

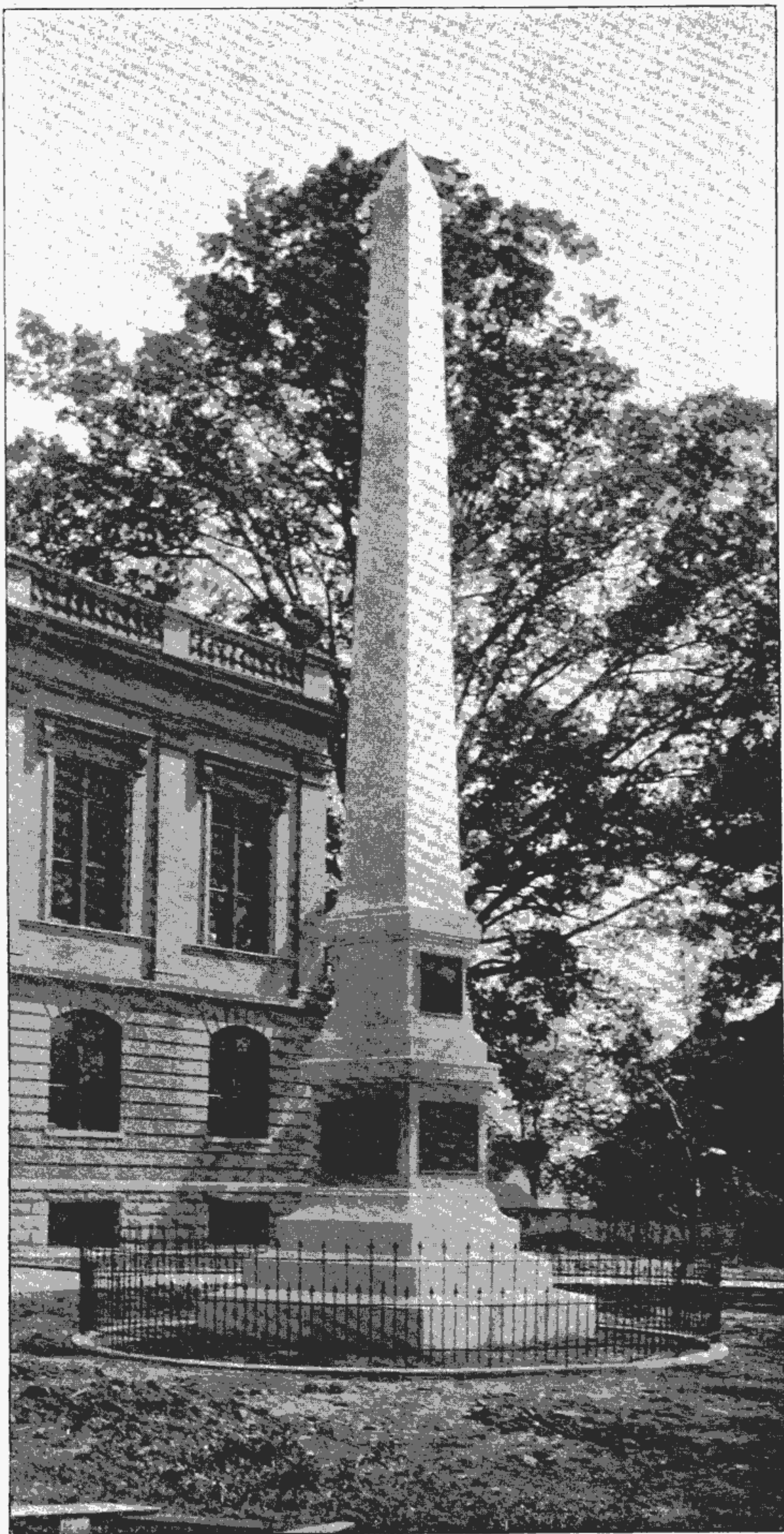
MONUMENT

TO



THE

SIGNERS



MONUMENT AND COURT HOUSE.

UNVEILING
OF THE
MONUMENT
TO THE
SIGNERS
OF THE
MECKLENBURG DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

At Charlotte, N. C.

MAY 20, 1898.



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most conspicuous contingent of all, being led by Colonel Julian S. Carr. There were 123 of them and they were all uniformed alike, in gray suits and leather leggings. They wore badges marked "R. F. Webb Camp, No. 818, Durham, N. C." They kept step with remarkable precision. Each carried a standard inscribed "First at Bethel, Last at Appomattox," and over their shoulders were strung canteen and knap-sack. Col. J. S. Carr commanded, with H. A. Ramsey as adjutant.

More than 1,400 veterans registered in the city and most of them were in the line of the march. Mecklenburg furnished the largest single camp. Cabarrus, Rowan, Union, Iredell, Gaston and Catawba were also strongly represented, as were contiguous counties of South Carolina.

They were followed by the Mecklenburg Continental Guards, with Heriot Clarkson as commander-in-chief. Next to them were the Daughters of the Regiment, containing a bevy of beautiful girls in jaunty vivandier uniform, of cap, blue jacket with epaulettes, and red skirt.

The Gastonia Continental Guards added much to the gaiety and picturesqueness of the pageant. They wore Revolutionary uniforms with regulation continental cocked hat; and the Charlotte drum corps made a splendid appearance in their red jackets and white trousers.

A handsome float, gaily decorated like all the rest, contained a number of young ladies, "the descendants of the signers." The float was under the special command and guardianship of Col. William Lee Davidson.

An exceedingly picturesque float was one representing the Old Ship of State. It was a huge boat, mounted upon wheels, and the crew consisted of thirteen young ladies representing the thirteen original States. These, all, arrayed in the purest white, with ribbonings of the national colors, presented a most attractive appearance.

After another guard of mounted Continentals, came

carriages, containing prominent visitors to the city and others, followed by still other squads of Continentals.

One of the impressive features of the march was the playing of "Dixie" on Independence Square by the Steel Creek Band. The next float containing the merry misses who stood for the forty-five States, was just behind the band on this historic spot. The entire incident seemed one in happy harmony with present times, when volunteers from forty-five re-united States are fighting under the old flag for the same country and in a cause of freedom. The crowds that lined the square and that filled the balconies and windows of the surrounding buildings cheered again and again the gay and giddy strains of the old war song.

One of the most admired of all the floats was that containing the girls, dressed in pure white, who represented the 45 States of the Union; the 45 stars in the flag. A sash falling from the shoulders of each child was marked with the name of the State she represented.

The rear of the immense procession was at last brought up by another squad of mounted Continentals.

Speeches of the Day.

The speaking took place in the First Presbyterian Church yard. No more beautiful spot could have been found for the ceremonies. The church occupies the centre of a square, shaded with magnificent oaks and elms, which yesterday seemed conscious of the beautiful historical drama going on beneath their wealth of beauty and foliage.

The whole scene—the rolling lawn—grand trees, graveled walks, gaily decorated platform with distinguished persons seated upon it, the mass of people which extended from gate to gate and from stand to fence—was a picture.

