able to do any thing. O, yes! (he said) we will! By George we are oblige to! He said, all down this way ought to meet and have a collection to purchase powder. What, said I, is the use of powder-the whites can fire three times to our once. He said, but 'swill be such a dead time of the night, they won't know what is the matter, and our horse companies will go about the streets and prevent the whites from assembling.] asked him-where will you get horses Why, said he, there are many butcher boys with horses; and there are the livery stables, where we have several candidates; and the waiting men belonging to the white people of the horse companies, will be told to take away their master's horses. He asked me if my master was not a horseman? I said, Yes! Has he not got arms in his house? I answered, Yes ! Can't they be got at? I said, Yes! Then (said he) it is good to have them. I asked what was the plan ? Why, said he, after we have taken the arsenal and Guard-House, then we will set the town on fire, in different places, and us the whites come out we will slay them. If we were trusted his errand, and gave him a cautito set fire to the town first the man in the

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am the Captain, said he, to take the lower Guard-House and Arsenal. But. I replied, when you are coming, the Centinel will give the alarm. He said, he would advance a little distance ahead, and if her could only get a grip at his throat. he was a gone man, for his sword was very sharp ; he had sharpened it, and had made it so sharp, it had cut his finger, which he showed me. As to the Arsenal on the Neck, he said, that it was gone as sure as fate, Ned Bennett, would manage that with the people from the country, and the people between Hibbens' Ferry and Santee would land is take the Upher-Guard House. I then said, then this thing seems true. My man, said he, God has a hand in it, we have been meeting for four years and we are not yet betraved. I told him, I was afraid, after all, of the white people from the back country and Virginia, &c. He said that the blacks would collect so numerous from the country, we need not fear the whites from the other parts, for when we have once got the city we can keep them all out. He asked if I had told my boys. I said no, Then said he, you should do it, for Ned Bennett has his people pretty well ranged, But said. he, take care and don't mention it to those waiting men who receive presents of old coats, Sc. from their masters, or they'll betray us. I will speak to them. We then parted, and I have not since conversed with him. He said the rising was to take place last Sunday night, (16th June) -That any of the colored people who said a word about this matter would be killed by the others. The little man who can't be killed, shot or taken is named Jack, a Gullah Negro. Peter said there was a French Company in town of three hundred men fully armed-that he was to see Monday Gell, about expediting the rising. I know that Mingo went often to Mr. Paul's to see Edwin, but don't know if he spoke with William. Peter said he had a sword, and I ought to get one. He said he had got a letter from the country; I think from St. Thomas', from a negro man who belonged to the Captain of a militia company, who said he could easily. get the key of the house where the company's arms were put after muster, and take them all out, and help in that way. This business originates altogether with the African Congregation, in which Peter is a leader. When Bennet's Ned asked about those taken up, he alluded particularly to Mr. Panl's William, and asked me if I said any thing to him about it.

It was in May, 1775, that Greene was elected commander of the Rhode Island contingent of the army of obthis army, it is a very singular circum- i servation ; and such was the avidity brity. with which the hardy yeomanry of that country enrolled themselves under his standard, that in a very few days his command was complete. Much of this no doubt is attributable to the popularity of the cause, but it cannot be doubted, that his own high standing in the confidence of his fellow citizens, and that of the officers selected to serve under him, contributed greatly to fill up his ranks. He was soon ready to depart in his new career; his brothers cheerfully undertook to diswas elected a colonel in the new le- charge his part of the common duty, vies, and the celebrated Christopher || and in the true character of this prime-Greene, the hero of Red Bank, was | val family, the ansiness went on as uwas of the same number. Such were His father was now dead, and the the virtues and self-denial of the times. | brothers had continued the business of Men whose after-conduct bore ample the forges and mills, harmoniously partestimony to their high worth and un- [] ticipating of the proceeds as each stood

The voluntary confession of ROLLA, to the Court, made after his trial, but before sentence was passed on him.

I know Denmark Vesey, on one occasion he asked me, what news? I told him, none. He replied, we are free, but the the white people here won't let us be so ; and the only way is, to raise up and fight the whites. I went to his house one hight, to learn where the meetings were held. I never conversed on this subject with Batteau or Ned. Vesey told me he was the leader in this plot. I never convered either with Peter or Mingo. Vesey induced me to join. When I went to Vesey's house, there was a meeting there, the room was full of people, but none of them white. That night, at Vesey's, we determined to have arms made, and each man to put in twelve and a half cents towards that purpose. Though Vesey's room was full, I did not know one individual there. At this meeting, Vesey said we were to take the Guard-House and Magazines, to get arms ; that we ought to rise up against the whites to get our liberties. He was the first to rise up and speak, and he read to us from the Bible, how the children of Israel were delivered out of Egypt from bondage ; he said, that the rising would take place last Sunday night week, (the 16th June) and that Peter Poyas was one.

(C.)

Examination of SALLY, a negro woman belonging to Alexander Howard.

I know Jesse, and heard him speak several times about it; one day in particular, he was anxious to see his brother, who has my mother for his wife, & waited until he came, when they conversed together. Jesse said he had got a' horse to go into the country, to bring down men to fight the white people; that he was allowed to pass by two parties of the pa-

AN ACCOUNT

Of the late intended Insurrection among a portion of the Blacks of Charleston, South-Carolina.

CONCLUDED.

[Under letter (A.) in the appendix, the punishment attached to the offence for which the prisoners were tried, appears in the account; it will be found in the Register of August 31.]

A negro man testified as follows :*--I know Peter, he belongs to Mr. James Poyas; in May last, Peter and myself met in Legare street, at the corner of Lambol

* Against this witness, the Court had not a tittle of testimony ; he consented without hesitation to become a witness, and to give all the informatian he possessed ; a pledge having been previously given him by the Court, that he should not be prosecuted, nor his name revealed.

trol on the road, but that a third party had brought him back, and that, if there were but five men like him, they would destroy the city. This was on last Sunday week, (the 16th June) he said, that before 3 o'clock that night, all the white people would be killed. That, if any person informed, or would not join in the fight, such person would be killed or poisoned. He frequently came into the yard to see his brother, and I threatened to inform, if ne came there, and spoke in that way, to get us all into trouble. We never had any quarrel.

Examination of Lor, a negro man belonging to Mr. Forrester.

I know Jesse ; he met me last Sunday week (16th June) at the corner of Brundary street, as I was coming into town ; he said, he was going to get a horse to go into the country. From what my master had told me the Thursday before, I disou. When, as I was going down min (Continued on 4th page.)