

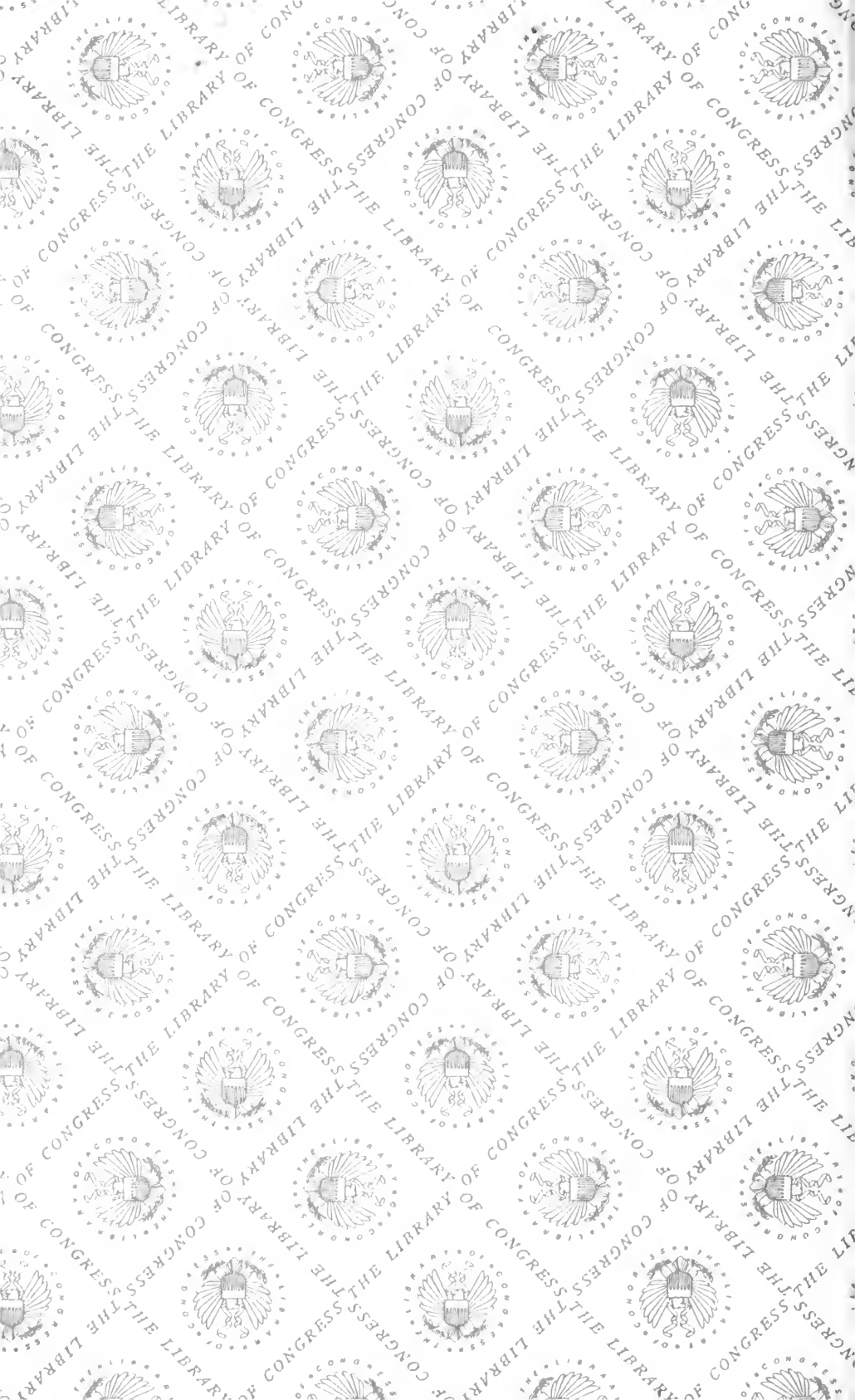
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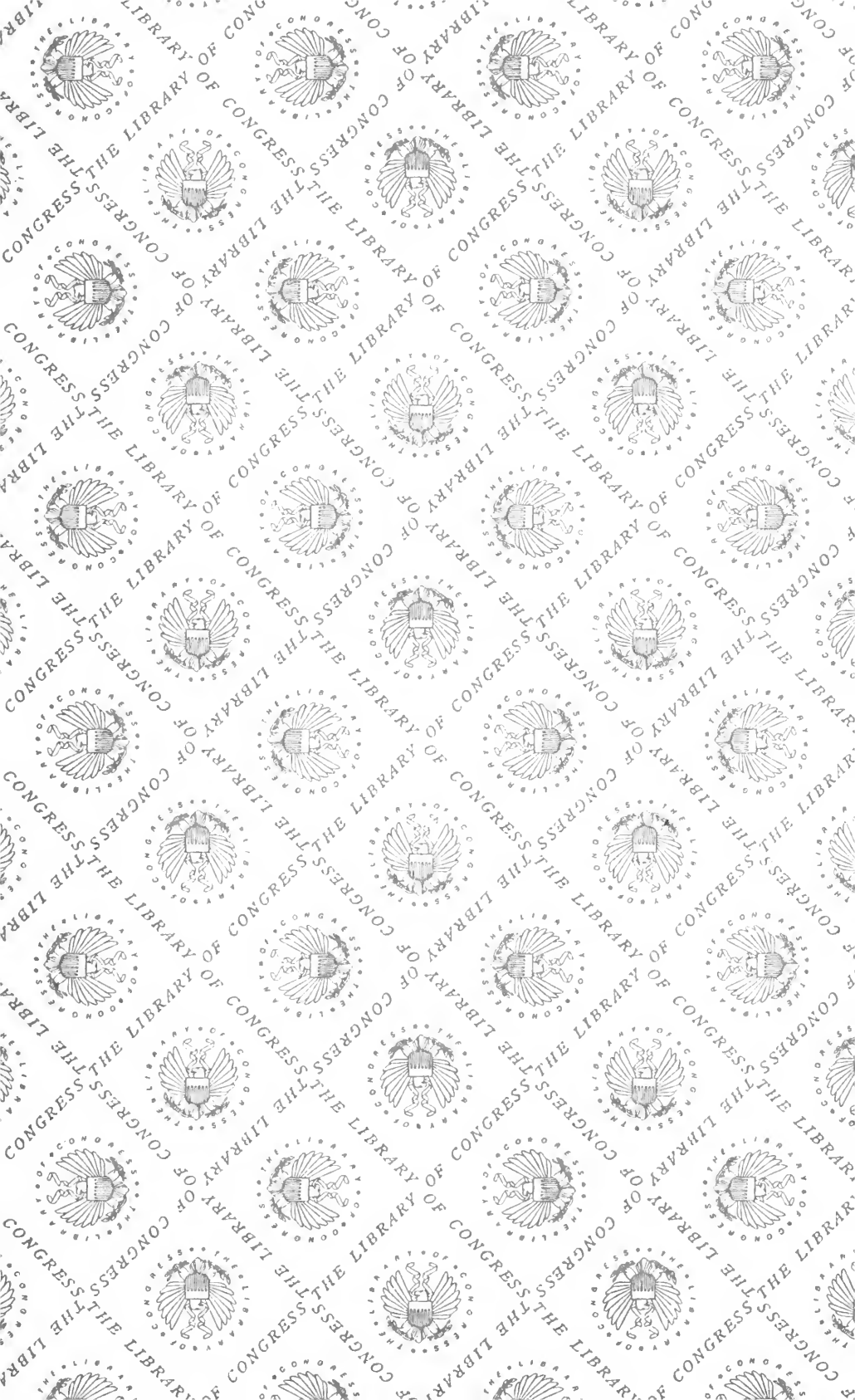
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Myers, Theodoros Bailey, 1821-1882

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

THE STORY OF THE BATTLE OF COWPENS.

THE CAROLINAS IN 1780—A GLANCE AT THE MILITARY SITUATION—MORGAN'S COMMAND—THE CHAIN OF EVENTS AS SHOWN IN LETTERS OF GREENE, MORGAN, PICKENS, RETRIDGE AND OTHERS—HITHERTO UNPUBLISHED.

(From The News and Courier, Charleston, S. C., May 1, 1881.)

To the thoughtful attention of Mr. T. Bailey Myers, of New York, one of the closest students of our Revolutionary History, we are indebted for the subjoined sketch of the military situation in the Carolinas in 1780, followed by a number of letters from the collection of Mr. Myers, which have not hitherto been published. In these letters the whole glorious tale is told, and the Patriots and Royalists of a century ago live and move before us. The interest Mr. Myers has taken in adding to the literature of the celebration to-morrow, by placing these records at our service, will be, we are sure, highly appreciated by all the readers of THE NEWS AND COURIER:

The Carolinas seemed to become, by a chain of events, the debatable ground upon which the result of the struggle for Independence was to be determined. The fall of Charleston, and General Lincoln's unavoidable surrender, as he had decided to hold it, had opened the door to the invaders, from the South as well as the North, and Sir Henry Clinton had entrusted to Lord Cornwallis, an experienced, brave and cautious veteran, the task of completing the conquest, by a

march from the one to the other, subjugating all that he passed through, or as he would see it, of restoring it to its allegiance. We had advanced in June, 1780, into South Carolina with a small but efficient force, confronted by the gallant old Baron de Kalb with such small detachments as Congress could spare from her active operations at the North, where the war had long been waging, to which were added the militia of the country and the detached commands of its efficient partisan leaders, the last counterbalanced in part by the rallying of the Tories after Charleston had fallen. All these details are familiar to every Southern reader, and have been ably recorded by their historians and elucidated by such printed testimony as that of Moultrie, Greene and Lee. They are only alluded to as a necessary preface to some important records of the past which bear upon events about to be commemorated at the end of a century by the descendants of those who participated in them, or in whose neighborhood they occurred. History, like a mine, may be often dug over without being entirely exhausted. It is the intention of the compiler merely to present

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some crude ore that he has been so fortunate as to have become possessed of, (properly, if by chance,) leaving to the orator or the historiographer of the Cowpens Centennial the agreeable duty of refining it into useful metal.