The speaker's stand occupied the centre of the large platform. Hon. Adlai E. Stevenson, the orator of the day, sat on the right. To his left was General J. H. Lane, of

Alabama, and Mr. J. P. Caldwell, Governor Atkinson, of Georgia, and Miss Ella Powell, sponsor of the State, sat on the opposite side. Others on the speaker's stand were: Mayor Springs, Mr. F. B. McDowell, Col. H. C. Jones, Capt. A. F. Brevard and Rev. J. R. Howerton, D. D. On the lower platform were: Mrs. B. L. Dewey, Mrs. R. J. Brevard, Mrs. Rebecca McDowell, Mrs. F. B. McDowell and her sister Miss Grace King, the distinguished New Orleans authoress, Miss Laura Avery, of Morganton; Mrs. P. B. Chambers, of Statesville, Miss Addie Williams, Miss Sophie Alexander, Mrs. A. B. Andrews, of Raleigh, Mrs. T. R. Robertson, Mrs. Laura Brown, Mrs. J. W. Miller, the Misses Flenniken, of Pittsburg, Pa., Mrs. Stonewall Jackson, Mrs. Rufus Barringer, Miss Arnold, grand niece of Mrs. Jackson, Col. Julian S. Carr and B. Cameron, of Durham, Rev. J. A. Weston, the historian; Judge Avery, of Morganton, Hon. W. M. Robbins, of Statesville, Col. Thomas S. Kenan, F. H. Busbee, of Raleigh, Col. Wm. Lee Davidson, of Chester, Col. J. P. Thomas, of Columbia, Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Latta, Mr. and Mrs. Jno. Springs Davidson, W. C. Maxwell, D. P. Lee, Col. and Mrs. A. L. Smith, T. S. Franklin, Maj. C. L. Davis, U. S. A.; the personal staff and the ladies of Gov. Atkinson's party, Judge Graham, of Oxford; Maj. W. A. Graham, of Lincoln; Dr. Jos. Graham, Theo. F. Kluttz, Esq., Salisbury; Capt. S. B. Alexander, and the young ladies who were to unveil the monument and many others.

The following young ladies, lineal descendants represented their respective ancestors: Marguerite Springs, Adam Alexander; Alma Maxwell, John Ford; Annie Rankin and Beulah Wilson, John Phifer; Bertha Alexander, Hezekiah Alexander; Eleanor Alexander, Zaccheus Wilson; Ellie Grier, Ezra Alexander; Minnie Cochrane, Abraham Alexander; Minnie Downs, Henry Downs.

Confederates Before Mrs. Jackson.

Mrs. Jackson and Mrs. Barringer reviewed the veterans as they passed in front of the stage. By Mrs. Jackson's side was her young grandson, Jackson Christian, who wore several handsome Confederate badges, presented on different historical occasions, and a miniature of his illustrious grandfather. As the different camps filed past every man raised his hat to the widow of the great chieftain, and continued cheering rent the air. Mrs. Jackson waved a Confederate flag, which she held in her hand, constantly, as a response to the reverential affection and regard as expressed in the faces of all who passed.

The ceremonies of the day were formally opened by Mr. F. B. McDowell, President of the Monument Association.

Mr. McDowell Said :

"This unusual multitude gathered from many States, in such a time of war and national excitement, indicates that the event that we have been called to celebrate is one of the most patriotic epochs in American history; and it also attests that the belief in the authenticity of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence is written upon something stronger than parchment, more enduring than bronze. It is engraven in undying characters upon the hearts and affections of the people of the land that gave it birth. A profound student of human progress has observed that people never look forward to posterity who never look backward to their ancestors. The truth of this utterance is emphasized in all that we see and hear around us to-day.

"At the commencement of the agitation for the severance of the Colonies from the British crown, a Tory who was holding his pretty little daughter by the hand, cravenly said: 'Well, only let me have peace in my day.' A patriot who was standing by rebukingly replied: 'If trouble must come, let it be in my day, that my child may

have peace.' The spirit of that patriot was the spirit of our forefathers who disregarded personal safety on May 20th, 1775, and that spirit has been perpetuated in the persons of their descendants of May 20th, 1898.

"In accordance with the custom of the signers, who were wont to open all public assemblies with invocation, this audience will be led in prayer by Rev. J. R. Howerton, D. D., pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Charlotte."

As Dr. Howerton stepped forward those on the stand rose, the men in the grove bared their heads, and the minister of the Gospel raised his voice in the following beautiful petition :

Dr. Howerton's Prayer.

"Almighty God, King of Kings, and Lord of lords. Thou ruler of the nation, it is with hearts thrilling with gratitude we lift our prayer up to Thee this day. We thank Thee for this land which Thou has given us, a land of brooks of water, of fountains that spring out of valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, a land wherein we eat bread without scarceness, whose stones are iron, whose hills are brass. And we thank Thee for our country, Thou author of liberty, Thou didst strengthen the hearts of those who declared our country to be free, and didst strengthen the arms of those who fought for that freedom. And upon the principles which Thou hast given us, our laws and institutions have been based.

"And now we beseech Thee, O Lord, be with us, lest we forget the things which our eyes have seen; lest we forget the Lord our God, which brought us out of the house of bondage; lest our hearts be lifted up and we shall say, 'Our own power and the might of our own hands hath gotten us all these things.' May we remember the Lord, our God, and may we keep the statutes and the judgments which the Lord, our God hath commanded us. May these be our wisdom and our understanding in the sight of the

nations. May they not depart from our hearts all the days of our life, and may we teach them to our children, and to our children's children. And to this end bless this monument which we dedicate this day. In time to come, when our sons ask us, 'what meaneth this?' may we tell them how Thou didst bring us out of bondage with a mighty hand and a stretched out arm; how Thy servants, our fathers, in Thy fear, and with Thy blessing, did declare and make this country to be free. May the patriotism of the fathers kindle that of succeeding generations till time shall end. To this end bless the services of this day. Be mouth and wisdom to those who shall speak unto us.

"And now we beseech Thee, O Lord, bless our President and country in this hour of trial. Grant that our motives may not be of revenge or hatred. Let this war be to set the captive free, to relieve the oppressed, to feed the hungry, to break every yoke. And to this end we ask thee to bless our President and Congress, our Governor and Legislature, our army and navy, our soldiers and our sailors. Especially do Thou bless those near and dear to us, the sons of our own Carolina, who have gone at the call of their country. May they have that courage that comes from peace with God. Spare their lives, if it be Thy will, but if they must give their lives, may they give them not only for their country, but for Thee. Give us speedy victory and early restore to us the blessing of peace."

After the prayer the multitude united in singing the "Old North State," the beautiful sentiment of which was borne on high by the patriotic breezes which came just for the 20th of May.

The Old North State.

BY JUDGE WM. GASTON.

Carolina! Carolina! Heaven's blessings attend her,
While we live we will cherish, protect and defend her,
Tho' the scorner may sneer at and wtlings defame her,
Our hearts swell with gladness whenever we name her.

