



WELCOME.

MECKLENBURG.

The committees of the Centennial and Society of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence opened at noon, May 19, at Charlotte, North Carolina. The controversy respecting the true date of the Declaration has already been discussed at length in the *Weekly*, and we do not propose going into the vexed question now. Whatever the historian's verdict may be, the people of North Carolina have marked the point for themselves, and held a grand and enthusiastic celebration of an event of which they are justly proud. According to the authorities followed in this instance, a body of delegates met in the old court-house in Charlotte at noon on the 19th of May, 1776, and after a conference lasting all that day and night, adopted resolutions declaring themselves detached from all allegiance to the British crown.

To celebrate this great event, thousands of people from all parts of North Carolina and the adjoining States assembled at Charlotte on the 19th. The town was gaily decorated with flags, bunting, and streamers. At noon the State and Union were hoisted on the Centennial flag-staff, 115 feet high, amidst enthusiastic cheering and the firing of cannon. The speeches on the occasion were



THE PROCESSION.



VISITORS FROM THE COUNTRY.

eloquently patriotic. The Governor of the State, the Hon. Cover H. Brooks, paid a glowing and pointed tribute to the old flag, which was received with hearty cheers. In the evening many dwellings were illuminated, and the flag-staff was lit up with lanterns on lines stretching to the far corners of the square on which it stood.

The next morning the town was thronged with visitors, the number present being estimated at over 50,000. The fair grounds, where the Declaration was read and the speeches were made, are about a mile from Independence Square, which is the center of the town. In those grounds a large stand was erected for the purpose of the day, the Hon. JOHN KANE, of North Carolina, and Congressman HANCOCK of Tennessee. After the speeches a banquet was served, and the people then returned to the town. The evening was occupied with patriotic speeches and displays of fireworks. Among the side diversions of the day were races and a grand cock-fight between North Carolina



CORNWALL'S HEAD-QUARTERS, 1780.



HAPPY AS A QUEEN.

and North Carolina birds, which might better have been omitted from the programme.

Our illustrations of this celebration, from sketches made on the spot, and their own study. We may mention, however, that the sketch of Cornwall's headquarters represents the view of the building occupied by the British general in 1780, the first having been destroyed. It is said to be the only relic remaining of the old town of a hundred years ago. At present Cornwall has between 5000 and 6000 inhabitants. It is pleasantly situated on Finger Creek, about twenty miles from the North Carolina line, and has fine railroad facilities. Its main corner is utilized by several custom houses, and the people are subsisting on oranges that will in some parts of Charlotte a source of considerable trade and manufacturing. The town is surrounded by green fields, strawberry, and flowers, and the residents are noted for their industry, with pretty churches, &c. There are several institutions of learning. Queen's College or Museum was established here long before the Revolution, but the present building and the court-house are both gone, and the site of the original Declaration is now commemorated by Independence Square.



CELEBRATED AT THE FAIR GROUNDS—BRANDS THE DECLARATION.
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