

DOCUMENTARY HISTORY
OF THE
AMERICAN REVOLUTION:

CONSISTING OF

LETTERS AND PAPERS RELATING TO THE CONTEST FOR LIBERTY,
CHIEFLY IN SOUTH CAROLINA, FROM ORIGINALS IN THE
POSSESSION OF THE EDITOR, AND OTHER SOURCES.

1764-1776.

STANFORD LIBRARY

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TO
SOUTH CAROLINA.

THE TRIBUTE OF A SON.

"Breathes there a man with soul so dead,
Who never to himself hath said,
This is my own, my native land!"

PREFACE.

MY first volume of "DOCUMENTARY HISTORY" having been favorably received, I am induced to continue the publication. The present, is composed chiefly of original papers relating to the early period of the Revolution. Some of these have never before been published, others have been given in "Drayton's Memoirs," a work now out of print. As the originals will be deposited among the Archives of South Carolina, I have republished some which are to be found in Drayton's work, as necessary to the completeness of the narrative of the acts of the day. For the Drayton papers, I am indebted to the kindness of A. R. DRAYTON, Esq., the grandson of William Henry Drayton, whose patriotism, energy, and untiring exertions in the cause of liberty are abundantly set forth in the following pages. Serving in every capacity where active duty was required, he was truly one of the moving spirits of the Revolution. The letter of "Freeman," and the proceedings of the King's Council in relation to it are very interesting.

General Christopher Gadsden's few papers were kindly placed in my hands by General JAMES GADSDEN, and it is a matter of regret that we have so few memorials of that sturdy republican, who, of all the men of 1776 was one of the earliest and most unflinching advocates of the inalienable rights of his fellow-citizens to liberty and independence. A few valuable letters of his will be given in another volume.

The journal of the Rev. Mr. Tennent, kindly placed at my disposal by his grandson, Dr. E. S. TENNENT, of Charleston, completes the history of the expedition by Drayton and himself into the upper Districts of South Carolina to explain the Revolution.

I have been also favored by W. PERONNEAU FINLEY, Esq., President of the Charleston College, with two manuscript Orderly books of Marion, from which I have made a few selections, and of which others will be given. An Orderly book of Adjutant Charles Lining, loaned me by the

Rev. J. M. PRINGLE, has also furnished interesting particulars. This MS. volume comprises the same details as one of Marion's.

A few printed circulars, now very rare, have been reprinted as forming important links in the chain of events in this early history.

In publishing this collection of papers, which I have for twenty-five years been collecting, I do so with the hope of aiding in preserving materials for history, which may otherwise have been lost. They are given for their intrinsic value, and in the order of dates, without reference to special events. I trust they will be received, as they are offered, as a contribution to the history of that glorious Revolution of which every memorial is dear to South Carolina.

ERRATUM.

On p. 10, from MSS. of "Christopher Gadsden," read of "John Drayton."

On p. 274, 24th line, after the word "themselves," read "order."

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tion, the property of the public, and in contempt of public authority, and did also, with further aid, and by force of arms, on the nineteenth, twentieth, and twenty-first days of said month of November at Ninety-Six, in the District aforesaid, attack, besiege, kill and wound a number of the good people of this Colony, and in manifest violation of peace and good order, and breach of a solemn treaty entered into on the eighteenth day of September last, made and concluded between the Honorable William Henry Drayton, on the one part, and Col. Thomas Fletchall and others, on the other part, thereby becoming guilty of the atrocious crimes of robbery, murder, and breach of treaty of peace. To satisfy public justice in the just punishment of all which crimes and offences, as far as the nature of the same will admit, I am now come into these parts, in the name and behalf of the Colonies to demand of the inhabitants, the delivery up of the bodies of all the principal offenders herein, together with the said ammunition and full restitution for the ravages committed, and also the arms and ammunition of all the aiders and abettors of those robbers, murderers, and disturbers of the peace and good order as aforesaid; and, in case of refusal or neglect, for the space of five days, I shall be under a necessity of taking such steps as will be found disagreeable, but which I shall certainly put in execution for the public good.