Hurrah! Hurrah! The Old North State forever,
Hurrah! Hurrah! The good Old North State.

Tho' she envies not others their merited glory,
Say, whose name stands foremost in Liberty's story!
Tho' too true to herself e'er to crouch to oppression,
Who can yield to just rule a more loyal submission?

Hurrah! &c.

Plain and artless her sons, but whose door opens faster,
To the knock of the stranger, or tale of disaster?
How like to the rudeness of their dear native mountains,
With rich ore in their bosoms, and life in their fountains.

Hurrah! &c.

And her daughters the green of the forest resembling,
So graceful, so constant, to gentlest breath trembling;
True light-wood at heart, let the match be applied them!
How they kindle in flame! Oh, none know but who've tried them.

Hurrah! &c.

Then let all who love us, love the land that we live in,
As happy a region as on this side of Heaven!
Where plenty and freedom, love and peace smile before us;
Raise aloud, raise together, the heart-thrilling chorus:

Hurrah! Hurrah! The Old North State forever,
Hurrah! Hurrah! the good Old North State.

Mayor E. B. Springs bade the distinguished visitors, soldiery and masses of strangers welcome to the Queen City, in the following words:

The Mayor's Welcome.

“More than one hundred years have passed since that May morning when this County of Mecklenburg, then four or five times larger than it is now, sent its sturdy yeomanry to this town of Charlotte to confer about the troubles of the time. These brave, serious-minded men felt that the Mother Country had oppressed them too long, had ceased to regard them as sons of her love and her care, and had treated them unjustly and even ignominiously. They felt that loyalty to their principles of justice and right and to their own God-given manhood dissolved their bonds of loyalty to England and England's King—and on the 20th day of May, 1775, they made open declaration of their freedom from all duty and allegiance to the Old Country, pledging themselves to maintain their independence with their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor. What mighty consequences have grown out of that meeting on that May morning. What an empire has evolved from that British colony.

“The memory of that day we celebrate. The results of the momentous deed enacted by these quiet, resolute men of 1775, the dissolution of the relations that existed between England and her Colony, then her most important possession, and the establishment of the Republic are our noblest inheritance, our richest legacy. The names of the men who accomplished this, who signed the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence we wish to perpetuate; we have determined, God helping us, that these names shall never die, but forever be household words on our lips and in our hearts. For this reason we have raised this stone to their memory with their names engraved in monumental bronze.

“In the Divine volume we all reverence, it is written in the history of His covenant people, that when a great victory was gained by the Israelites they set up a stone of remembrance, and when an important compact was made with other nations, again they set up a stone, so, we have set up this stone as a witness and as a memorial to these our mighty men of old who did their duty in the sight and by the help of God.

“We have invited many people from our own State and from other States to come to Charlotte, to our town, that we proudly call ‘the birthplace of liberty,’ and be with us at the unveiling of this our stone of remembrance. We gladly, heartily and unanimously bid you welcome. For myself no privilege has ever been dearer, no honour has ever thrilled my heart with greater delight than now to voice the feelings of this whole town, of this community and give welcome to all, while we assure you that we are profoundly gratified at your response to our invitation, and honoured by your presence.

“The little straggling village of 1775 has grown into a fair and goodly town, and the Hornets’ Nest of Cornwallis ventures sometimes to call herself a Queen City.

“To our hearts and homes we once more give you joyous welcome and offer you the liberty of the city.”

Declaration Read.

The Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence was read by Capt. A. F. Brevard, of Lincoln county, a descendant of one of the signers. He prefaced it by saying: “I am here to tell you that our fathers met here in 1775, and seeing the necessity of doing something to free themselves from the mother country—an unnatural mother—framed on this spot the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence which I read to you to-day. The resolutions were drawn up by Dr. Ephraim Brevard, and after their adoption, were proclaimed by Col. Thos. Polk, from the court house steps.”

On the 19th day of May, 1775, the representatives of the people of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, met in "general committee" at Charlotte, and "after sitting in the court house all night, neither sleepy, hungry nor fatigued, and after discussing every paragraph," adopted and signed the following Declaration of Independence about 2 o'clock a. m. May 20th:

I. *Resolved*, That whosoever directly or indirectly abets or in any way, form or manner, countenances the invasion of our rights, as attempted by the Parliament of Great Britain, is an enemy to his country, to America and the rights of men.

II. *Resolved*, That we, the citizens of Mecklenburg County, do hereby dissolve the political bonds which have connected us with the mother country, and absolve ourselves from all allegiance to the British Crown, abjuring all political connection with a nation that has wantonly trampled on our rights and liberties and inhumanly shed the innocent blood of Americans at Lexington.

III. *Resolved*, That we do hereby declare ourselves a free and independent people, are, and of right ought to be a sovereign and self-governing people, under the power of God and the General Congress; to the maintenance of which independence, we solemnly pledge to each other our mutual co-operation, our lives, our fortunes and our most sacred honor.

IV. *Resolved*, That we hereby ordain and adopt as rules of conduct, all and each of our former laws and the crown of Great Britain cannot be considered hereafter as holding any rights, privileges or immunities amongst us.

V. *Resolved*, That all officers, both civil and military, in this country, be entitled to exercise the same power and authorities as heretofore; that every member of this delegation shall henceforth be a civil officer and exercise the power of a justice of the peace, issue process, hear and determine controversies according to law, preserve peace, union and har-

mony in the county, and use every exertion to spread the love of liberty and of country, until a more general and better organized system of government be established.

VI. *Resolved*, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted by express to the President of the Continental Congress assembled in Philadelphia, to be laid before that body.

These resolutions were unanimously adopted and subscribed by the delegates as follows :

ABRAHAM ALEXANDER, Chairman,	JOHN MCKNITT ALEXANDER, Secretary,
EPHRAIM BREVARD, HEZEKIAH J. BALCH, JOHN PHIFER, JAMES HARRIS, WILLIAM KENNON, JOHN FORD, RICHARD BARRY, HENRY DOWNS, EZRA ALEXANDER, WILLIAM GRAHAM, JOHN QUEARY, HEZEKIAH ALEXANDER, ADAM ALEXANDER,	CHARLES ALEXANDER, ZACCHEUS WILSON, WAIGHTSTILL AVERY, BENJAMIN PATTON, MATTHEW McCLURE, NEILL MORRISON, ROBERT IRWIN, JOHN FLENNIKEN, DAVID REESE, JOHN DAVIDSON, RICHARD HARRIS, THOMAS POLK.

A copy of these resolutions was taken by Capt. James Jack, of Charlotte, to the President of the Continental Congress to be laid before that body, as had been directed in Resolve VI, but when the express arrived in Philadelphia with them, Congress was preparing a petition to the King, declaring, "We have not raised armies with the ambitious design of separating from Great Britain and establishing independent States."* And the President, fearing the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence would defeat this petition, suppressed it, and wrote to the delegates at Charlotte, that while he highly approved the measures adopted by them he deemed the subject of the resolution (independence) premature to be laid before Congress. A copy of the Declaration was also forwarded to and published in the Cape Fear Mercury, of Wilmington, N. C., in June, 1775, that paper being the organ of the Whigs of North Carolina at the time, as well as the Gazette most accessible to Charlotte."