Congress considering the readiest means of success, perhaps with little appreciation of DeKalb's merit, as subsequently developed and known amongst military men in Europe, selected their recently successful hero, General Horatio Gates, to succeed him. Educated in the same school with Cornwallis, and equally experienced in arms, it was held that his conquest would gracefully supplement that of his other former associate, Burgoyne. Gates hastened to his new duty, only stopping to push forward reinforcements and supplies; reached the army on the 25th of July, 1780, pressed forward two days later to meet the invader, and on the 16th of August was swept from the disastrous field of Camden by a cloud of fugitives he could not stem, a defeated commander and a man of broken professional fortune. Various opinions have been held of the formation for the battle, his merits as a soldier, even of his personal courage, of his ambition and his schemes; but all admit his fascinations as a gentleman. He held a distinguished social position, arrayed around him troops of friends amongst men of note, and when he died, widely regretted, at an advanced age, left many namesakes as tokens of his popularity. His official letter-book during the period of this command, lately exhumed from his muniment box where he had placed it with his commissions and military papers, nearly a century ago, is now carefully preserved in Dr. Thomas Addis Emmett's exhaustive collection of American History; and through his kindness, much of it was printed in the October (Gates) number of the "Magazine of American History." The compiler of this paper, long the friend and associate in kindred pursuits of its present owner, was so fortunate as to have had (with the exception of the Editor) the only reading of the complete manuscripts, and to be therefore able to certify that, in his judgment, although the prediction of the epi-

grammatic General Charles Lee, that "his Saratoga laurels would be turned into Southern willows" proved true, it appears impossible, from the contents, that he rushed into battle, as history has generally claimed, without preparation, relying on prestige and not on prudence for success. The labor and detail of these letters, and their foresights of wants, embarrassments and difficulties, are everywhere shown in earnest appeals to Congress, to Governors of adjacent States, officers, contractors, agents entrusted with property, to Caswell and other commanders of detachments. They show, in a word, the work of a man conscious of and seeking to remove the difficulties incident to his new duty. If, as it has been stated, his hair grew gray as he fled to Clermont, Charlotte and Hillsboro', riding eighty miles in a day, letters written on his way and on his arrival, providing for a rally and new efforts, show that his head was not in sympathy with his heels, and that he may have lost his prestige but not his discretion. This digression must be excused by a desire to suggest an injustice in accepted history near where its causes occurred. A success at Camden might have deprived both Cowpens and Yorktown of their significance as decisive battles of the Revolution.

On the 4th of December following, Gen. Nathaniel Greene arrived with the approval of both Washington and Congress, whose confidence his merits had already won, to stem the torrent by which Gates had been overwhelmed. He had left Baron Steuben in command in Virginia as a careful purveyor and forwarder of supplies, and the only Generals with him then were Smallwood and Morgan. He seems to have taken at once vigorous measures to restore the morale of his army, and to increase its efficiency, sparing Morgan—a tried soldier from Quebec to Saratoga—for a detachment, which although apparently attended with risk, in the tactics it forced upon the enemy in turn, was an early evidence of that military sagacity which has given Greene so distinguished a place as a military commander. A few days after his arrival he addressed this letter, copied from the original and the first of a few connected with the Battle of Cowpens, selected from his correspondence, fuller in reference to other details than on this, and all unprinted heretofore to the compiler's knowledge:

GREENE TO MORGAN—THE DETACHED COMMAND FORMED WHICH WON COWPENS.

Sir: You are appointed to the command of a corps of Light Infantry, a detachment of Militia, and Lt. Col. Washington's Regiment of Light Dragoons. With these troops you will proceed to the West side of the Catawba

Mrs. Julian James.

river, where you will be joined by a body of Volunteer Militia under the command of Brig. Genl. Davidson of this State, and by the Militia lately under the command of Brig. Genl. Sumter. This force, and such others as may join you from Georgia, you will employ against the enemy on the West side of the River, either offensively or defensively as your own prudence and discretion may direct, acting with caution, and avoiding surprizes by every possible precaution. For the present I give you the entire command in that quarter, and do hereby require all Officers and Soldiers engaged in the American cause to be subject to your orders and command. The object of this detachment is to give protection to that part of the country and spirit up the people—to annoy the enemy in that quarter,—collect the provisions and forage out of the way of the enemy, which you will have formed into a number of small magazies, in or near the position you may think proper to take. You will prevent plundering as much as possible, and be as careful of your provisions and forage as may be, giving receipts for whatever you take, to all such as are friends to the independence of America. Should the enemy move in force towards the Pedee, where this Army will take a position, you will move in such direction as to enable you to join me if necessary, or to fall upon the flank or into the rear of the enemy as occasion may require. You will spare no pains to get good intelligence of the Enemy's situation, and keep me constantly advertized of both your and their movements. You will appoint for the time being a Quarter Master, Commissary and Forage Master, who will follow your instructions in their several lines.

Confiding in your abilities and activity, I entrust you with this command, being persuaded you will do every thing, in your power to distress the enemy and afford protection to the country.

(Given unde. my hand at Charlotte, this 16th of December, 1780.

NATH. GREENE.

To Brig. Genl. MORGAN.

GREENE TO MORGAN—A PARTING CAUTION.

CAMP AT THE CHERAWS,
On the East Side of Pedee,
December 29, 1780.)

Dear Sir: We arrived here on the 26th inst., after a very tedious and disagreeable march, owing to the badness of the roads and the poor and weak state of our teams. Our prospects with regard to provisions are mended, but this is no Egypt.

I have this moment received intelligence that General Leslie has landed at Charles-

town, and is on his march to Camden. His force is about 2,000, perhaps something less. I also am informed Lord Cornwallis has collected his troops at Camden. You will watch their motions very narrowly, and take care and guard against a surprize. Should they move in force this way you will endeavor to cross the river and join us. Do not be sparing of your Expresses, but let me know as often as possible of your situation. I wish to be fully informed of your prospect respecting provisions, and also the number of militia that have joined you.

A large number of tents and hatchets are on the road. As soon as they arrive you shall be supplied. Many other articles necessary for the Army, particularly shoes, are coming on. I am sir,

Your humble servant,
General MORGAN. NATH. GREENE.

ADJUTANT-GEN. WILLIAMS TO MORGAN.
CAMP HICKS CREEK ON P. D.,
30th Dec., 1780.

Dr. General: I enclose you a number of letters by a Sergeant of Lt. Colonel Washington's Regt. which I hope will arrive safe. We are at present in a Camp of Repose, and the General is exerting himself and every Body else to put his little Army in a better condition. Tents in sufficient number for a larger army than ours are coming from Philadelphia. They are expected to arrive early in January. We also expect a number of shoes, shirts and some other articles essentially necessary.

Col. Marion writes the General that Gen. Leslie landed with his command at Chas. town on the 20th inst., and that he had advanced as far as Monk's Corner. You know Lord Cornwallis has collected his force in Camden, probably they mean to form a junction and attempt to give a blow to a part of our force, while we are divided and most probably that blow will be aimed at you. as our position in the centre of a wilderness is less accessible than your camp. I know your discretion renders all caution from me unnecessary, but my Friendship will plead an excuse for the impertinence of wishing you to run no risque of a Defeat. May your Laurels flourish when your Locks fade, and an age of Peace reward your toils in War. My love to every Fellow Soldier, and Adieu.

Yrs mo. truly,
General MORGAN. O. H. WILLIAMS.

Gen'l Greene desires you will please to send returns of your command. Lt. Col. Howard will please to make a distinct return of the Light Infy and mark all casualties minutely that they may be entered in our Muster Rolls. I have wrote to Col. Washington for a special return of Cavalry, called for by the Hon'le Board of War.

Thine,
O. H. W.

GREENE TO JEFFERSON—STATE AID FROM VIRGINIA.

CAMP ON THE RIVER PEDEE.

December 31st, 1780.

Sir: Since I wrote your Excellency last I have taken an entire new position with the Army. One part is with me on this river about 80 miles from Charlotte, and the other is with Gen. Morgan on Broad river, on the west side of the Catawba, about 60 miles from Charlotte. The state of the provisions as well as many other reasons rendered this measure necessary. Lord Cornwallis continues in the neighborhood of Camden and General Lesley has arrived at Charlestown, and is on his way to join his Lordship. What they will attempt on a junction of this force it is difficult to tell, nor have I it in my power for want of hard money to get the smallest intelligence. I have given your Excellency such a full state of this Department in my former letters, and of the distress and suffering of your troops in particular, that I will not pain your humanity by a repetition.

Since my last the Cherokees have committed some depredations upon the Frontiers, and the Militia have assembled and gone against the lower towns, but with what force I am not able to say.

For the aid of the Quarter M. General's department I have found it necessary to draw on your Excellency for one hundred and three thousand, eight hundred and four old Continental Dollars in favor of Mr. Patrick St. Lawrence, which I beg you to give orders for the payment of. I am anxious to hear what measures your Assembly are taking respecting the several matters contained in the requisition which I laid before them.

I am, with great respect, your Excellency's most obedient, Humble servant.

NATH. GREENE.

His Excellency Governor JEFFERSON.

COL. WILLIAMS ON GENERAL GATES.

CAMP HICKS CREEK, 3d January, 1781.

Dr Sir: The Bearer, a Corporal of the 3d Regiment of Lt. Dragoons, is ordered to join his Corps. He brings with him seven Privates, nine Horses &c. Fifty tents have arrived here and we expect more. I will be glad to receive a return of the number you have, when you send your next return of men &c. It is said here that Genl. Lessly has crossed Nelson Ferry. I think there is no reason to conclude he intends to join Lt. Cornwallis at Camden. But probably you are more particularly acquainted with the motions of those Gentlemen.

The Maryland State Regt is arrived at Holey's Ferry. I believe it will be employed on detachment and will not join the Army in Camp, at least till the General hears from Maryland. Doct Brown who has just arrived and reassumes or continues his post

in the Hospital Department, informs me that Major Giles told him and that he told Genl. Gates, I had, as well as others censured his conduct in the action of Camden. The letters I wrote on the subject contained matter of fact. I always expected to be called on as Evidence upon an Enquiry into the Genls conduct. Therefore avoided giving my opinion. If any of my friends impute to the General as faults all the misfortunes of that Day, it would have been as proper to have given their own Opinions as to have drawn improper conclusions from my information and given me as the author. If I was in presence of Genl. Gates, or if it recurs to certain private conversations I had with him since the action he will not be surpris'd at these reports. I am conscious of having conducted myself with the strictest propriety in that affair, as I shall upon Oath when required all and no more than what I have at different times mentioned to the General, and I have said much less to others. You are particularly acquainted with my private sentiments on the subject. I hope you will believe I have at no time been inconsistent, whatever construction may have been put upon my letters and whatever information Major Giles might have rec'd on the subject. I shall quiet the old Gentlemans doubts by letters, for in whatever Light his Conduct may appear to the World I always rather pity'd than condemn'd his misfortunes. My compliments to my Friends with you and believe me yours,

O. H. WILLIAMS.

The writer of these letters, Gen. Otho H. Williams, of Maryland, will be recalled as one of the most distinguished and useful officers of the Revolution. Although young he had seen early service, with Cresap, was as a major a prisoner at Fort Washington, and exchanged for Major Ackland, and was promoted to a regiment in the Maryland Line. At Camden, having assumed the duties of Major John Armstrong, who was sick, as adjutant-general to Gen. Gates, he led the skirmish line, and subsequently kept his head in that disaster and was placed in command of the remains of the gallant Marylanders, doing much to restore discipline. In Gen. Greene's campaign he was frequently in command of detached parties and particularly distinguishing himself at Guilford and Eutaw Springs. He was an officer of great courage, enterprize and resources in difficulties.