Given under my hand this eighth day of December, 1775.

A FRAGMENT OF A JOURNAL KEPT BY REV. WILLIAM TENNENT, WHO WAS SENT, IN CONJUNCTION WITH MR. DRAYTON, BY THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY, TO THE UPPER COUNTRY OF SOUTH CAROLINA TO INDUCE THE TORIES THERE TO SIGN AN ASSOCIATION NOT TO BEAR ARMS AGAINST, BUT FOR THEIR COUNTRY.

[From Copy of Original MS.]

AUGUST 2, 1775.—At 6, A. M., set out with Mr. Drayton in a chaise from Charleston, arrived at Mr. Henry Middleton's plantation, at Goose Creek, in Company with Rev. Mr. Ellington, and reached Mr. Thos. Broughton's miles.

N. B.—Met about forty Catawba Indians at the Quarter House on their way to town.

3rd.—Set out at six, in the morning, dined at Martin's Tavern, and reached Capt. Flud's, thirty miles. The night spent no-ways agreeably, owing to the noise of a maniac, occasionally there.

4th.—Finding that matters were not in the best posture in this parish, owing to the dissatisfaction of Mr. T——g, set out at half-past five o'clock, to breakfast with him. An opening for service seeming to present, we stayed to dine and had such conversation as will probably change his opinion; arrived at Col. T——'s at half-past seven, in the evening; yesterday we had to exchange a horse, which turns out to be a very good one, though poor in flesh, performs well. The Colonel not at home, but his absence softened by an agreeable family. I had a sick and sleepless night, owing to some green corn eaten at McG——s.

5th.—Set out a little after six, and by the help of Mrs. Thompson's good pair of horses passed over sixteen miles of the worst road I almost ever saw, owing to the steepness of the hills and gullies made by yesterday's shower of rain. Dined at Mr. Patrick's, a man of property among the Dutch, and afterward rode with him seven miles; arrived at Col. Chesnut's, pay-master, and there found Col. —, with sundry officers of the Regiment; among others, was agreeably surprised at finding Dr. Charlton, from Philadelphia, a Lieutenant among them. We were soon introduced to Messrs. Dunn and Booth, two lawyers, sent from North Carolina, prisoners, for having been busy in stirring up the people there in opposition to the continent. They appear sensible and plausible men.

After making known our errand and powers to the commanding officer, we consulted with him and concluded to send the prisoners by a detachment to Charleston to the General Committee informing them of the time of the Congress in North Carolina; to disband the rangers for a few days to take off the fears of the people.

6th.—Preached in the camp at Col. —, in the evening; finding some disaffected among the soldiers, Mr. Drayton harangued them and was followed by myself; until all seemed well satisfied, and we returned to Mr. Chesnut's, about two miles. About midnight were alarmed by an officer from the camp, who, informed us that they had mutinied and were determined to go off in the morning. We agreed to let matters rest until then. Ordered the companies to come to us.

7th.—Discovered that the mutiny arose from some words dropped by some officers concerning their pay and tents.

We dealt plainly with the corps of officers, and addressed the men at the head of the Regiment in such a manner as that they all went away happy. Slept badly this night.

8th.—Spent the morning in preparing matters to get the people together in different parts of the District.

Crossed Congaree river and rode five miles to an election for the Con-

gress, where they refused to proceed unless we should enlighten them. We found persons had come a great way to oppose the election. Harangued the meeting in turns until every man was convinced, and the greatest opposer signed the Association and begged pardon for the words he had spoken to the people. Returned and found that Major Mason was come.

N. B.—This morning about eleven o'clock, sent off Lieut. Dutarque with the prisoners to Charleston charged with our dispatches.

9th.—Left here about seven; met a Company of militia and harangued them; they signed the Association and generally promised to meet Mr. Drayton in the Fork. After the meeting, I gained over in private the most obstinate.