*Journal of Congress, July 8, 1875.

Mr. McDowell then stated that The Charlotte Observer had offered a prize for the best poem on the Mecklenburg Declaration, and that Col. H. C. Jones would announce the name of the successful author and read the poem. Col. Jones said: "This poem which I am about to read is the production of the Rev. Walter W. Moore, D. D., of Hampden-Sydney, Va., (outburst of applause) a born son of this glorious old County of Mecklenburg. If you will hearken to his numbers you will find that he has kept the faith of his fathers and caught the inspiration of this day that has become sacred to the people of Mecklenburg. I can pay no higher tribute to his genius than to read these verses. They are entitled 'The Vanguard of the Revolution.'

The Vanguard of the Revolution.

To Piedmont Carolina, where virgin prairie soil
 Bespoke abundant harvests to reward the tiller's toil,
 From homes beyond the ocean there came in days of old
 A band of sturdy heroes, a race of yeomen bold.

On all Catawba's uplands—for there they found their rest,
 Those woods and wide savannas fulfilled their longing quest—
 They reared their modest dwellings, they built the kirk and school,
 For well they knew how danger grew from skeptic and from fool.

Behind the walls of Derry their fathers' faith in God
 Had filled their souls with courage to defy the tyrant's rod;
 'Twere folly then to fancy that sons of sires like these
 Would bear a yoke of bondage or obey unjust decrees.

Their heirloom was a Volume which taught the rights of man,
 And made the least a king and priest free from despotic ban;
 The people are the sovereigns, with rights inalienate,
 The people make the government, the people are the State.

This truth was taught by Craighead, thus Mecklenburg believed,
 And when oppressive measures passed, her sons were not deceived;
 While others talked of redress as subjects of the crown,
 They boldly broke the tyrant's yoke, and flung the gauntlet
 down.

From seven congregations in which they preached and prayed,
 From woodlands and plantations, in homespun garb arrayed,
 These yeomen rode to Charlotte, these men of mien sedate,
 While high emprise shone in their eyes—they came to found a
 state.

And there these dauntless statesmen, in ringing words and high,
 Declared their Independence—"We'll win it or we'll die;
 With lives and sacred honor, with fortunes great or small,
 We will serve the cause of freedom, we will break the Briton's
 thrall."

Next year the nation followed where Mecklenburg had led,
 To all the world, with flag unfurled, her high resolve she read:
 "No more shall sons of freemen endure the tyrant's rod,
 This land shall be as Freedom free, or we forsworn to God."

Through flaming broil of battle where Britain's bravest stood,
 On field and flood, by blade and blood, they made their pledges good,
 And now, where'er their banner floats over land and sea,
 With grateful lays the people praise the men who made us free.

Then up with granite column, inscribed with lofty phrase,
 Let Mecklenburg's achievement resound through endless days;
 Her sons were first to utter the disenthraling word,
 Let men proclaim their deathless name till all the world has heard.

Introduction of the Orator.

Mr. McDowell next announced Mr. J. P. Caldwell, who had been selected for the pleasant duty of introducing the orator of the day. Mr. Caldwell said :

“On this day of days to North Carolinians, I am here as the forerunner of one of the most eminent citizens of the Republic—a grand son of our State, who has come from the fertile plains of Illinois to join us in the celebration of this sacred occasion; a gentleman distinguished no less for his personal charms than for his public services; a favorite in every political party; a favorite in every section of our great country. Descended from one of the men whose memories we are here to honor, he is one of us, sharing our pride in our history and traditions.

“I have no words with which to express the pleasure I feel in announcing the presence of the Hon. Adlai Ewing Stevenson.”

Mr. Stevenson rose midst a storm of applause, and began his address—an effort to be remembered while those who listened to it yesterday live.

Mr. Stevenson's Address.

The speaker was interrupted numbers of times by applause. The patriotic sentiments, handsomely turned phrases, strength of thought and logical sequences, drew forth the appreciation of a patriotic, cultured and discerning people.

“Fellow Citizens: We stand on historic ground. We celebrate a great historic event. This is the hour, and this the fitting place, for the coming together from forest and from city—from the seaboard to the mountains and beyond—of all who glory in the heroic memories and traditions of the Old North State.

“From my home far to the westward, I gladly come at your bidding, to join with you in doing honor to the memory of the men who have made the name of ‘Mecklen-

burg' immortal. I come not as a stranger, but as one of your own blood, from the great valley of the Mississippi, bearing the greetings of hundreds at whose hearthstones the names of Alexander and of Brevard, of Charlotte and of Mecklenburg, are household words. I rejoice with you, that our eyes are permitted to behold this auspicious day. No ordinary occasion has convened this vast assemblage. Truly has it been said, that: 'A people who forget the noble deeds of remote ancestors, will achieve nothing worthy to be remembered with pride by remote descendants.' We honor ourselves, my countrymen, in honoring the memory of the signers of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence.

"This monument we now unveil, will stand through the coming centuries, the silent witness to the courage, the patriotism, the sacrifices, the far-seeing wisdom, of as noble a band of men as have in any age or country stood forth as the evangelists of liberty. It is of the great event which transpired here, and which marks an epoch in history, I would speak. The years roll back as a scroll, and upon this sacred spot, we stand in the presence of the men whose names you have inscribed upon yonder tablet—the men of Mecklenburg; the men of May 20th, 1775. Their coming together upon that historic day was one of profound significance; rarely in human history has there been an occasion of deeper solemnity. The hour had struck, and believing with Lord Bacon: 'What men will not alter for the better, Time, the great innovator, will alter for the worse.' It was theirs, in no uncertain accents, to sound for all time, the knell of British tyranny upon the American continent.

"In no one of the thirteen colonies had there been grosser acts of usurped authority, a more conscienceless disregard of the rights of British subjects, than in North Carolina. Her seclusion, the intervening distance from the important centers of population upon the Atlantic seaboard, had not availed to save her from the iron hand of the oppres-

sor. The bloody slaughter at Alamance has given to Tryon, the tyrannical Colonial Governor, an immortality of infamy. Every attempt to obtain redress was without avail. Humble petitions of the colonists were rejected by those in power with mocking and contempt. Despairing of redress for their wrongs, and justly holding the cruelties of the petty tyrants at home as the authorized acts of the British ministry and crown, the patriots of Mecklenburg, one hundred and twenty-three years ago this day, and upon this spot, solemnly declared their Declaration of Independence.