MORGAN TO GREENE—FURTHER CAUTIONS OF A SKILFUL COMMANDER.

CAMP ON PACOLET, January 4th, 1781.

Dear Sir: As soon as I could form a just Judgment of our Situation and the Prospects, I despatched Colonel Malmady to give you the necessary Information, and I flatter myself he has done it to your satisfaction.

The Accounts he brings you of Lieut. Col. Washington's success at Hammond's Stores, is as authentic as any I have been able to collect. It was followed by some small advantages. General Cunningham on hearing of Waters' defeat prepared to evacuate Fort Williams, and had just marched out with the last of his garrison, as a party consisting of about forty Militia Horsemen under Colonel Hayes and ten dragoons under Mr. Simmons, arrived with an Intention of demanding a Surrender. The Enemy's force was so superior to theirs that they could effect nothing more than the demolition of the Fort.

Sensible of the Importance of guarding against Surprizes I have used every precaution of this Head. I have had men who were recommended as every way calculated for the business constantly watching the Motions of the Enemy, so that unless they deceive me I am in no danger of being surprized.

I have received no acquisition of force since I wrote to you but expect in a few days to be joined by Col. Clarke and Twiggs Regiment. Their numbers I cannot ascertain. The men on the North side of Broad River I have not yet ordered to join me, but have directed their officers to keep them in Compact Bodies that they may be ready to march at the shortest notice. I intend these as a check on the Enemy should they attempt anything against my Detachment.

My Situation is far from being agreeable to my Wishes or Expectations. Forage and Provisions are not to be had. Here we cannot subsist so that we have but one alternative, either to retreat or move into Georgia. A retreat will be attended with the most fatal consequences. The Spirit which now begins to pervade the People and call them into the Field will be destroyed. The Militia who have already joined will desert us, and it is not improbable that a Regard for their own Safety will induce them to join the Enemy.

I shall wait with impatience for your directions on the subject of my letter by Colonel Malmady as till then my operations must be in a manner suspended.

I am, dear sir, your obedient servant,

D. MORGAN.

Major General GREENE.

The enclosed paper has just been put into my hands by Colonels Pickens and McCall who assure me the circumstances are exactly as related.

GREENE TO MORGAN—GUARD AGAINST A SURPRISE.

CAMP S. CAROLINA,
FERRY ON THE EAST SIDE OF PEDEE,
January 8th, 1781.

Dear Sir: Col. Malmady arrived here yesterday with your letter of the 31st of December. Nothing could have afforded more

pleasure than the successful attack of Lieut. Col. Washington upon the Tories. I hope it will be attended with a happy influence upon both Whig and Tory, to the reclaiming of one and the encouragement of the other. I wish you to forward to me an official report as soon as possible, that I may send it to the Northward. I have maturely considered your proposition of an expedition into Georgia and cannot think it warrantable in the critical situation our Army is in. I have no small reason to think by intelligence from different quarters that the enemy have a movement in contemplation and in all probability it will be this way from the impudence of the Tories, who are collecting in different quarters in the most inaccessible swamps and morasses. Should you go into Georgia and the enemy push this way, your whole force will be useless. The enemy having no objects there but what is secure in their fortifications, will take no notice of your movement, but serve you as General Provost did General Lincoln, oblige you to return by making a forward movement themselves, and you will be so far in the rear that you can do them no injury. But if you continue in the neighborhood of the place you now are and they attempt to push forward you may intercept their communications with Charlestown, or harrass their rear, both of which will alarm the enemy not a little.

If you employ detachments to intercept supplies going to Ninety-six and Augusta it will perplex the enemy very much: If you think Ninety-six, Augusta or even Savannah can be surprized and your force will admit of a detachment for the purpose and leave you sufficiency to keep up a good countenance you may attempt it. But don't think of attempting either unless by surprize, for you will only beat your heads against the wall without success. Small parties are better to effect the purpose than large bodies, and the success will not greatly depend upon the numbers, but on the secrecy and spirit of the attack.

I must repeat my caution to you to guard against a surprize. You say the enemy and the Tories both will try to bring you into disgrace if possible to prevent your influence upon the militia, especially the weak and wavering.

I cannot pretend to give you any particular instructions respecting a position. But some where between the Saluda and the north branch of Broad River appears the most favorable for annoying the enemy, interrupting their supplies and harrassing their rear if they should make a movement this way: If you could detach a small party to kill the enemy's draught horses and recruiting cavalry upon the Congaree it would give them almost as deadly a blow as a defeat. But this matter must be conducted

with great secrecy and dispatch. Lieut.-Col. Lee has just arrived with his legion and Col. Greene is within a few days march of this with a reinforcement. The order is given to Capt. Marbury to make the pack saddles at Salisbury.

I wish you to have Lieut.-Col. Washington's horse kept in as good order as possible, and let the militia light horse do all the fatigue duty. We may want a body of heavy cavalry, and if they are broken down on common duty we shall have nothing to depend upon. I have ordered Major Campbell, who is at Salisbury with 100 Virginia riflemen, to join you.

I am, dear sir, your most obedient humble servant,
NATH. GREENE.

Brig.-Gen. DANIEL MORGAN.

WILLIAMS TO MORGAN—PROPOSES TO SEE IT OUT.

CAMP HICKS CREEK.
13th January, 1781. }

Dr. General: It is grateful to the soul of a man of sensibility to find a friend in a man of Sense. Education is only a polish to our Expressions, our thoughts are the same, and I find as much real satisfaction in reading your plain, friendly letter of the 3d inst., as if it had been an Eulogium in Pindaric Verse. I thank for your obliging sentiments in my favor, and will endeavor always to deserve them by a conduct consistent with the high ideas you have of my moral rectitude and propriety.

Genl. Greene has just now received an express with letters announcing the arrival of about 2,500 brave fellows in Virginia. We must see it out! Virginia I hope will provide for them.

Present me to Howard, Pindell, Giles, Brooks and all my other acquaintances. I wish you every possible success, and am

Affectionately yours

O. H. WILLIAMS.

Gen. MORGAN, Pacolet, South Carolina. By Express.

GREENE TO MORGAN—HOLD YOUR GROUND.

CAMP ON THE PEDEE,
Jan. 13th, 1781. }

Dear Sir: I am this moment favored with your letter of the 4th inst. Col. Malmedy also delivered me your dispatches of the 30th December, which I answered the 8th inst., wherein I inform you that I cannot think an expedition into Georgia eligible at this time. Since I wrote you I have received letters from Virginia informing me of the arrival of General Phillips with a detachment of 2,500 men from New York. This circumstance renders it still more improper for you to move far to the Southward. It is my wish also that you should hold your

ground if possible, for I foresee the disagreeable consequences that will result from a retreat. If moving as far as Ninety-Six or any where in the neighborhood of it will contribute to the obtaining of more ample supplies, you have my consent. Col. Tarleton is said to be on his way to pay you a visit. I doubt not but he will have a decent reception and a proper dismissal. And I am happy to find you have taken every precaution to avoid a surprize. I wish you to be more particular as to your plan and object in paying a visit to Georgia.

Virginia are raising 3,000 men to reinforce this Army. The Head Quarters with the Northern Army is at New Windsor.

General MORGAN

NOTE.—The second page appropriated by some collector of autographs and not of history before it came into the compiler's possession.

RUTLEDGE TO MORGAN—SUCCESS ATTEND YOU!

CHERAWS, Jany. 14th, 1781.

Dr Sir: I received your favor of the 2d instant. Sh'd have wrote to you sooner but never knew of any person going your way till after he had set out. The Enemy landed in Virginia the beginnig of this month 3,000 men (as it is said tho' perhaps the number is exaggerated) under Knyphausen. Holland and Portugal have acceded to the League of — and the latter has forbid any British vessel entering her Ports. Col. J. Laurens is appointed Envoy Extraordinary to France, to solicit sufficient aid to render the next campaign decisive. This is all the news we have had here. I thank you for all the assurances contained in your letter, but the matter will require address, dexterity and despatch if attempted. I fear that circumstances will not admit of an attempt with a probability of success, in which case it had better not be made. However you are on the spot and can judge and I am sure will act for the best. I rely on your good management and best exertions, if a good opportunity sh'd offer. Success attend you in all your undertakings.

I am with great regard

Dr sir yours sincerely,

J. RUTLEDGE.

P. S. Remember me to Col. Pickens and Major Bowie. When you write to me by any person who is to return desire him to deliver the letter to me in person and call on me for an answer.

The Hon'ble Brigadier Gen. MORGAN.

GREENE TO MORGAN—GREENE PREDICTS COW PENS.

CAMP ON PEDEE, January 19th, 1781.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 15th was delivered to me last evening about 12 o'clock.

I am surprized that General Sumter should give such an order as you mention to Col. Hill, nor can I persuade myself but that there must be some mistake in the matter, for tho' it is the most military to convey orders through the principal to the dependents, as well from propriety as respect, yet this may not always be convenient or even practicable, and therefore to give a positive order not to obey was repugnant to reason and common sense. As the head was subject to your orders, consequently the dependents also. I will write General Sumter on the subject, but as it is better to conciliate than aggravate matters where everything depends so much on voluntary principles, I wish you to take no notice of the matter, but endeavour to influence his conduct to give you all the aid in his power. Write him frequently and consult with him freely. He is a man of great pride and considerable merit, and should not be neglected. If he has given such order, I persuade myself he will see the impropriety of the matter and correct it in future, unless personal glory is more the object than public good, which I cannot suppose is the case with him or any other man who fights in the cause of Liberty. I was informed of Lord Cornwallis' movements before the arrival of your letter, and agree with you in opinion that you are the object; and from the making so general a movement it convinces me he feels a great inconvenience from your force and situation. Gen. Leslie has crossed the Catawba to join him. He would never harass his troops to remove you if he did not think it an object of some importance. Nor would he put his collective force in motion if he had not some respect for your numbers. I am sensible your situation is critical, and requires the most watchful attention to guard against a surprize. But I think it is of great importance to keep up a force in that quarter, nor can I persuade myself that the militia alone will answer the same valuable purposes as when joined by the Continental Troops.