Mr. Kershaw now came to us. Major James Mason came through from Ninety-Six and gave many melancholy accounts. Having agreed upon our route, we separated and I rode four miles to Mr. Beard's on the banks of the Saluda, a romantic situation—Col. Richardson accompanies me.

10th.—Crossed Saluda river early in the morning, and traversed the Fork, in that place about four miles wide, and at the ford, called Fur's Ford, on Broad River, met our guide. The ford is very shallow at present and presents a strange rocky prospect; crossed at an old Dutchman's, who was said to have influence over many; there met with some disaffected men, who became converts by proper arguments, and to confirm them in the opinion that the new bills were good, gave them gold for them. Reached Capt. Woodward's of the rangers after sundown, an honest man who informed that his Company had universally signed. Slept badly after riding thirty miles. Riding on horseback fatigues me much.

11th.—Preached this day according to appointment at Jackson's Creek Meeting House, where we met a pretty large congregation. After sermon harangued the people an hour on the state of the country, some of the most sensible were the most refractory I had met with, obstinately fixed against the proceedings of the Colony. After much pains brought over the chiefs, and from the greatest confusion brought all Captain ——'s Company cheerfully to subscribe the Association. After a fatiguing but successful day, rode five miles to Mr. Allison's, on our way to Rocky Creek; he seems an active and prudent member of Congress, as well as a sensible magistrate.

12th.—Detained by shoeing our horses until afternoon. We spent our time in writing and sending dispatches.

Finding that a part of Col. Neal's Regiment laid contiguous to Mr. Tims' Tavern on Sandy river, we determined upon a meeting next day,

and sent letters to Captains Martin and Richard Sadler, as also to Mr. Simpson all on Fishing Creek, to meet us at the above place and dispatched an express to them fifty miles.

Rode this evening in the rain twelve miles to McDonald's, on Rocky Creek.

13th.—Travelled five miles to Rocky Creek Meeting House, and met some hundreds of the inhabitants. Preached from Mark 4 and 20; and after sermon making an apology for the necessity of treating on the subject of my mission on the Lord's day, harangued at large; was supported by Col. Richardson. The heat almost melted me; but had the pleasure to see all the people eagerly sign the Association fully convinced of the necessity of it.

Rode ten miles in the evening through the rain to Captain —, if we can stand this we need fear nothing; but the inclemency of the skies was not to be compared to the fury of the little inhabitants of the bed. After a sleepless and wet night, I was shocked by the blood and slaughter of my calicoed shirt and sheets in the morning.

14th.—The morning being rainy we spent the time in laying the foundation for a Company of volunteer rangers to serve on horse; wrote a solemn agreement and a recommendation to the District in favor of it. Robt. Allison, Esq., undertook to enlist and swear a hundred men to be ready at a moment's warning, and to be at the command of the Council of Safety. Enlisted three more volunteer Companies at which the Ministerial heroes were much chagrined; but there was no recall. Spent the remains of the day and evening in rallying and desultory talk with a collection of the most staunch of Fletchall's friends. The pamphlet sent up by the Governor has done much damage here, it is at present their Gospel. It seems as though nothing could be done here, as they have industriously taught the people that no man from Charleston can speak the truth, and that all the papers are full of lies. Some angry discourse between Brown and Drayton sent us to bed.

19th.—Capt. Polk now came; we find that he has laid under some mistake as to his duty; he accompanied me and the Rev. Mr. Alexander to a meeting; found the people just parting; called them together and harangued them an hour. One of Fletchall's Captains and many of his men seemed convinced, and cry out upon the lies that have been told them, and are ready to sign the Association. Rode to Mr. Alexander's, and in the way crossed Talbot's Ferry on Broad river, twenty miles above the Fish Dam Ford. Am now but twenty-three miles from Tims' Tavern, where I saw the four Companies. Have rode to-day about twenty-three miles.