“History will yet do justice to the memory of these men. Their glory is not lessened by the matchless declaration of the representatives of all the colonies at a later day in the Continental Congress at Philadelphia. It was theirs, clothed with authority, and upon the world’s great theater, to challenge the attention of mankind by their immortal declaration, and with due form and solemnity, formerly, to inaugurate revolution. That great act has been, and will yet be, the choicest theme of historian and of bard. For more than a century it has been the inspiration in all lands of the defenders of human rights. But let it never be forgotten than on the 20th day of May, 1775—before the declaration by the Continental Congress—in the little village of Charlotte, midway from the seaboard to the mountains, the citizens of Mecklenburg County, goaded by the tyrannies of the mother country, hopeless of redress for wrongs too greivous to be borne, sundered their allegiance to the crown, and in sublime words, foreshadowed the great national declaration yet to follow. This, is their glory—and let no man gainsay it.

“Who were the men whose names you have placcd upon this enduring marble—the men whose memories we this day honor? Listen to the words of the most gifted of American authors, a writer whose accuracy and sincerity have never been questioned. Washington Irving, in his

Life of George Washington, says: 'Lord Cornwallis, when left in military command at the South by Sir Henry Clinton, was charged with the invasion of North Carolina. It was an enterprise in which much difficulty was to be apprehended both from the character of the people and the country. The original settlers were from various parts, most of them men who experienced political or religious oppression, and had brought with them a quick sensibility to wrongs, and an indomitable spirit of freedom and independence. In the heart of the State was a hardy Presbyterian stock, the Scotch-Irish as they were called, having emigrated from Scotland to Ireland and thence to America; and who were said to possess the impulsiveness of the Irishman with the dogged resolution of the Covenanters.'

* * "It was in fact the spirit of popular liberty and self-government which stirred within them and gave birth to the glorious axiom: "The rights of the many against the exactions of the few." * * * 'It was this spirit which gave rise to the confederacy called the Regulation, formed to withstand the abuses of power; and the first bloodshed in our country, in resistance to arbitrary taxation, was at Alamance in this province, in a conflict between the Regulators and Governor Tryon. Above all, it should never be forgotten that at Mecklenburg in the heart of North Carolina was fulminated the first Declaration of Independence of the British Crown upwards of a year before a like declaration by Congress.' * * * 'Advancing into the latter province Cornwallis took post at Charlotte when he had given rendezvous to Ferguson. Mecklenburg, of which this was the capital, was "the heady high-minded" county where the first Declaration of Independence had been made, and his Lordship, from uncomfortable experience, soon pronounced Charlotte "the Hornet's Nest of North Carolina."' What was intended for reproach is the adopted symbol, and the 'Hornet's Nest' has been given honored place upon this stately and enduring column.

“What was the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence? Let it be remembered, that at the very hour when the citizens of this historic county were assembled for grave discussion of their manifold grievances, and determining as to the pathway of honor and of duty, a messenger arrived with tidings of the battles of Concord and of Lexington. It was then, after earnest debate, that each of these twenty-seven names was signed to the resolutions, two of which are as follows :

Resolved, That we, the citizens of Mecklenburg County, do hereby dissolve the political bonds which have connected us to the mother country, and hereby absolve ourselves from all allegiance to the British crown, and abjure all political connection, contact or association with that nation who have wantonly trampled on our rights and liberties, and inhumanly shed the blood of American patriots at Lexington.

Resolved, That we do hereby declare ourselves a free and independent people ; are, and of right ought to be, a sovereign and self-governing association, under the control of no power, other than that of our God, and the general government of the Congress, to the maintenance of which independence, we solemnly pledge to each other our mutual co-operation, our lives, our fortunes and our most sacred honor.’

Here, were outlined, in crude form, for all time, the creeds and constitutions of self-governing peoples. Is it to be wondered that men of North Carolina blood glory in what the great historian I have quoted declared to be ‘the first Declaration of Independence of the British Crown?’ It is not meet that the anniversary of this stupendous event should pass unnoticed. It is well, that here and now, we recall something of a people who without the light of experience to guide them, struck the masterful blow for liberty. The glory of such heroism belongs exclusively to no age or country. It is part of the common heritage of

man, whenever and wherever in the world's history any people have struck a blow against tyranny. It has been against odds and without counting the cost. It was from an English scaffold three centuries ago, that Rumbold, the patriot and martyr, exclaimed: 'I never could believe that Providence had sent a few men into the world ready booted and spurred to ride, and millions ready saddled and bridled to be ridden.'

To the men of Mecklenburg on the 20th of May, 1775, the grave issue to be determined was submission to tyranny, or independence. Upon the one side were the ties of country and a common ancestry; upon the other rebellion against the mother country, and the commencement of a struggle the end whereof no man could foretell. Upon the one side submission to the dogma of the 'divine right of Kings;' upon the other, war with the greatest nation of the globe, with independence as the prize of victory, and defeat as surely the forerunner of infamy and death.

The men who signed this declaration were not unmindful of the grave responsibility they assumed. It was no rash act on their part. They well knew that Great Britain would never permit her colonies to be wrested from her grasp without a struggle. They well knew that England with her untold wealth, her powerful army, and a navy that made her mistress of the seas, was a foe to be respected even by the strongest government upon the earth. To the imperishable honor of the signers of this declaration be it said that they did not hesitate when the dread issues of that hour were to be determined.

"The new gospel proclaimed by the signers of this Declaration of Independence, was in conflict with that by which the world had been governed. The Barons of England at Runnymede had wrested from an unwilling tyrant that Magna Charta which for ages has been the palladium of English liberty. Again and again, during the reign of the long line of the predecessors of George the Third, some

prerogative of kingly power had been grudgingly conceded to an exasperated people. But these were mere attempts to restrain within bounds, to limit, not to destroy, the one man power. This declaration sundered forever the ties which bound the people of this province to the British Crown; proclaiming in words of no uncertain meaning, their independence of all human authority, other than that of 'the general government of the Congress.'

"Whence came the men who signed this declaration? In what school of politics or philosophy did they learn these great truths? Who taught them the science of political government? From what royal line of law-givers did they spring? Unskilled in the diplomacy and craft that control cabinets and govern empires, they were of the people, raised up by an All-wise Providence, to overcome the obstacles and grapple with the dangers that threatened their liberties. From the earliest struggles for freedom, the men who in the halls of debate, or on the field of battle, have been the eloquent advocates of human rights, or the bold defenders of human liberty, have sprung from the ranks of the people.

"The Declaration of Independence was an important event in history, not so much because it was a revolt against tyrannical power, nor even because of its assertion of the correct principles which underlie the social organization. Its chief importance springs from the fact, that it was followed by the great National Declaration, and at a later day, by the erection of the American colonies into a permanent government, having for its corner-stone the leading features embraced in the great declaration. It is of value, not so much because of its expression of a creed of human rights, and true principles of government; but because of the important practical results which followed

"The framers of our Federal Constitution were enabled out of the chaos which followed the overthrow of British power, to establish an enduring government. History is

full of instances where other peoples have thrown off the yoke of the oppressor, and attempted to maintain their liberties by self-government. But too often, the history of these attempts has been a catalogue of sad failures, because of a lack of virtue in the people to maintain, by wise administration, what they have achieved by arms. The Commonwealth of England was soon followed by the restoration of Charles the Second to the throne of his ancestors. The history of some of the South American States is an illustration alike of the ability of a people to achieve, and of their incapacity to maintain, their liberty, by stable government. Courage is not the only qualification necessary to the maintenance of a government by the people; but coupled with the boldness to strike must be the virtue to restrain even liberty itself, within constitutional bounds.