It is not my wish you should come to action unless you have a manifest superiority and a moral certainty of succeeding. Put nothing to the hazard, a retreat may be disagreeable but not disgraceful. Regard not the opinion of the day. It is not our business to risque too much, our affairs are in too critical a situation and require time and nursing to give them a better tone.

If General Sumter and you could fix upon a plan for him to hold the post which you now occupy, to be joined by the militia under General Davidson, and you with your force, the Georgia and Virginia militia to move toward August, or into that quarter, I should have no objection to such a movement; provided you think it will answer any valuable purpose, and can be attempted with a degree of safety. I am unwilling to recall

you if it can be avoided, but I had rather recall you by far than to expose you to the hazard of a surprize.

Before they can possibly reach you I imagine the movements of Lord Cornwallis and Col. Tarleton will be sufficiently explained, and you obliged to take some decisive measure. I shall be perfectly satisfied if you keep clear of a misfortune, for, tho' I wish you laurels, yet I am unwilling to expose the common cause to give you an opportunity to acquire them.

As the rivers are subject to sudden and great swells, you must be careful that the enemy do not take a position to gain your rear, when you can neither retreat by your flank or front. The Pedee rose 25 feet the last week in 30 hours. I am preparing boats to move always with the army. Would one or two be of use to you? They will be put upon four wheels, and may be moved with little more difficulty than a loaded waggon.

Gen. Davidson is desired to receive orders, and in conjunction with Gen. Sumter to consult with you, a plan for a combined attack on one of the divisions of Lord Cornwallis's army, and also respecting your movements into Georgia.

I am, with esteem, dear sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

NATH. GREENE.

General MORGAN.

The admirable strategy displayed by Greene cannot fail to strike those of military experience or education. While holding Cornwallis in check, he was drilling and perfecting his main force, Kosciusko was preparing the boats for an advance, Steuben forwarding when possible material and men, while Morgan's respectable detachment threatened Ninety-Six, Augusta, and every assailable point and compelled the enemy soon also to divide and weaken their force. They could not—it will have been noticed—pursue Morgan, if he made an aggressive movement, towards either Virginia or Georgia, without leaving Greene in their rear. He was in striking distance of Hillsboro'—which he considered his base of supply—Charlotte, or Charleston, and compelled them to guard the radii from his centre. The gallant and efficient Sumter, although disabled by his wound at Blackstock, commanded a department in which Morgan was operating, and the interference was with the orders of Greene to Morgan, as the superior officer of both, to establish depots in his rear on which he could draw or fall back, Gen. Sumter probably considered should be promulgated through him. Such differences are so common as really to form an incident of warfare. Col. Harry Lee had joined Gen. Greene seven days before this letter was written, with a well equipped 300 of his long delayed legion, to supply the place of Col.

Armand's legion dispensed with after Camden, and his few other cavalry under Col. Washington having been spared to Morgan.

Morgan to Greene—Report of the Battle of Cowpens.

CAMP ON CAIN CREEK ON PEDEE, }
January 19th, 1781. }

Dear Sir: The troops I have the honor to command have gained a complete victory over a detachment from the British Army commanded by Lieut.-Col. Tarleton. It happened on the 17th inst., about sunrise, at a place called the Cowpens, near Pacolet River. On the 14th, having received intelligence that the British Army were in motion, and that their movements clearly indicated the intention of dislodging me, I abandoned my encampment at Glendale Ford, and on the 16th, in the evening, took possession of a post about seven miles from Chroke on Broad River. My former position subjected me at once to the operations of Lord Cornwallis and Colonel Tarleton, and in case of a defeat my retreat might easily have been cut off. My situation at Cowpens enabled me to improve any advantage that I might gain and to provide better for my security should I be unfortunate. These reasons induced me to take this post notwithstanding it had the appearance of a retreat. On the evening of the 16th, the enemy occupied the ground we had removed from in the morning. One hour before daylight one of my scouts informed me that they had advanced within five miles of our camp. On this information the necessary dispositions were made. From the activity of the troops we were soon prepared to receive them. The light infantry commanded by Lt.-Col. Howard, and the Virginia Militia under Major Triplett, were formed on a rising ground. The Third Regiment of Dragoons consisting of about 80 men under the command of Lt. Col. Washington were so posted in the rear as not to be injured by the enemy's fire, and yet to be able to charge them should an occasion offer; the Volunteers from North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia under the command of Col. Pickens were posted to guard the flanks. Major McDowal, of the North Carolina Volunteers, were posted on the right flank in front of the line 150 yards. Major Cunningham, of the Georgia Volunteers, on the left, at the same distance in front, Colonels Brannon and Thomas, of the South Carolina Volunteers, on the right of Major McDowal, and Colonels Hays and McCall of the same corps to the left of Major Cunningham. Capts. Tate and Buchanan, with the Augusta Riflemen, were to support the right of the line. The enemy drew up in one line

four hundred yards in front of our advanced corps. The first battalion of the 71st Regiment was opposed to our right, the 7th to our left, the Legion Infantry to our centre, and two companies of the light troops, 100 each, on our flanks. In their front they moved two pieces of artillery, and Lieut.-Col. Tarleton, with 280 cavalry, was posted in the rear of the line. The disposition being thus made, small parties of riflemen were detached to skirmish with the enemy, on which their whole line advanced with the greatest impetuosity, shouting as they advanced. Majors McDowal and Cunningham gave them a heavy and galling fire, and retreated to the regiments intended for their support; the whole of Col. Pickens' command then kept up a fire by regiments, retreating agreeable to orders. When the enemy advanced on our lines they received a well-directed and incessant fire, but their numbers being superior to ours they gained our flanks, which obliged us to change our position. We retired, in good order, about fifty paces, formed and advanced on the enemy and gave them a brisk fire, which threw them into disorder. Lieut.-Col. Howard observing this gave orders for the line to charge bayonets, which was done with such address that the enemy fled with the utmost precipitation. Lieut.-Col. Washington discovering that the cavalry were cutting down our riflemen on the left, charged them with such firmness as obliged them to retire in confusion. The enemy were entirely routed, and the pursuit continued upwards of twenty miles. Our loss was inconsiderable, not having more than twelve killed and sixty wounded. The enemy's loss was 10 commissioned officers and over 100 rank and file killed and 200 wounded, 29 commissioned officers and about 500 privates prisoners which fell into our hands with two pieces of artillery, two standards, 800 muskets, one travelling forge, thirty-five baggage wagons, seventy negroes and upwards of 100 dragoon horses, with all their musick. They destroyed most of the baggage which was immense. Although our success was complete we fought only 800 men and were opposed by upwards of one thousand chosen British Troops. Such was the inferiority of our numbers that our success must be attributed, under God, to the justice of our cause and the bravery of our Troops. My wishes would induce me to mention the name of every private sentinel in the Corps. In justice to the brave and good conduct of the officers, I have taken the liberty to enclose you a list of their names from a conviction that you will be pleased to introduce such characters to the world. Major Giles, my aid de camp, and Captain Brooks, acting as Brigade Major, deserves to have my thanks for their assistance and behavior on this occasion. The Baron de

Glubuck, who accompanies Major Giles with these despatches, behaved in such a manner as to merit your attention.

I am sir, Your obedient servant,
DAN MORGAN.

Maj. Gen. GREENE.

A List of the commissioned officers in the action of 17th January, 1781.

Of the Light Infantry.

- John E. Howard, Lt.-Col. Command'g.
- Benj. Brooks, Captain and Brig. Major.
- Captains Robert Sherwood, Delaware.
- Anderson, Maryland.
- Dobson, do.
- Lieutenants Ewing, do.
- Watkins, do.
- Hanson, do.
- Barnes, do.
- Miller, do.
- King, do.
- Dyer, do.
- Smith, do.

Of the Third Battalion of Dragoons.

- Lieut.-Col. Washington, Virginia.
- Major Richard Call, do.
- Captain Berrett, do.
- Lieutenant Bell, do.
- Cornet Simmons, South Carolina.

Of the Maryland State Battalion.

- Edward Giles, Major and Act'g A. D. C.

Of the Virginia Militia.

- Major Triplett, Ensigns Combs,
- Captains Backus, McCorkill,
- Tate, Wilson.
- Gilmore.

The Baron de Glubuck served as volunteer in Gen. Morgan's family, and Mr. Andrews with Col. Washington's battalion. Col. Pickens and all the officers in his corps behaved well; but from their having so lately joined the detachment it has been impossible to collect all their names and rank so that the General does not particularize any lest it should be doing injustice to others.

By order of Brig.-Gen. MORGAN.
EDWARD GILES, A. D. C.

DR. JACKSON TO MORGAN—WANTS OF THE WOUNDED.

JANUARY 16th, 1781.

Sir: As the wounded must suffer much from want of necessaries, and even medical assistance, with your permission I should wish to inform Lord Cornwallis of their situation, that if he thinks proper he may order something for their relief, some Surgeons of the General Hospital and Hospital appointments. From your very great politeness to me I am confident that you will grant everything that is reasonable or proper.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,
ROBERT JACKSON,
Surgeon's Mate 1st Batt. 71 Regt.
B. Genl. MORGAN.

TARLETON TO MORGAN—A REVERSE COURTEOUSLY ACCEPTED.

NEAR TURKEY CREEK, Jan. 19th, 1781.

Sir: The action of the 17th instant having thrown into your hands a number of British Officers and Soldiers I primarily request of you that Attention and Humanity may be exhibited towards the Wounded Officers and Men, for whose assistance I now send a Flag, Doctor Stewart and the Surgeon's Mate of the Seventh Regt. I secondly desire you to inform me the Number and Inability of the Prisoners, which the Fortune of War has placed in your possession.

I have the Honour to be, Sir, your most obedient and most humble servant,

B. TARLETON,
Lt. Col. Commdg R. L.

P. S. I have sent some money for the use of the Prisoners.

It is clear from this graceful letter, containing neither a word too much or too little, even were it not shown in his interesting and on the whole fairly impartial report, that Banistre Tarleton, Lieutenant-colonel in possession and Lieutenant-general, Baronet, Knight of the Bath, and son-in-law of the Duke of Ancaster in expectancy, daring and successful partisan as he was, could conduct himself as a gentleman in adversity, always a mark of breeding even when surrounded by prosperity. He had retreated to the place where it was dated and rejoined his indulgent commander.