20th.—Wrote a letter to Mrs. Tennent, and one upon an important subject to the Council of Safety, and set off at half after eight for King creek, to a muster of Capt. Robert McAfee's company, after a hard and rough ride of twenty miles, in which crossed King creek at a beautiful rocky ford; found about one hundred people assembled, among whom were some of the most obstinate opposers of the Congress. Spoke to the people at large on the state of America. They seemed much affected towards the close, but afterwards aided by two gainsaying Baptist preachers, they all refused to sign the Association except ten. After their refusal which proceeded from the grossest ignorance and prejudice, spoke again to their heads, who, upon renewing the charge, seemed quite softened, and only asked a little time. They proposed to obtain some powder to defend themselves from the Indians who are troublesome; told them it was impossible; knew they would not use it properly; told them as soon as they would associate and let us know it, we would try to do something for them. This I hope will have its influence. Parted and crossed the end of King's Mountain about dark, and rode fifteen miles to Col. Polk on ———, where we arrived at half after eight, having travelled in all thirty-eight miles. This has been a hard days' work.

21st. Went five miles to Barsheba meeting house; found assembled a large body of people indeed; preached from Romans v. 5. Afterwards spoke largely upon the public affairs. The people seemed entirely satisfied and signed the Association almost universally. This I hope will bring over Col. ———'s regiment, *let his intentions be what they will*. Travelled ten miles, being much fatigued, to Capt. Beer's on Bullock creek, lodged there, rested badly, though most kindly entertained.

22d.—Gave Mr. Beers a form of enlistment for volunteer rangers; wrote to Col. Polk in Mecklenburg, and to Charleston. Set out and rode thirteen miles, (crossing Broad river at Smith's ford, to a meeting house of Mr. Alexander's on *Thicketty*, where found him preaching to a crowd of people assembled to meet me.

When he had done, I mounted the pulpit and spoke near two hours. There were present many of the most heated of Maj. Robinson's friends, his wife and others, two captains viz: Steen and Colman.

The people seemed convinced, and after writing an Association from memory, refreshed myself, and drank out of a cow bell, they signed the Association and retired, seeming contented. Capt. Steen invited me home; find he is entirely taken off from a most horrid scheme carrying on here.

23rd.—In conversation with Capt. Steen, he seems fully convinced and ready to sign the Association; after affectionate assurances, parted and rode three miles to Goudelock's where met with Messrs. Nuckels and Adderson; after some conversation rode to Capt. Colman's, found him halting with what he had heard yesterday; took pains and convinced him of the ruin of the Boston charter, and left him in *a fair way*. Went to Capt. Plumer's for lodging; found him a strong friend of Col. —, honest and open; reasoned with him, and, before bed time, fully convinced him of the justice of our cause, and engaged him to the muster to-morrow, seventeen miles.

24th.—Went eighteen miles to the general muster, at Mr. Ford's, on Enoree. We found that the captains had dissuaded their people from coming, and met only about 270 men. The gang of leaders were there all double-armed with pistols. Mr. Drayton began to harangue them, and was answered in a most scurrilous manner by Kirkland, when Mr. D—— interrupted him, and a terrible riot seemed on the point of happening. This seems to have been preconcerted, but the disgust against Kirkland appearing so universal, and people pressing on, the matter was quashed. I replied to Kirkland, and went at large into the argument; had a most solemn and impressive discourse for an hour and a quarter. Kirkland remained, but the people mostly retired and left only a small circle; he was left by Brown to a smaller still, who read the pamphlet and dilated upon it. In the mean time, those who remained began to sign the Association, and the greater number appeared convinced, even though they did not sign. Many seemed very spirited in the cause of America, but a dark design appears to sit upon the brow of the leaders of the party. The boldness with which we spoke seems to have damped their spirits, and the people are of opinion that the opposition will weaken fast. Mr. Drayton and I having been long apart, now agreed upon our route and proceedings, and set out to-morrow towards Ninety-Six.

Parted from Mr. Drayton, who went to visit a fall of water, and, on his return, is to meet a large company at a horse race to-morrow, at Duncan's creek; forded Enoree river, and rode twenty miles; met with several hard showers, and directed Mr. John Downes, a magistrate; arrived in the evening at Mr. James Williams's, one of the committee, an honest and liberal man, who lives in the midst of Cunningham's Company; was kindly received, and better entertained than I have been since I left the Congarees; met with Rev. James Creswell, minister at Ninety-Six and this place.