“Ours, to-day my fellow citizens, is the land of liberty—of the largest liberty, but let it never be forgotten that it is liberty regulated by law. Whatever savors of lawlessness is antagonistic to the spirit of our free institutions. Whatever the grievance, redress must be found within the pale of the law. For unjust legislation, whenever it exists, there is a remedy. It comes not through defiance of the law nor contempt of its ministers, but the sole remedy is the ballot. In this land of liberty—of representative government—there can be no justification, whether by one or many, of the attempt to override lawful authority. All political power springs from the people. Through the peaceful and lawful instrumentality of the ballot they can bind and loose, make and unmake. Thus equipped with the all potent ballot, it is not possible that the people will long permit unequal or unjust laws to remain upon the statute book. The remedy, however, can come only through the peaceful agency I have indicated. Through the law and its chosen instrumentalities, come protection to property and person. Whatever tends to weaken lawful authority, to lessen respect for its chosen agencies, imperils the very

safeguards of society. This is a government of law—its authority is paramount. Broad as is our domain, it has no permanent abiding place for him who would wantonly destroy what it has cost our race centuries of sleepless endeavor to achieve.

“The brief time allotted will not permit me to tell how the men of Mecklenburg, and of the entire colony, made good by heroic deeds the brave words of this declaration. Their valor and their sacrifices make up no mean chapter in the history of the seven years’ struggle for independence. Their glorious achievements are a part of our common history. It is enough to say, that throughout the terrible struggle, North Carolina stood in the fore front of the colonies. The heroism of her sons at Eutaw Springs, at Guilford Court House, at Cowpens and King’s Mountain, turned the tide of war from the Southern border, and made possible the early termination of hostilities by the surrender of Cornwallis. During the long and bloody pathway from Alamance to Yorktown, the deathless principle embraced in this declaration, was to the North Carolina patriot ‘the pillar of cloud by day and of fire by night.’

“North Carolina—the first of the colonies to declare for independence—was, with a single exception, the last to ratify the Federal Constitution. This, however, cannot be accounted unto her for reproach, or even as hostility to ‘the more perfect union’ devised by the framers of the great compact. It will be remembered, that the most serious objection urged against the constitution, was the absence from its provisions, of a bill of rights. In contemplating the reluctance of the people of this colony to accept the matchless handiwork of the convention of 1787, ‘something,’ in the words of Burke, ‘must be pardoned to the spirit of liberty.’ Patrick Henry, the wonderful orator of the revolution, gave voice to their apprehensions, no less than to his own, when, in the Virginia convention he said: ‘You are not to inquire how your trade may be in-

creased, or how you are to become a great and prosperous people; but how your liberties may be secured.' To this great apostle of freedom, the absence of a bill of rights was an insuperable objection to ratification. He demanded, as additional safeguards to the people, that there should be crystalized into the Federal constitution a certain declaration of rights which should secure to the people, forever, freedom of religion; freedom of the press—'the guardian and guide of all other liberties'—freedom of commerce against monopolies; the right of trial by jury; protection of the people in their persons, homes and effects against unreasonable search; and a guarantee against the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus.

"The ten amendments to the constitution submitted by the first Congress, and subsequently ratified by the several States, embraced in substance the declaration of rights for which Patrick Henry and his followers had so earnestly contended. It forever stands to their credit—and extenuates, if need be, their antagonism to the original draft of the constitution—that the personal rights of seventy millions of freemen are hedged about by these amendments; and the great compact, rounded out and made perfect, by the declaration in substance: 'That the powers granted under the constitution are the gift of the people, and that every power not granted thereby, remains in the people and at their will.'

"Seventy-nine years later, in a case where human life was involved, the Supreme Court of the United States, as in confirmation of the prophetic fears of Patrick Henry, and of the representatives of this colony, said: 'These securities for personal liberty thus embodied, were such as wisdom and experience had demonstrated to be necessary for the protection of those accused of crime; and so strong was the sense of the country of their importance, and so jealous were the people that these rights so highly prized might be denied them by implication, that when the origi-

nal constitution was proposed for adoption, it encountered serious opposition ; and but for the belief that it would be so amended as to embrace them, it would never have been adopted.'

"The amendments which I have indicated—supplemented by the three adopted near the close of our civil war—have beyond all peradventure, secured to all the American people, for all time, liberty—liberty in its largest sense. We know well the meaning of the eloquent words of Chatham: 'The poorest man may, in his cottage, bid defiance to all the forces of the crown. It may be frail, its roof may shake, the wind may blow through it, the storm may enter, the rain may enter, but the King of England may not enter. All his forces dare not cross the threshold of the ruined tenement.'

"From 1789 to the present hour, North Carolina has held her place among sovereign States—the destinies of her people being bound up in the great Federal Union. Her distinguished sons have borne no mean part in making resplendent the pages of more than one hundred years of our common history. The Commonwealth is indeed worthy of honored mention, that gave Macon to the Speaker's chair, Iredell to the Supreme Court, the lamented Vance to the Senate, and three of whose illustrious sons have filled the great office of President of the United States.

"Fellow citizens, I have spoken of the past—but what of future? What will be the verdict of history as to the achievements of the present generation? In all that makes a state great, is North Carolina to lag behind, or to keep even pace with her sister Commonwealths in the century upon which we are soon to enter?

"With an area of more than fifty thousand square miles; stretching from the seaboard five hundred miles to the western border; with a breadth of two hundred miles from north to south; with a soil happily adapted to the supply of all material wants; a climate unsurpassed upon the conti-

ment; traversed from north to south, from pine forest to mountain fastness, by railroads; her mountains overflowing with every variety of mineral wealth—in a word, so abundantly blessed with nature's choicest gifts—North Carolina, I am persuaded, has entered upon a career of wonderful material prosperity. But this is not all. Let this Commonwealth be now viewed from a higher standpoint. In the struggle for material wealth, have the claims of education, of charity, of religion been forgotten? To her honor be it said, that in her hour of misfortune and peril, as well as of gladness and of peace, the humane spirit of her people has found expression in establishing and sacredly guarding the institutions which minister to human necessities and misfortunes. Your schools, your churches, your asylums attest more eloquently than can any poor words of mine, the generosity—nay, the lofty spirit of humanity—which animates this people.