PINDELL TO MORGAN—THE SUFFERINGS OF THE WOUNDED.

MT. JORDANS NEAR THE COW PENNS, }
Jan'y 22d, 1781.

D. Gen'l: Enclosed I send a Flag which arrived yesterday from Colo. Tarleton. You will see his own requisitions, in addition to which Doct'r Jackson, in conjunction with the Gentlemen who came with the Flag, (finding it impossible to have the wounded properly provided for in this country,) are desirous of having the men paroled and to have permission to take them within the British lines. They will give a receipt for the number of wounded men they receive and make a return of those that may recover to our Commissary of Prisoners, when they will exchange. I am of opinion also that they cannot be provided for here, and think their proposals of equal advantage to us. There has been one instance of this kind at Stoney Point. If it is not agreeable to you to have the men paroled the surgeons will give a receipt for the men and be accountable for them. Some of them are still in the field and have no salt. You will please to despatch an answer as soon as possible, that we may know in what manner to act, there is no Regular Supply established yet. I wrote you two or three days past but have re-

ceived no answer. I wish some mode could be established to remove our wounded to Salisbury. I am entirely out of Brandy and Lint and shall soon need a supply of medicines.

I am yours, &c.,

R. PINDELL.

Hon. Brigadier Gen'l MORGAN, Commanding in the Field near Catawba.

LAST WORDS OF A PATRIOT.

The three following letters especially merit a lasting record. The writer, Gen. Davidson, of Rowan County, North Carolina, served with distinction both North and South, joining Lincoln in the latter, and when shot through the body at Colson's Mills, had reported for duty after two months. He had joined Morgan just previous to Cowpens with one hundred and twenty Whigs whom he had recruited at Mecklenburg, where he had been educated and his interests lay, and had hurried back to bring into the field five hundred more whom he had enrolled, and so lost his coveted opportunity in that affair, and at the writing of these letters, at Charlotte was hastening to his duty and his destiny. On his arrival he was entrusted with the important duty of guarding the numerous forts of the Catawba and to prevent the crossing of Lord Cornwallis, or of Arnold, if he arrived. On the 1st of February, five days after the date of the last, he was killed at McCowan's Ford, which he attempted to hold with three hundred of his mounted levy. Here Cornwallis, leading in person, had his horse shot under him, and one of his most efficient officers, Col. Hall of the Guards, was amongst the slain. Congress, appreciating Davidson's services, voted five hundred dollars for his monument, and it is to be hoped that it still records his gallant deeds and early death. It will be noticed that he does not wish to be detained from the field as a guard or escort for the prisoners, and was a prompt, decisive soldier:

Dr. Gen'l: You'll please to accept my warmest congratulations on your late glorious victory. You have in my opinion paved the way for the Salvation of this Country. I hope Major McDowell & the volunteers (his 120) answered the Character I gave you of them. The Militia are coming in fast to this place, again Wednesday or Thursday I shall be ready to march with a considerable number of pretty good men whenever it may be proper, and several Gentlemen from the Country have offered to embody the Militia that are at home, to conduct the prisoners to any place that may be directed. If you think well of this I'll thank you to let me know by the bearer, Parson McCaull, as I have men here from every Company who can carry despatches for the purpose

immediately. I think I shall have 600 men at least at the place of Rendezvous.

I have the honor to be my Dr. General,

Yours most respectfully,

WM. L. DAVIDSON.

Gen'l MORGAN.

CHARLOTTE, January 22d, 1781.

Sir: The enclosed despatches from Head Quarters came to my hand to-day enclosed in a letter from General Greene. The Gen'l mentions to me the plan you suggested of making a diversion to the Westward, and seems to depend much on your judgment respecting that matter. In the meantime I am directed to make you acquainted with my numbers and situation and hold myself in readiness to execute any order you may think proper to give. As the troops are now collecting, returns cannot be made for some time. Seventeen British Soldiers taken on the retreat the 17th inst. were brought in here to-day. Your victory over Tarleton has gladdened every countenance in this part. We have had a Feu de Joy to-day in consequence of it.

I have the the honor to be,

Your very obedient and humble servant,

WM. L. DAVIDSON.

Gen'l. MORGAN.

Dear Sir: Just now my Quarter Master returned from Captain Marbury, to whom I sent an order for flints, and found he has not any. 300 militia coming from the District joins me, who are all wanting flints. If you have any that you possibly can spare until I can write and have a return from Gen. Greene, shall replace them. Cannot hear where you are. Should thank you to let me know, as also the Prisoners. The enclosed is a just account of the force at Camden commanded by Lord Rawdon, given by Col. Adam Alexander, just from that place from a Gaol confinement of four months.

I am, dear sir,

Your most humble servant.

WM. L. DAVIDSON.

Jan. 24, 1781. Camp near Charlotte.

Gen'l. MORGAN.

WILLIAMS TO MORGAN—CONGRATULATIONS.

CAMP P. D., 25th January, 1781.

Dr. Gen'l: I rejoice exceedingly at your success. The advantages you have gained are important and do great Honor to your little Corps. I am peculiarly happy that so great a share of the glory is due to the officers and men of the Light Infantry. Next to the happiness which a man feels at his own good fortune is that which attends his Friend. I am much better pleased that you have plucked the laurels from the brow of the hitherto fortunate Tarleton than if he had fallen by the hands of Lucifer. Ven-

geance is not sweet if it is not taken as we would have it. I am delighted that the accumulated honors of a young Partisan should be plundered by my Old Friend. We have had a feu de joy, drank all your Healths, Swear you are the finest, Fellows, and love you if possible more than ever. The General has, I think, made his compliments in very handsome terms. Inclosed is a copy of his order. It was wrote immediately after we heard the news, and during the operation of some cherry bounce. Major Hyrne is so obliging as to bring you a small Packet from me. It is intended to qualify you to let me hear from you now and then. I have only to add a repetition of my best wishes for you. Compts. to Howard and all friends. Adieu.

Yours sincerely,

O. H. WILLIAMS.

Yesterday the famous Major Gray, the infamous spy and notorious horse thief, lost his mulatto Head. It is exhibited at Cheraw Hill, a terror to Tories.

Brigadier General MORGAN. His Camp. For'd by Major Hyrne.

RUTLEDGE TO MORGAN—PICKENS A BRIGADIER.

CHERAWS, January 25th, 1781.

Dr. Sir: I request that you will be pleased to accept my warmest and most cordial thanks, & that you will present them to the brave Officers and Men under your Command for the good Conduct and Intrepidity manifested in the Action with Lieut. Col. Tarleton on the 17th instant. This total defeat of chosen Veteran British Troops by a number far inferior to theirs will for Ever distinguish the gallant men by whom the Glorious Victory was obtained, & endear them to their country. I reflect on it with the greatest pleasure as a presage of the happiest consequence. It will excite many to emulate their Patriotism, & by the undaunted Courage & Perseverance of Freemen who are determined to maintain the Independence of America, that must (with the Blessing of God on our Arms) be firmly established. Col. Pickens's behavior justifies the opinion I have always had of that excellent Officer. Inclosed is a Brigadier's Commission, of which I desire his acceptance.

I am with great Regard, Dr Sir, Your Most Obedt. Servt.

J. RUTLEDGE.

Gen. MORGAN.

GOVERNOR JOHN RUTLEDGE'S ORDER.

CHERAWS, January 25th, 1781.

The Regiments lately Colo. Pickens's & Colo. Hammond's, Harden's & Gordin's Regiments are in General Pickens's Brigade. The officers commanding these Regiments are therefore to obey his Orders as their Brigadier General.

J. RUTLEDGE.

To Col. HARDEN.

RUTLEDGE TO MORGAN—HEALTH, SUCCESS AND EVERY BLESSING.

CHERAWS, July 25th, 1781.

Dr. Sir: I am in great hopes that the late affair with Master Tarleton will afford an opportunity of bringing away all my Negroes from Ninety-Six to Salisbury. If an attempt can be made to remove 'em, with a probability of Success, I wish it may as soon as possible. I hope by the good offices of Col. Pickens and Capt. Wood and his brother they may be got off. Tho' I have no doubt of recovering and holding So. Carolina, yet as I have lost the two last years crops entirely, besides suffering other incredibly great damage by the Enemy, I w'd wish to send my negroes, if I can, to some place where I may perhaps make a little by them, until we can so recover the States as that I may replace them with some degree of Safety. But I shall be too late to recover any benefits by them this year, unless I can get 'em away very soon, as the Spring advances fast. You will excuse my giving you any trouble about a private concern when you have so much about the publick Trusts (fortunately for me) committed to your charge. Health, success and every Blessing attend you.

I am, dear sir, y^rs,

J. RUTLEDGE.

Gen. MORGAN.

SUMTER TO MORGAN—ON THE ALERT.

CATAWBA RIVER, 28th January, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have every reason to believe that the Enemy are not more than 1,600 strong. I have had them repeatedly counted, and could ascertain their number to a man if I knewed what had escaped the defeat of Col. Tarleton. Upon which happy event I most heartily congratulate you.

I am, dear sir, your most obed^t h^{ble} servant,

THOS. SUMTER.

Brig. Gen. MORGAN.

GEN. MORGAN'S LEAVE AFTER COW PENS.

CAMP AT GUILFORD COURTHOUSE,

Feb'y 10th, 1781.

General Morgan, of the Virginia line, has leave of absence until he recovers his health so as to take the field again.

NATH. GREENE.

VIRGINIA'S THANKS THROUGH RICHARD HENRY LEE.

RICHMOND, March the 21st, 1781.

Sir: It is with peculiar pleasure that I execute the order of the House of Delegates in transmitting to you their sence, and thro them the sence that your country entertain of the many signal services performed by you in the various victories that you have obtained over the enemies of the United States, and more especially in the

late well-timed total defeat given to the British Troops in South Carolina. I am directed to request of you, sir, that you will convey to the brave Officers and Troops under your command in the action of the 17th of January, the sense entertained by the House of Delegates of their valor and great services upon that memorable occasion.

Having thus discharged my duty to the House of Delegates, permit me to lament that the unfortunate state of your health should deprive the public of those eminent services in the field which you are so capable of performing, and let me hope that it will not be long before a return of health will restore you to the army and your country.

I have the honor to be, with the very greatest respect and esteem, sir, your most obedient and very humble servant,

RICHARD HENRY LEE.

B. General MORGAN.

THE GRATITUDE OF CONGRESS.