25th.—Met with the greater part of Robert Cunningham's Company,

and two of his officers in a large congregation at the meeting house, one mile and a half from Mr. Williams's, on Little river. Preached to a large and concerned audience. After a short intermission, spoke for two hours and a half upon the subject of my mission to the most fixed people that I have ever yet seen. This is the centre of the opposition in this Regiment. Therefore, finding I had caught the attention of the sober and judicious, I spared no pains to convince them, and at the close made a solemn proposal to them to send some men (whom they could trust) to me at Charleston; promised them safe conduct, and that they should be fully satisfied by all the original papers.

I conjured them by all that was sacred, that they would not give themselves up to be the dupes of ministerial artifice, or the instruments of opposition and slavery, and, by God's help, so touched their minds, that the greater part of them clustered around me afterwards and wanted to hear more; many seemed much shocked; some declared themselves convinced; others went away silent; a few were very angry. C——'s Lieutenant and Ensign seem worthy men, they came home with me, and appeared much moved by some papers which were read. In short, it would seem that the force of violence is broke here. Appointed a sermon for Mr. Hart in this place next Tuesday, which I hope will fix the matter. Mr. Drayton joined us in the evening, with Major Terry.

26th.—This day contented ourselves with going to the Rev. James Creswell's, only seven miles. Spent the evening pleasantly with the good people; and young Mr. Taylor from Virginia, who seems so much engaged in the cause that he got the promise of a commission, if nothing prevents.

27th.—Went eight miles to Ninety-Six, put up at Wm. Mores. In our way, crossed Saluda at Mr. Creswell's ferry, and Wilson's creek, at Pearson's mill. The fresh was so high, as that we were obliged to put the chaise into a flat and cross the mill pond. Had a considerable meeting; preached from Neh. ii., 3.

Mr. Drayton harangued them, and was followed by me. The audience appeared fully convinced, and as I learned, there remained not one who had not subscribed before, that did not subscribe now. Met with messengers from Long Cane, who came to solicit us to go thither; agreed with them on meetings, in different parts of the district. Were alarmed in the night by a messenger to inform us, that the wife of Major James Mason was drowned in crossing Wilson's creek, on her return from sermon.

28th. Major Williamson met us in the morning, and after proper

agreements parted ; Mr. Drayton for Augusta, Mr. Tennent to cross Saluda, in his way to a meeting at Capt. James Lindlay's, in the worse part of Fletchall's Regiment. I intended for Patrick Cunningham's, but was stopped by the rain ; lodged at Mr. Creswell's.

29th.—Attempted once more to go to Lindlay's, but only reached James Polard's, a worthy Virginian lately settled here ; the waters are too high to pass, and are rising constantly.

With great reluctance I am compelled to disappoint a congregation. That a day might not be lost, concluded to go to Little river meeting house, where Mr. Hart had appointed a sermon. With some difficulty got thither, heard a good sermon, concluded with a touch of the times. And now think it providential that we came here, as some opposers had collected who would have brow-beat Mr. Hart ; took the storm upon myself, and did some good.

Returned to James Williams' ; then wrote letters and lodged, having rode this day about eighteen miles.

30th.—Mr. Williams was so kind as to offer me his saddle-horse, that mine might stay and recruit with him. Left there early in the morning and halted at Rev. Mr. Creswell's ; crossed Saluda and rode to dinner with Major Terry, having swam our horses at two creeks, with much danger at one of them of losing our horses. Conversed plainly with the Major, and have reason to think he is firm in the cause of America ; he is now become Captain of a volunteer Company. He accompanied me, in the afternoon and evening on my way ; was benighted and obliged to put up at one Wilson's, having rode thirty-six miles, part in the rain ; slept upon a broken clay floor all wet, and the wind and damp blowing upon me ; passed a bad night.