“Standing upon this historic spot, consecrated by the blood of heroes, we lift up our hearts in gratitude to God, that He has been pleased to vouchsafe to our fathers and to us, such a country. The descendants of the heroes of Mecklenburg, of Guilford and of King's Mountain, can never forget that this flag is the symbol of constitutional liberty—the eternal symbol of ‘an indivisible union of indistructible States.’ You should never forget, that all our hopes and aspirations, are bound up in the constitution of our fathers. Guard this constitution as the very ‘Ark of the Covenant.’ At whatever cost, the Federal union—this grand union of people and of States—bequeathed us by our fathers, must be the heritage of the future generations of our countrymen. Let him be accounted the common enemy, who, whatever the pretext, would weaken the cord that binds all the States and sections of our common country in fraternal union. Remembering that ‘our greatest interest is peace,’ yet, we cannot close our eyes to the perils that may come from foreign jealousies and aggression. Need I

remind you that when dangers from abroad threaten, party banners are furled—party names forgotten? Recent events have but emphasized the words of Webster: 'Our politics go no further than the water's edge.' We study the things that make for peace; but must never forget that worse, even than war, with all its horrors, is national dishonor. If object lesson has been needed that we are indeed one people, it is had in the glad response of each State of the Union to the declaration of war against the traditional enemy of liberty and humanity. Were it needed to repel the invader from our own shores; to release Cuba from the iron hand of the oppressor; or, to carry in triumph the flag to the heart of the enemy's country, who does not know that from all sections of the republic an army of American freemen would gather, greater than in the ages past ever followed the banners of Xerxes or of Alexander?

"I congratulate you, my fellow citizens, upon this auspicious celebration; upon the triumphs and glories of the past, and what remaineth sure for us and for our children. We have now entered upon the second century of our national life. God grant that we may not prove unworthy of those who have gone before; that we may not be unmindful of the sublime lessons of the past. Then may we rest assured, that the bright sun that ushers in each succeeding anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, will look down upon a people who celebrate this day, with hearts grateful to God, that those who guarded and strengthened were counted worthy to be named with those who founded this government.

"The century now nearing its close has witnessed the discussion of questions of vast moment to our republic; questions involving the issues of material progress, of diplomacy, of war; nay, involving human freedom, and the maintenance of our national life. Happily, these have been solved; but it were idle to doubt that in the pathway of the Republic stretching a half century before us, ques-

tions equally difficult, or fraught with consequences less portentous, will arise. With the marvelous increase of population, the rapid accumulation of wealth, the multiplication of monster corporations, corruption in the government of large cities, and the influx of a vicious element into our population, with all these will come questions of as great moment and no less difficult solution, than any whose happy determination tested the courage and the wisdom of the past generation. In their discussion and settlement, you are to be factors. It will be yours to stand in the van, and whatever dangers may menace, faithfully to guard and transmit to coming generations the priceless legacy of free government.

“It is said that in Venice there is sacredly preserved a letter written by Columbus a few hours before he sailed from Palos. With reverent expressions of trust in God—humbly, but with unfaltering faith, he spoke of his past voyage to ‘that famous land.’ He builded wiser than he knew. His dream, while a suppliant in the outer Chamber of Kings, and while keeping lonely vigil upon the deep, was the discovery of a new pathway to the Indies. Yet, who can doubt, that to his prophetic soul was even then foreshadowed something of ‘that famous land’ with the warp and woof of whose history, tradition and song, his name and fame are linked for all time?

“May it not be said of the men whose memories you this day honor, as Mr. Winthrop said of Columbus and his compeers: ‘They were the pioneers in the march to independence, the precursors in the only progress of freedom which was to have no backward steps.’ May it not be said of them as the great discoverer said of himself—they ‘only opened the gates’—and lo, there came in the builders of a new mighty nation.

“Your committee did well, Mr. President, to make solid and broad the approaches to this splendid shaft. For hither the lovers of liberty, from the remote end of the republic,

will come as worshipers to a shrine. During the rolling centuries this monument will stand—the record of an heroic past; the inspiration of a glorious future.

“In his matchless oration when laying the corner stone of the Bunker Hill monument, Mr. Webster said: ‘We wish that this column, rising towards heaven among the pointed spires of so many temples dedicated to God, may contribute also to produce in all minds a pious feeling of independence and gratitude. We wish, finally, that the last object to the sight of him who leaves his native shore, and the first to gladden him who revisits it, may be something which shall remind him of the liberty and the glory of his country. Let it rise! Let it rise! till it meet the sun in his coming. Let the earliest light of the morning gild it, and parting day linger and play on its summit.’

So, my countrymen, at this shrine, the generations yet to come, will learn the sublime lessons of patriotism anew; will, beneath the shadow of the noble column your hands have reared, swear again their allegiance to the holy cause of freedom and of country—the cause for which the signers of the Mecklenburg Declaration lived and died; will, in the words of the great statesman, find here ‘something that will remind them of the liberty and the glory of their country.’ As, ‘the centuries fall like grains of sand,’ this monument—charged with its sacred message to the ages—will endure. History will be just—as God is just—and the names inscribed here will not perish from the memories of men.”

Mr. McDowell next introduced Governor Atkinson, of Georgia, who, he said, came from the Empire State, of the South—the State of progress and beautiful women. Governor Atkinson was enthusiastically cheered.

At the close of his speech, which was one of the main features of the day, Mr. McDowell, turning to the young ladies who were to unveil the monument—Misses Julia Alexander, Rebekah Chambers, Mary Oates Caldwell,

Mary Springs Davidson, Alice Graham, Caro Brevard, Mary Irwin and Julia Jackson Christian—and who were fair types of girlish simplicity and loveliness in their white organdies and wide sash of the tri-color.

Mr. McDowell Addresses the Unveilers.

“It is appropriate,” said he, “that the memorial stone, whose unveiling we have assembled to witness, should rear its crest in the brotherhood of venerable elms upon the spot where the draft of the Declaration was framed, and it is also in accord that these young maidens, priestesses at the altar of patriotism, should be the first to display to the world the names of their ancestors in perpetuating bronze.

“The monument, young ladies, you are prepared to unveil, is now a landmark of the nation, for your forefathers were pioneers in the formation of history, and being the destroyers of untrue form, became the administrators of the common thought of their day and time. Tradition says that two of the signers once in swapping horses agreed that the one who had the best of the trade should deliver to the other a certain quantity of wheat. At the appointed time the parties met half way between their houses, each bearing the stipulated measure of grain. Men actuated by such conscientious scruples in private dealing, demanded a similar observance in the performance of public duties.

“The patriots of Mecklenburg held the term ‘country’ more sacred than the word ‘king,’ but in defying British authority they hazarded all the danger as voiced by Benjamin Franklin more than a year later at the signing of the National Declaration. ‘For this so-called act of treason,’ he said, ‘we must all hang together; or, assuredly, we must all hang separately.’

“The actors in the drama of May 20th, 1775, kindled the flames in the morning sky of awakening freedom, and their virtuous aggression doubtless inspired the famous re-

ply of Dr. Witherspoon to a delegate in the national convention, who said that the Colonies were not yet ripe for a declaration of independence. 'Sir,' cried Dr. Witherspoon indignantly, 'we are not only ripe, but rotting.'