Congress on Friday, March 9, 1781, recognized the value of this important victory as follows:

"The United States, in Congress assembled, considering it as a tribute due to distinguished merit to give a public approbation to the conduct of Brigadier General Morgan and of the officers and men under his command on the 17th of January last, when with eighty cavalry and two hundred and thirty-seven infantry of the troops of the United States and five hundred and fifty-three militia from the States of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia he obtained a complete and important victory over a select and well appointed detachment of more than eleven hundred British Troops commanded by Lieut. Col. Tarleton, do therefore resolve,

That the thanks of the United States in Congress assembled be given to Brigadier General Morgan, and the men under his command for the fortitude and good conduct displayed in the action at the Cowpens, in the State of South Carolina, on the seventeenth day of January last: That a medal of gold be presented to Brigadier-General Morgan, a medal of silver to Lieutenant Colonel Washington of the Cavalry, and one of silver to Lieutenant Colonel Howard, of the Infantry of the United States, severally, with emblems and mottoes descriptive of the conduct of those officers respectively on that memorable day.

That a sword be presented to Colonel Pickens, of the Militia, in testimony of his spirited conduct in the action before mentioned.

That Major Edward Giles, aid-de-camp to Brigadier-General Morgan, have the brevet commission of a Major; and that Baron de Glabuck, who served with Brigadier-General Morgan as a Volunteer, have the brevet commission of a captain in the Army of the United States in consideration of their merit and services.

Ordered that the commanding officers in the Southern Department communicate these resolutions in general orders."

These resolutions were printed by Gen. Moultrie in his valuable Memoirs of the Revolution, and test the appreciation of that gallant officer, then a prisoner of war, of the services and rewards of his more fortunate brother soldiers. While Tarleton in his "History of the Campaigns of 1780-81" fairly records the detail of his defeat and does justice to his opponents, he fails amongst many documents to print his report of the Battle of Cowpens, and merely an extract from a letter to Lord Cornwallis to him—apparently a favorite officer and generally addressed as "Dear Tarleton"—saying "You have forfeited no part of my esteem as an officer by the unfortunate event of the action of the 17th. The means you used to bring the enemy to action were able and masterly, and must ever do you honor. Your disposition was unexceptionable; the total misbehavior of the troops could alone have deprived you of the glory which was so justly your due." This from so distinguished a soldier, suffering from the reverse, was an unusual tribute to misfortune as well as compliment to success. Twenty-nine commissioned officers killed, wounded and captured in so small a force; shows the decisive character of the engagement, and that the "misbehavior" was confined to the men. It is to be regretted that Major Giles's hasty report, in which his fellow traveller with the good news, Baron Glabuck, and himself are twice referred to, gives so little detail of Col. Andrew Pickens's service noticed by Congress, and that of his command, who had joined the night before. The following letters, copies of which the compiler had furnished to his friend, Col. Charles C. Jones, Jr., of Augusta, an earnest contributor to history, particularly to that of his own State, he considers it proper to include here also in aid of the justice he seeks for those entitled to notice of their service on that day. The writer was one of the notable patriots of that period, who from a soldier at the defence of Savannah at eighteen to Major-General and Governor, was always in service and often distinguished. On this day he was serving as Brigade-Major to the gallant Pickens, and when writing these letters as Senator in Congress. It is to be hoped that these letters are not still cries for justice at the end of a century:

THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO MORGAN.

PHILADELPHIA, April 11th, 1781.

Sir: Your letter of the 28th ult. hath been duly received, with the standard of the Seventh British Regiment which fell into your hands in the battle of the 17th of January. This will be deposited with other Trophies in the War Office, to remain a lasting evidence of the Victory that day obtained with so much gallantry and Bravery. I am sorry to find your health so much impaired, hope by your present retirement and relaxation from the Toils of the Field, it may be perfectly restored and your Country reap signal advantages from your future services.

I have the honor to be with esteem and regard, your most obedient humble serv't.

SAM HUNTINGTON.

Brig. Gen. MORGAN.

MORGAN CALLED FOR BY THE VIRGINIA HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

IN HOUSE OF DELEGATES,

Saturday, 2d June, 1781.

Resolved, That his Excellency the Governor be desired to call for the immediate assistance of Brigadier-General Morgan to take command of such Volunteers, Militia or others, as he may be able speedily to embody and march to join the Army under command of the Hon'ble Major-General Marquis la Fayette; that this Assembly have the utmost confidence in the active exertion of General Morgan in the present emergency, and that the Governor do transmit to the said General so many proper commissions as may be necessary for the field officers, captains, subalterns and others to be by him appointed.

Teste. JOHN BERKLEY, Clk H. of D.

GOVERNOR NELSON, OF VIRGINIA.

RICHMOND, July 20th, 1781.

Sir: It will give me the greatest Pleasure to comply with the Resolution of the Assembly, directing that you shall be presented with a Horse, Sword, &c., as I shall ever be happy to contribute towards rewarding distinguished merit.

I am under some difficulty with respect to the Horse, because I may procure one that may not suit You. If you know of one that You wish to have, I will immediately direct that he shall be purchased. The Assembly intend that the present should be a Genteel one, the horse therefore ought to be of the first quality.

I am, Sir, with great esteem, Your Obed't and very h'ble Serv't,

THOS. NELSON, Jr.

Brigadier Gen'l MORGAN.

Immediately after Cowpens Morgan, aware of the junction of Tarleton with Cornwallis, at once pressed towards the Catawba to form his own in turn with Gen. Greene, which

some writers attributed to a timidity impossible to his character, but was anticipated by Greene who, also appreciating the danger of a speedy concentrated action against Morgan alone, had pressed on with a small escort to consult how to improve and secure the result of the victory, ordering his troops to follow him. Then followed a series of strategic movements, including the pursuit by Lord Cornwallis, intent on the rescue of his troops and equipage, driving Gen. Greene towards the river *Dan*, the prostration of Morgan by rheumatism, Col. Williams succeeding to the command of the light troops, skirmishing with the advance of Cornwallis, and covering the rear of Greene, until he had crossed that river. How Cornwallis, recognizing the escape, turned to rally the Tories encouraged by Greene's evacuation of North Carolina, setting up the Royal standard at Hillsboro' and inviting them with some temporary success to join it, while Greene, reinforced after three weeks' suffering, ventures to make a stand at Guilford, in which both armies suffered severely, but the British claimed a victory. Next Cornwallis moving to Wilmington for supplies, and marching on Petersburg to co-operate with Gen. Phillips, and after a spirited campaign in Virginia, more marked for skilful manoeuvring and devastation than actual fighting, finding himself everywhere held in check by LaFayette, supported by Wayne and Steuben—the sponsors for his infant command—and led seaward by the delusive prospects of co-operation by troops and ships sent by Sir Henry Clinton from New York. Finally, the march of Cornwallis to Yorktown, the delay of these reinforcements—by fears at New York—until too late, and the arrival of the French fleet and army, and fresh American troops, and his investment and surrender after a gallant resistance. These were the fruits of the seed planted at Cowpens which drew Cornwallis away from his stronghold and precipitated history at Yorktown. Gen. Greene meanwhile had turned back to that old campaigning ground in North Carolina, had fought the battle of Eutaw and was gradually reducing or investing the fortified British posts, and checking the advance of Lord Rawdon with new forces. Then ensued a number of brilliant partisan achievements, rendered possible by the absence of an overwhelming force of regulars, in which Sumter, Marion, Niel, Lacey and other local heroes, while showing their valor and endurance, gave a color of romance to the final days of the struggle in the South of the incompetent or unwise counsellors of a weak but well meaning monarch, to hold those Provinces by divine right alone, without recourse to the dictates of discretion. Finally the country was freed

of outposts, and the spirit of the people uncontrolled swept the remains of the forces into Savannah and Charleston, and towards early evacuation.

In almost the last skirmish there fell on the Combahee, near Charleston, one who, although but 29 years of age, had already imprinted his mark on his country's history, and whose life afforded a promise, the loss of which alone seemed a national calamity. Already as a soldier Col. John Laurens had won the confidence of Washington as a member of his military family, and the warm personal friendship of Lafayette, an excellent judge of character. As a diplomat entrusted with important missions, he had done much to cement the French Alliance, and was the welcomed fellow counsellor of sage statesmen. As a student of law in London, at the outbreak of the Revolution, he had attended the sessions of Parliament, and watched the growing of the coming storm, and in his letters had discussed it with his father and his friends. A study of many of those letters which have been preserved have convinced the compiler that his waiving more distinguished duties and following Greene to Charleston to die in its defence near the home of his boyhood made his blood, shed at the moment of its delivery, one of the noblest seais set to his country's independence.

The Cowpens Medal.

FEBRUARY 6th, 1783.

Dr Sir: I am induced to trouble you with a few lines for two reasons. The first through a reliance on your friendship, which I flatter myself would prompt you to serve me if in your Power, and second because you are the only gentleman in office in Philadelphia whose acquaintance would countenance such a request.

The Honorable Congress after the action at Cowpens thought proper to vote me a Medal for my conduct in that affair, and as such an acknowledgement of my country's approbation could not but be flattering to the mind of a soldier I have made frequent application to get, and have been as frequently disappointed. Gen. Lincoln once informed me that nothing prevented its being sent to me but the low situation of finances, and I should have it as soon as there was money to be had to defray the Expense. Now sir, I not only wish you to expedite the making of it, but that you may also pay some attention to the manner in which it may be done, and with devices properly emblematical of the affair. I have so good an opinion of your taste and general knowledge as to wish to submit the matter entirely to your discretion, the expense cannot be considerable, and I flatter myself the Financier on a proper application would advance a sum sufficient to defray it, especially to gratify the inclinations of a man whose principal

aim it has been to obtain his Country's applause to his conduct.

I have the Honour, &c., &c., &c.

D. MORGAN.

To General LINCOLN and Hon. JOHN F. MERCER.

PHILADELPHIA, April 24th, 1783.

Dear General: Col. Woods disappointed me and left Town without an answer to the favour which you did me the honor to write me some time since, and the casual conveyances which chance offers to your parts of the country have not compensated for his neglect. The change in our circumstances which the late pacification has made will now permit the Secretary of War to carry into immediate execution a Resolve of Congress directing him to furnish the medals voted to those whose Distinguished Merit has drawn that mark of applause and gratitude from their Country during the late War. You may depend on my attention to yours, and if I have any talent at Design (which by the way I doubt extremely) it shall be aided by the assistance of those whose imagination I esteem as elegant as correct, and I hope will eventually produce what ought to equal your expectation from the hands you have committed it to, if it does not meet your approbation. * * * *

With sincere wishes for your health and happiness, I am, dear General, your most obedient servant,

JOHN F. MERCER.

General MORGAN.