31st.—Went to a meeting appointed last week on the Long Cane Creek in Boonsborough at one of Mr. Harris' preaching sheds ; preached, and in the midst of sermon had the pleasure to see Mr. Hart arrive. After sermon, spoke as usual on the subject of my mission ; was seconded by Mr. Harris and Mr. Salvador, to good effect ; returned to Mr. Reed's. The congregation was solemn and affected. Mr. Calhoun and other gentlemen returned with me, and spent the evening on the subjects fit for the times. Passed twelve miles this day ; slept at Mr. Reed's.

SEPTEMBER 1st.—Finding the necessity of ammunition in this place great, and several volunteer Companies formed, engaged Capt. Reed to send down ; wrote to the Council of Safety and gave the necessary orders. Met with a certain Mr. Ross who had been greatly disaffected ; he confessed he was convinced yesterday, and the greater part of Capt. Smith's

Company also, who, he believed, would join us; he proposed an association for them on oath, but somewhat different from ours; a thing I could not agree to. I find the people here agreeing fast and ready to obey commands. Set off with Mr. Harris for his house; passed by Mr. Bowie's; crossed Little River. The land here appears extremely fine; arrived at our quarters at sundown, sixteen miles; found good Mrs. Harris down with the ague, as more or less of every family seem to be in this quarter. Could not help observing the difference between the health of this District and that between Broad and Catawba rivers.

2d.—Studied a sermon in the morning and went five miles to Bull Town meeting-house, which is about fifteen miles from the Indian line. The assembly was the most crowded that I have seen. Preached extempore with more ease and freedom than common. The people though mostly opposers, appeared very affectionate. Finding them willing to hear, I gave them a discourse upon the American dispute of near three hours; I think I was more animated and demonstrative than usual. Its effect was very visible, the people holding a profound silence for more than a minute after I was done. A certain Justice Anderson, who formerly was a friend to American freedom, but receiving the magic touch from the other side the river, suddenly changed his note, and by every artful method has since disaffected his acquaintance. This man arose, and, in a smooth plausible way, objected to the Association. I answered him with as much clearness as I was able. The people seemed satisfied, and many of those who had signed Fletchall's Association now subscribed ours.

This day has, it is hoped, put an end to the strength of discord in this Regiment. Returned to Mr. Harris'; took there an affidavit, and receiving by express a message from Mr. Drayton, resolved to disappoint the meeting to-morrow, and to lodge this night at Patrick Calhoun's, Esq., ten miles distant; accompanied him home—having this day rode eighteen or twenty miles. Wrote dispatches for my horses to meet me at Augusta, and had a restless night.

3d.—Started early in the morning, and by half after eight was at Fort Charlotte, having missed our way, and rode not less than fifteen miles. The rains of last night have made the streams swell greatly. Crossed Little river in a most romantic place at Hutchinson's Mills. This country affords the greatest number of fine falls for mills of any I have ever seen. The soil is rich and the best foundation seems to be laid by nature for manufactures that can be conceived. Here is stone sufficient for all the purposes of building, and yet the ploughing of the land is not much impeded by them. Being very wet when I reached the Fort, had

a good fire kindled; washed my feet with rum, and took every precaution to avoid a cold. Surveyed the fortification, magazine, stores, ordnance and barracks, and find that this place though much out of repair, is still capable of a good defence. It is a large square with good bastions at each corner, so constructed as to be able to work sixteen cannon. The wall is of stone, about ten feet in height, with loop holes, to fight musketry. The platforms have not been made as yet, but are soon to be finished. The barracks are able to lodge two hundred men, and the officer's building, the armory and its offices are not despicable. It has a good well within it, and its gate is of strong plank. In short, I consider this post as very commanding, and of the last importance in the present cause. Gave orders, therefore, for completing its repair, mounting the guns, disposing of the ammunition, &c. &c. Sent for Capt. Whitfield, and consulted him about cutting away his corn. Ordered the horses to be sent out of the way of danger. Reviewed the soldiers and the militia; discoursed with them on the goodness of their cause; after proper exhortations, which they seemed to take very kindly; prayed with them, and took my leave accompanied by Lieutenant Cawan to his house, eight miles on the same side of the river. Anxiety of mind on account of the madness of the opponents of liberty robbed me of sleep until break of day.