"On the 8th day of May, 1776, while Congress was in session at Philadelphia, the firing of heavy artillery was heard down the Delaware. Samuel Adams sprang to his feet and exclaimed exultantly, 'Thank God! the game has begun; none can stop it now.' The sound heard by Mr. Adams was but the echo of tragic events reverberating for many months in the Colony of North Carolina.

"The signers of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence will live in the pantheon of history, and as long as the American republic shall endure, their daring act will be "the heir of all the ages in the foremost files of time."

" 'Their deeds become their monument,
Better than bronze or stone ;
They have their names on Glory's roll,
Unrivalled and alone.' "

The unveiling of the monument, it was announced, would take place immediately, and the exercises being over in the church yard, the crowd made a break for the court house square, where the monument was to be unveiled.

The Unveiling.

The young ladies who were to unveil it were there with the ropes, and their guards of honor, Masters Abner Nash and James W. Osborne, both of Revolutionary ancestry, stood by. A pretty picture they made as they stood at their several places, cord in hand ready for the word that would act as a tension on the cords and thereby uncover the shaft. That word was spoken by one of North Carolina's favorite sons, Col. Julian S. Carr, in the following handsome style.

Col. Carr's Remarks.

"Ladies and Gentlemen, and Fellow Citizens : I congratulate the promoters of this movement upon the magnificent success of the occasion. I am profoundly grateful

that I have lived to see the truth of history so emphasized that it was in North Carolina the spark of civil liberty was born, and that here in grand old Mecklenburg County, on the 20th of May, 1775, the Magna Charta of civil liberty was first promulgated, and here it was that the foundation stones of the liberties of a free people were first laid.

"I am proud that the memories of the signers of the Mecklenburg Declaration have been so beautifully commemorated and honored by this monument of State, which I pray may stand as a mute and silent witness to generations yet unborn of the virtues of those great and good men, and the truth of history, until 'victors' wreaths and monarch's gems shall blend in common dust.'

"Young ladies—worthy descendants of noble, patriotic North Carolinians, who gave to the ages the grandest, greatest paper in history—I respectfully request that you now unveil this beautiful shaft to the honor and memory of the signers of the Declaration of American Independence, promulgated here in the town of Charlotte, May the 20th, 1775."

The cords were pulled and the veil fell from the tall shaft, which was designed by Gault, of Baltimore, and erected under his direction, revealing a handsome memorial in granite and bronze, to the signers of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. As the beautiful shaft was exposed to view cheers rent the air.

"The day was done;" the great event was over, and the thousands of people present dispersed, feeling that it was good for them to have been there.

Efforts to Build the Monument.

The monument unveiled yesterday to the signers of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence is the result of efforts begun many years ago and interrupted from time to time by various causes. The movement to erect the monument was begun as far back as 1842, when the Legislature

passed an act incorporating the Mecklenburg Monument Association. The first local effort toward raising funds of which there is any authentic record was on May 20, 1844, when a dinner was given in Charlotte in honor of the Revolutionary soldiers.

Maj. Thos. Alexander was the only soldier able to attend the feast. He was quite old, and having witnessed the signing of the Declaration of Independence on 20th of May, 1775, was given a great ovation. Judge J. W. Osborne was the orator of the day and Col. E. A. Brevard chief marshal. Col. Brevard placed a \$20 gold piece upon the table as a contribution towards the monument fund, and this amount was immediately covered by Judge Osborne. Hon. H. W. Conner also gave \$20. Others subscribed \$20, \$10 and \$5, aggregating several hundred dollars.

During the Centennial celebration in Charlotte on May 20, 1875, efforts to secure money for the monument were renewed and they were quite successful. About \$5,000 was the result. This fund was placed in a local bank and was afterwards lost in the failure of that institution.

In 1890, the Monumental Association was formed, with Mr. F. B. McDowell as president, and under his management the final and successful effort was made. Subscriptions were secured at different times, but it was not until quite recently that an organized and determined campaign was made. J. W. Miller was treasurer, J. W. Cobb, secretary and Dr. Joseph Graham vice president. Capt. A. F. Brevard was the largest single subscriber to the fund and Dr. R. J. Brevard and Mr. E. D. Latta were the active members of the financial and management committee.

It was agreed last fall that the long deferred work of unveiling a monument in Charlotte should be performed on May 20, 1898, and to this end Mr. McDowell and his assistants actively devoted themselves. In a short time the amount of money in sight justified them in giving out the contract for the monument. A number of plans were

carefully considered before the final selection was made, and the result is the beautiful shaft unveiled yesterday. Much credit is due all the members of the Association, but to Mr. McDowell's energy and determination is due the greater share of praise for the handsome manner in which Charlotte has at length given to the world a testimonial to a great deed—a token of loyalty and honor to the signers of the first Declaration of Independence, and a perpetuation of their names and history.

Ex-Vice President Stevenson said of it yesterday: "There was in it philosophy, ecclesiastics and history."

The beautiful monument unveiled yesterday was designed and built by Wm. A. Gault, of Baltimore.

The following were delegates present representing "signers": W. W. Phifer, representing John Phifer; D. G. Maxwell, John Ford; S. B. Alexander, Maj. John Davidson; A. B. Downs, Henry Downs; Dr. J. B. Alexander, John McKnitt Alexander; W. S. Flenniken, John Flenniken; Dr. C. L. Alexander, Zaccheus Wilson, Sr.; Maj. James G. Harris, Abraham Alexander; S. P. Alexander, Hezekiah Alexander; Joseph Lenoir Chambers, Waightsill Avery; Dr. John R. Irwin, Robert Irwin; Joseph P. Caldwell, David Reese; Brevard Davidson Springs and J. P. Alexander, Adam Alexander; Charles F. Alexander, Richard Barry; Capt. J. Shakespeare Harris, James Harris; Junius Davis, Thomas Polk; Page McCarthy, William Kennon; Alexander F. Brevard, Ephraim Brevard; Jno. O. Alexander, Ezra Alexander.

The Editor's Summary.

Mr. J. P. Caldwell says editorially in the *Observer*:

The celebration was a conspicuous success from every point of view. The attendance surpassed all expectation, the display handsome; the speaking was excellent and all the exercises interesting. The oration of Hon. A. E. Stevenson was marked by thoughtfulness and a high order

of ability. The arrangement was good and the tone lofty. The speech of Governor Atkinson, of Georgia, was 'catchy', and left an excellent impression. The prize poem was well received, and the unveiling proper a pretty and impressive incident. F. B. McDowell, Esq., the chairman of the Monument Association and master of ceremonies, discharged his duties unexceptionably, as did Dr. R. J. Brevard, chief marshal of the day.

"The Monument Association is to be congratulated, not only upon the beautiful monument itself, but upon the happy celebration of the occasion which witnessed its unveiling. For the completeness and appropriateness of the arrangements, and for the skillful carrying of them out, the principal credit is due to F. B. McDowell, Esq., who has given weeks to this work and who has been tireless in his efforts to have all the arrangements complete; neglecting no detail.

"It was indeed a great day. It is hoped that the visitors enjoyed it as much as Charlotte enjoyed having them, and that all of them will come again, and often."