GEN. WASHINGTON FORWARDS THE MEDAL.

NEW YORK, March 25, 1790.

Sir: You will receive with this a Medal struck by order of the late Congress in commemoration of your much approved conduct in the battle of Cowpens, and presented to you as a mark of the high sence which your Country entertains of your services on that occasion.

This Medal was put into my hands by Mr. Jefferson, and it is with singular pleasure that I now transmit it to you.

I am Sir, with very great esteem, your most obedt servt,

GEO. WASHINGTON.

General MORGAN.

The papers from which these selections are made were formerly bound in two volumes and in a very worn condition. Many of them had been mutilated by that class of enthusiasts who prefer a cut signature—regarded as of no value by a collector of history—in their own possession to a complete document preserved elsewhere. This singularly historical letter of Washington was selected for such vandalism, but is restored by the insertion of a similar waif, and like all the rest cleaned and mounted by a skilful artist, for one who appreciates the value of the emanation from a brain that long since

has slept, but not a mechanical sign manual when detached from such significance.

Capt. Goringe, who has recently made so valuable and laborious a contribution to science in securing engineering to its site and setting up in a then unknown land the Obelisk of Thotmes III, recently mentioned to the compiler how one of his ship boys having climbed up and broken a piece from the nose of the Sphinx—in the fragments of which the ~~bricks~~ have for ages built their nests—he, on learning the mutilation, directed him to throw it into the sea, as a lesson more valuable than the results of the mutilation could be.

JACKSON TO MORGAN—A HERO OF COWPENS
COMPLAINS OF INJUSTICE.

SENATE CHAMBER U. STATES,

PHILADELPHIA, January 20th, 1795.

Dear General: Since I last saw you in Philadelphia, which I think was in 1791, a gentleman has undertaken to write the history of Georgia. Your address to the Georgia Refugees, published at Pacolet, in South Carolina, being in my hands, I gave it to him amongst other material for insertion. The same gentleman, a Mr. Longworthy, has applied to me for other documents, and particularly to know if any Georgians were at the Cowpens? None of the authors who have written have mentioned them in that action, nor did the account given by your aid-de-camp, Major Giles, to Congress, notice them or any officer belonging to the State; although the officers of the other States were generally mentioned and their militia applauded. The Georgians have imputed this to the loss of your despatches, and not to any intention of yourself, who have always been one of their favorite commanders, but they think hard of the silence respecting them in that celebrated action, and which did you the honor of turning the tide of affairs in favor of the United States. My object of writing at present is to request, if you see no Impropriety in it, your giving a certificate under your hand of there being present three companies. The detachment was small, but if you recollect you placed them in front of the whole, and they strictly obeyed your orders in keeping up a warm fire and gradually retreating. I could wish your expressing that they behaved as well as the other militia in the field. The officers commanding, if you choose to say anything of them, were Major Cunningham and Captains Samuel Hammonds, George Walton and Joshua Inman, who all behaved well, and the latter was peculiarly serviceable to you in advertising you of the Enemies approach and skirmishing with their advance. The detachment was under my immediate command and direction, altho I acted also as Brigade Major to all the Militia present. It is with difficulty I men-

tion myself, but having the honor of introducing Major McArthur, the commander of the British Infantry, a prisoner on that occasion taken by myself, and having run the utmost risque of my life in attempting to seize the colours of the 71st Regiment in the midst of it, on their attempt to form after they were broken, being saved by an exertion of Colonel Howards, and for which I had the honour of your thanks on the Field of Battle, I think it a duty to my children, as the History of the State is to be told, to have some insertion even of my conduct in that well fought battle. You, Sir, were rendered immortal by the action, my ambition is to let my descendants and the citizens of Georgia know that I was present and contributed my mite to your glory. General Pickens has already certified to the requests of this letter fully, but whilst you are alive his certificate is not the best evidence, and your testimony will be grateful to the citizens of Georgia. I am sorry to break in on the important business of your present command, and should have waited until the next session of the Federal Legislature, when we hope to see you a member, but for the pressing request of Mr. Longworthy to have the necessary papers.

I am, dear General, with the highest esteem and respect, yr old fellow soldier and most obed^t serv^t, JAS. JACKSON.

Major General MORGAN.

If you could favor me with an Answer previous to the rising of Congress, about the 1st of March, it would highly oblige me.

JACKSON TO MORGAN—GIVES DETAILS AS TO
COWPENS.

PHILADELPHIA, February 9th, 1795.

Sir: I did myself the honor of writing you about a fortnight since, respecting the service of the Georgians under you at Cowpens. Let two observations of mine in that letter should be understood, I beg leave to correct them. The first was that I was Brigade Major to all the militia present. I since recollect that you had militia from Virginia. The second that I had your thanks. I meant not by this your thanks in orders, but verbally for my conduct, which a hundred living evidences could prove was creditable to myself, and deserving of your approbation. Col. McDowel now in Congress and who commanded the North Carolina militia on that day, is one of them. Gen. Pickens written testimony I informed you I was possessed of and under him it was I acted. A circumstance I will take the liberty of mentioning will serve to revive your memory. You had placed a sergeant over a cask of wine—after my return with General (then Major) McArthur and who I had left in custody of Col. Washington. I came across this man and found him dealing the wine out to all in his way. A wounded

militia man at some distance requested me for a drop to revive him, which, the sergeant refused on my application. I then ordered the men with me to drive him off and take possession of the cask. He went and complained to you, and you came very angry, and I expected would have struck me. Feeling myself injured I explained to you the conduct of the Fellow, and could not help adding that my conduct had deserved a better return, mentioning my leaving the British officer commanding their Infantry with the Colonel (Washington.) It was then that you made the Sergeant beg my pardon on his knees, and gave me your verbal thanks, which were repeated where we stopped at a small town on the borders of N. Carolina, and where we (General Pickens's Brigade) took the Prisoners under charge and you parted from us. Major Giles mentioned at Charlotte on his tour to Congress my name as one who had distinguished himself, and considering the responsibility of my station and the risks I ran on that day I had some right to expect to be named. I confess I was chagrined when the account came. I after this ran the utmost risk of my life at Torrens's when the British crossed the Catawba, and believe that in some measure, owing to my exertions with a few officers and men, the slaughter was not so great as it otherwise would have been. At Salisbury, where you had reached, it was believed by General Pickens and yourself that I was killed. When I arrived I had the honor to be received by you and him with Friendship and satisfaction. At the Yadkin we parted, and I had the happiness after to have my conduct approbated by that great officer, Genl Greene, who appointed me to the command of a State Legion.

I have been thus particularly best so long a lapse of time should have made those circumstances escape your memory and which not being necessarily connected with the principal events and only concerning an Individual officer not likely to be retained. I had the honor however in 1791 to have the principal circumstances recognized by you. I shall leave this in about a fortnight for Savannah. Should you not deem it proper to give a certificate as to myself I will be happy to have your approbation of the conduct of my countrymen.

I am Sir your most obedt servt,
JAS. JACKSON.

Major General MORGAN, Commanding.

PICKENS TO MORGAN—JACKSON'S MERIT.

Dear General: Our friend General Jackson has showed me this letter. His merit cannot be forgotten by you.

I am dear General Your most Obedt Servt,
9th Feb 1795. ANDW PICKENS.
Gen. MORGAN.

General Pickens was then a member of Congress. The tone of General Jackson's last letter implies, in the neglect in replying to the former one, a sense of injustice, perhaps palliated by Gen. Morgan's engagements as commanding the forces in the field to suppress the Whiskey Rebellion. If not so excusable—and there is no record to show—he had suffered in the same way by the delay of his Cowpens medal, as will be seen by his letter, February 6, 1783. It will be conceded by all familiar with history and military affairs that there is no nobler trait in a commander than carefully to record the services of a subordinate, and no more abject worship of selfish individuality than to absorb the service and suppress the acknowledgment due to those who have aided to increase the credit always given to the successful leader. But perhaps, as there was an interval of only twenty days between the letters, it was the individuality of General Jackson that made him look for too early attention.

MORGAN'S NEW COMMANDER—THE MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE.

RICHMOND, 16th July, 1781.

Dr Sir: I have attached to your command Major Nelson's Corps and the Maryland Volunteer Dragoons. I beg leave to recommend the latter to your attention. Most of them are men of fortune who make great sacrifices to serve the country. You will not therefore put them upon the duties of orderlys or common camp duties, which can be as well performed by the Continental Horse. In everything else you will find them answer your expectation. As they are only to be subject to your orders when you have accomplished the objects mentioned in my letter of yesterday, or when it is decided that Tarleton intends Southerly, and is beyond the reach of being struck, you will be good enough to order their return to Head Quarters. It is my wish to dismiss them the moment it is in my power.

I am, Dr Sir, your obt servt,

LAFAYETTE.

Brig. Gen. MORGAN.

LETTER OF COL. JOHN EAGER HOWARD.

Dear Sir: I am compelled to deny myself the pleasure of seeing you agreeable to promise. The General's Situation has detained us here some days and we find it difficult to leave him, as he will be entirely alone after we go away as Mr. Richmond has an appointment; however, General Gist as well as myself are under obligations to return to Baltimore without delay, which will oblige us to set off in the morning. Was I alone nothing should prevent me taking your house in my route; as it is, the General with me, in a carriage, which is at best a slow way of travelling, and in these stoney roads so tedious

that I am out of temper with it, you must excuse me this time. The other promise I made you of visiting you whenever I came up the country as far as Frederick, you may most assuredly rely on, and in the meantime nothing could make me happier than seeing you in Baltimore.

I am, Dear Sir, yours sincerely,
J. E. HOWARD.

Gen'l GATES, (Travellers Rest, Virginia),
Sept. 12th, 1783, to Gen'l MORGAN.

THE HERO OF CAMDEN—DEAD BEFORE COWPENS.

CAMP AT GREENWICH,
NEAR WHITE PLAINS, July 21, 1778. }

Sir: Give me leave to give your Excellency and Congress Joy to be once more in Philadelphia, but more peculiarly on the superiority America hath got over her Enemies. I hope, with the assistance of your good ally, you will be able to expel them entirely from the Continent & the American Coasts in a short time. I expect also that what Count d'Estaing's tedious passage has made us miss in Delaware may be taken in New York Bay, and all their shippings and troops there will fall into your hands. Since a few days I am recovering pretty fast from my late illness, and am actually much better & stronger than I had reason to expect not long ago.

Your Excellencies multiplied Businesses does not permit me to trouble you any longer with the care of my letters for Europe. As there is a King's Minister residing with those States, I will apply to him for the future for that purpose. I only request you to send him the enclosed. I have the honor to be, with great respect,

Your Excellency's

Most Obedient and very
humble servant,

THE BARON DE KALB.