4th.—Arose with the early dawn, took a guide and crossed Savannah river, at Cawan's ferry; the river swelling much by the rains; was on the Georgia side before sun rise; rode hard, and crossed a wood, to avoid a place where an ambuscade was suspected; passed Little river with great difficulty, my guide falling with his horse into the rapid current, lost his saddle, and was in some danger. Forging the rivers, and some showers, wet me exceedingly, which, with an empty stomach, made me feel badly before we reached the inn. It was near eleven o'clock before we broke our fast. Met with one of the *King's men*, as they are absurdly called, from whom I learned, that they expected a meeting on Wednesday of all their comrades on the banks of the Savannah, about twenty miles above Augusta, from which, and sundry circumstances, it appears that they mean some stroke. Arrived at Mr. Rug's at Augusta at half an hour sun, having rode forty-seven, miles some say fifty-five; left the horses there, and crossed the river to Capt. Hammond's; found his house fortified in, and a large body of militia there, ready to move with Mr. Drayton. This is one of the most lofty and fine situations I have seen since I came to this Colony. The river lies beneath him, and a sounding fall before his door. Navigation is clear to this place, and with one thousand pounds sterling, I would

undertake to clear it near one hundred miles farther up. Consulted with Mr. Drayton and found that on a discovery of the intention of Kirkland and the others to embody on Wednesday and go upon some enterprise, he had ordered the Regiment of horse to march, and the militia, in all to the amount of one thousand effective men. We agreed upon the necessary movements, and I consented to make the best of my way to Charles Town, to lay a state of the whole matter before the Council of Safety.

The two hundred men that are now here are the quota that Georgia sends under our commanding officer; slept at Hammond's.

5th.—My chaise and horses not yet come from Ninety-Six; begin to fear some accident; spent the day with Mr. Drayton, at Mr. Hammond's; crossed in the evening to Augusta, to the house of Mrs. Barnett, the relict of Col. Barnett, deceased; was genteely received and treated by Mr. Goodion; distance from Mr. Hammond's about four miles.

6th.—Wrote letters, and rode to Mr. John Walton's to dine, on the way the horse taking fright, ran away with Mr. George Walton and myself, but Providence so ordered, that the road being fine, after we had been carried with the greatest rapidity and danger near a mile and a half, the horse was stopped.

After dinner, as we were about to return to Augusta, another horse being in the chair, we had not proceeded forty steps before he took fright also, and ran off with great violence. The rein breaking, we could not direct him, and the wheel soon taking a log, were thrown out, and the chair was torn in pieces. Through God's goodness, I received only a small hurt on my hip, Mr. Walton was so bruised, that I thought it best to bleed him and put him to bed. I then accepted of a solo chair and went to Augusta; rode this day eighteen miles only. My chaise not yet come, makes me conclude that some miscarriage has happened, and find it necessary to send an express to Ninety-Six.

This evening our little detachment of about two hundred men marched about eight miles to Fox's creek, having news that Major Williamson was on his way to Ninety-Six, and Col. Thomson in full march with the rangers and militia to join them.

7th.—Wrote letters and dispatched a negro man with the horses for Mr. Williams, on the north of Saluda, with orders for my chaise and horses. Went ten miles to New Savannah, where I had appointed a meeting of inhabitants, in hopes to draw an audience out of Augusta, from Mr. Galphin's settlement, and Beech Island; but the most of the

men having marched with Mr. Drayton, and Mr. Galphin being from home, I had but few. To these few I thought it worth while to speak largely, as there were three non-associators among them. Dined and returned to Augusta; in all twenty miles.