His Excellency, HENRY LAURENS,
President of Congress.

Notes.

The report of the battle of Cowpens, given above, was printed in a New Jersey newspaper at the time, and is the only one of the foregoing papers of which the compiler, Mr. Myers, has not the original.

Although the memory of Lord Cornwallis was darkened by those charges of cruelty for which the leader at least of an invading army is often made unjustly responsible, he may be considered the most efficient of the British generals who served in America in that war excepting, perhaps, Sir Guy Carleton. Subsequently as Governor General of the East Indies, he was the conqueror of Tippoo Sahib, then Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, dying as Governor General of India in 1805. His controversy with Sir Henry Clinton as to the causes of his failure in

America occupied much of the attention of Parliament, and remains to us in several conflicting publications, but throwing much light on this period.

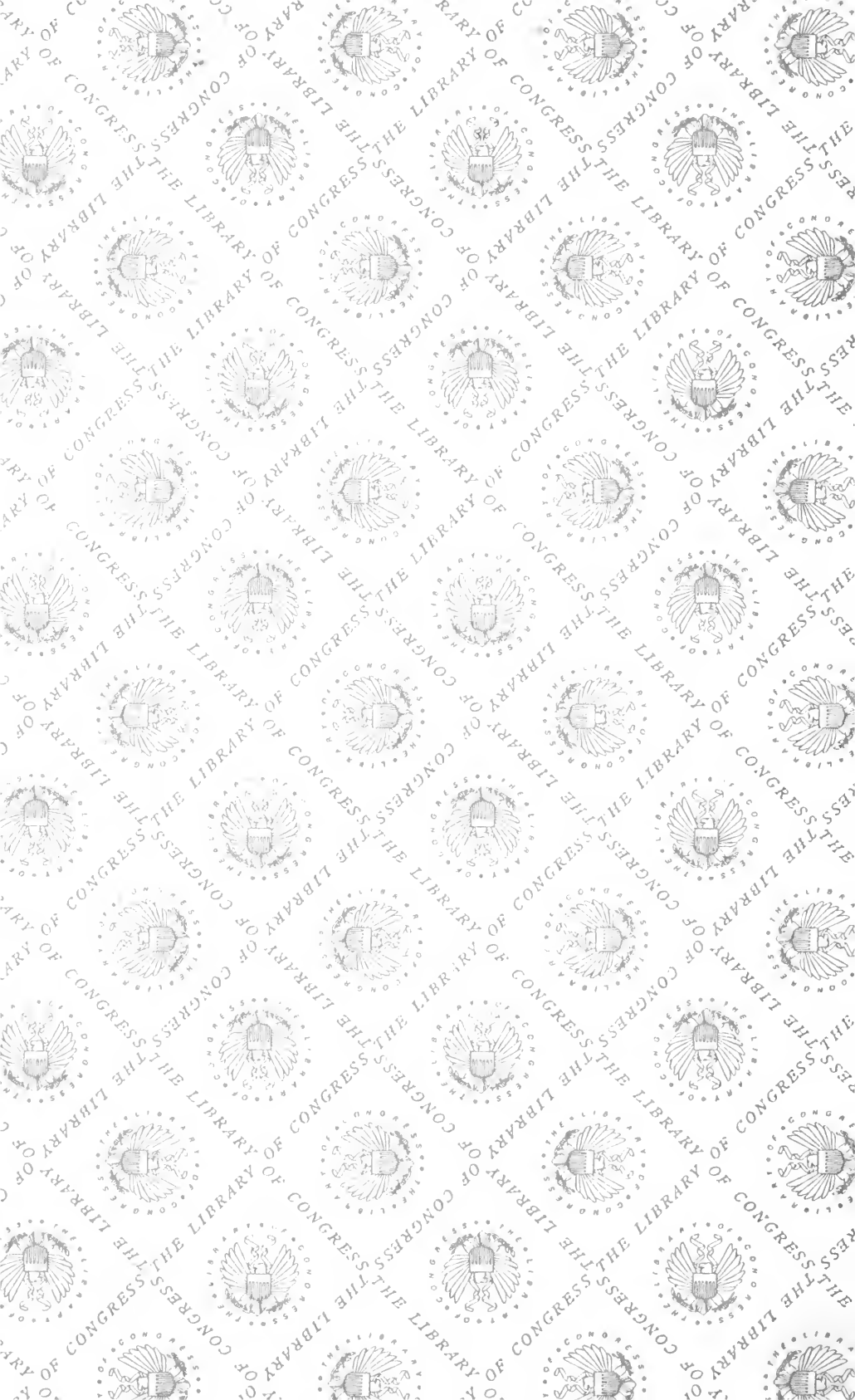
Gen. Tarleton sat for Liverpool in Parliament for twenty-two years and was Governor of Berwick, also, dying in 1833. His appearance is familiar to collectors of history in the large mezzotint engraving of his portrait by Sir Joshua Reynolds, representing him as a dashing cavalry officer with his foot raised on a cannon while adjusting his boot top, a position severely criticised, as exposing the best part of his person, by Col. de Chamilly, a partisan officer with whom he quarrelled on technical matters, recorded in a pamphlet of the time.

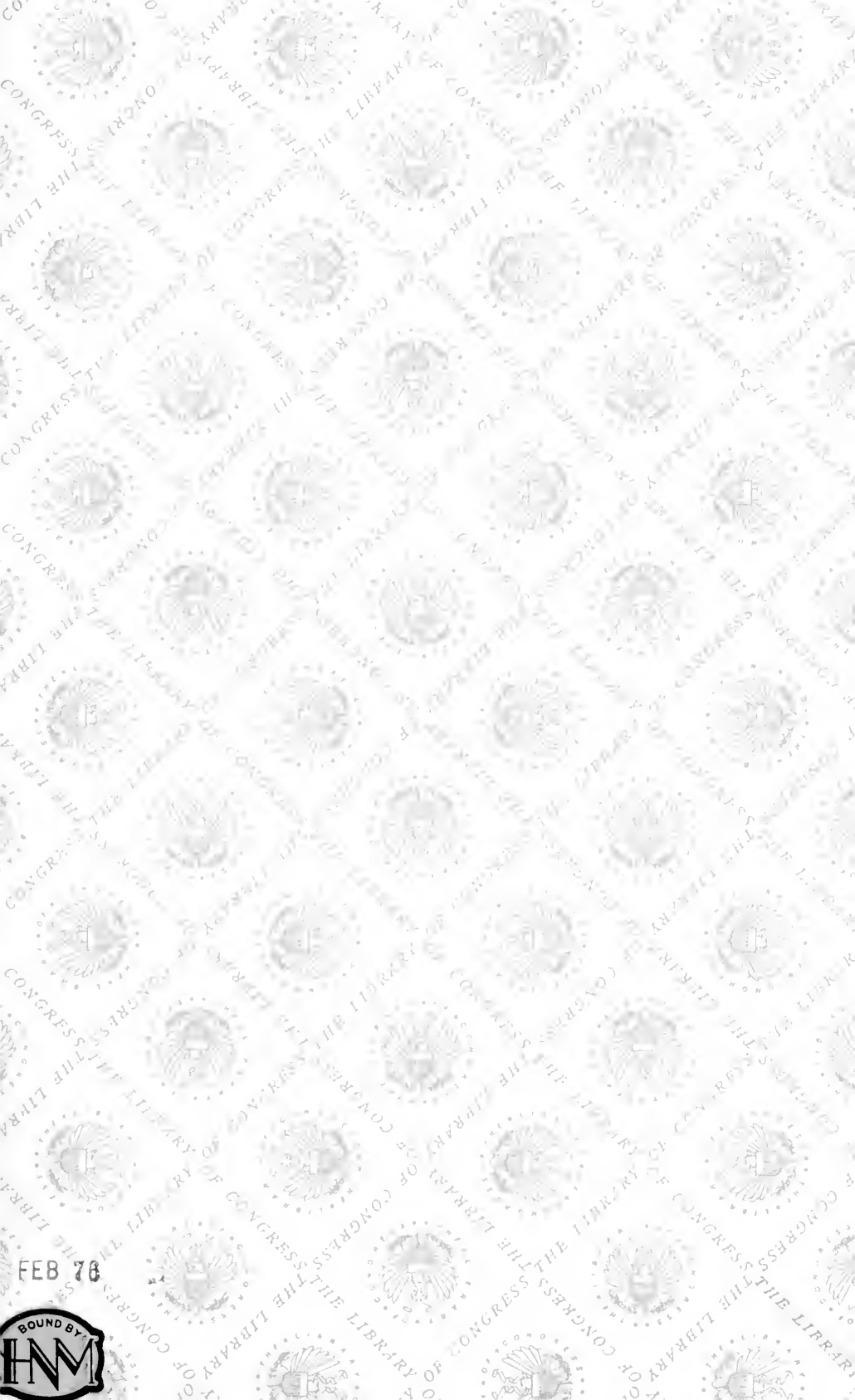
Col. John Eager Howard was already a veteran at this time, having seen constant service from the outbreak of the war. He was subsequently governor of Maryland and senator in Congress, declining more honors than he accepted, and greatly esteemed he died in 1827. His wife was the daughter of Chief Justice Chew, around whose house he had bravely fought at Germantown, when it was to that battle like Hongomout at Waterloo.

Col. William Augustine Washington was the son of Bailey Washington, of Virginia. He also was a distinguished officer from the commencement of the struggle to its close, largely in the South. At Eutaw Springs he was captured—his horse having been killed under him—and not released until the close of the war. Marrying and settling in Charleston, he declined to be a candidate for Governor, as the invaluable Dr. Lossing has recorded, "because he could not make a speech," a modesty which often accompanies courage. It is to be regretted that no letter of his is found in this transaction, which showed his great usefulness, to illustrate how he expressed himself with the pen as well as with the sword.

Governor John Rutledge, like many of his contemporaries in South Carolina, was educated to the law in the Temple, at London. Returning in 1761, he was early entered in the contest on the Colonial side. He was a member of the First Continental Congress in 1774, and two years after appointed President and Commander-in-chief of the Colony. Like many of those engaged with him, he was a member of the more privileged class, and at first declined to accept the new Constitution as too Democratic, but finally yielded in 1779 and became Governor with almost unrestricted trust, taking the field at the head of the militia, and managing affairs with ability until the fall of Charleston circumscribed his control. After the independence he was Judge of both the Court of Chancery and Supreme Courts of the United States, dying in 1800.







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