Was alarmed by intelligence that two of Mr. Drayton's men had been killed after a short march. Sent to inquire into the report, and could not find the certainty. Another report came into town, that Kirkland, with a large party, was about twenty-five miles up the river at a ford, and intended to take advantage of the absence of the men to attack this place. Determining to make one in the defence of the town, went with speed to Wilson's Fort. They were greatly alarmed at our coming and received us with guns all prepared. After finding their mistake we were admitted, and had not been there ten minutes, before another rapping at the gate again alarmed the fortification. But in a minute was agreeably surprised to find it was Mr. Taylor from Saluda, who not being able to obtain any safe hand to bring my carriage, had travelled at least forty-eight miles to bring it to me, although he expected to be ambuscaded. He accordingly saw and conversed with some men who seemed to be placed for that purpose, but they let him pass after calling him sundry times by my name. I find this young gentleman possessed of much cool bravery and manly sense. He had missed the army on his way by going the lower road. By a letter with him and by word of mouth I received the joyful news of General Gages' defeat, and of the recovery of Boston from the hands of the British pirates. The discourse he had with Cunningham confirms me in the belief of the extent of Lord William's conspiracy. After arranging matters, and agreeing upon a signal, returned to Mrs. Barnet's fort, and found they had loaded thirteen muskets for service, and were preparing to repel an attack. Thank God I slept safely and soundly. Every valuable house in Augusta is surrounded by a strong wooden fortification, formed of three inch plank, in deep grooves of upright posts, not less than ten or twelve feet high. These forts are differently constructed; some have large strong pentagonal flankers at each corner, in which from twenty to forty men each may fight. The flankers have two stories, and on the upper floor are mounted a number of three-pounders. Others have demi-flankers projected from the middle of each side to answer the same purpose. These buildings serve, in times of peace, for chair-houses and other offices, but, in war, render the inhabitants secure in the midst of savages.

8th.—Contented myself with riding only nine miles on my way to Charleston, was accompanied by Mr. George Walton and Mr. Taylor.

On our way met an express from Savannah, who brought letters to Mr. Walton from the Council of Safety, which I wish I never had seen.

9th.—Set out about 8 o'clock, after many civilities from Mr. John Walton, whose plantation is, I think, the finest I ever saw in the article of soil. Crossed Briar creek in a flat, where it is not more than thirty-five yards wide. This shows the want of public spirit in this Colony. Five men would build a bridge over this stream in a fortnight. The court house on this road is laughable. It is a building of about twenty-five by sixteen feet, a pen of logs covered with clapboards; before it towers an oaken liberty pole with a tattered flag at its head.

After riding twenty-seven miles, put up at Lambert's tavern. This man had tried an experiment lately on three of his wagon horses; it succeeded so well that the buzzards are hard at business. Had it happened one month sooner, or had he had the wit to know before hand, that three dead horses are capable of perfuming the air at more than an hundred yards distance, I should not have had the amusement I am like to have all this night, but *every man is not an Apollo*. I find it better to laugh, than to be always snarling at the weakness of mankind.

I must not forget that this day, finding myself sleepy on the road, I took the liberty to stop my horses in the King's high way, and to take a nap in the carriage. I hope his Majesty will not be persuaded to get an Act of Parliament passed to constitute this treason.

10th.—Having no opportunity for the worship of God in a country destitute of the least form of religion, and no time to warn a meeting, and, indeed, not being happy where I was, I concluded it best to spend the day on the road. Dined at one Nichols' tavern, where, to a very bad dinner, was added the oaths and execrations of as detestable a crew as horse thieves in general are. Was glad to get away, and pushed hard to get to a Mr. Hudson's, about forty-two miles; with difficulty reached it, as my horses begin to weaken much. Found his house on a high bluff of Savannah river, fortified in by palisades. On one side you have a rough and agreeable view of the river, and the lands of South Carolina; on the other you have a broken prospect of woods and fields. The building is tolerably good, and the people kind. Here wrote letters to the Council of Safety in Savannah, giving them the most interesting intelligence.

11th.—Set out early for the Ferry at the two sisters; reached Tritchland's between nine and ten o'clock; he advised me that the waters were high but that I might pass; I since found that his intention was to convince me by finding it impossible, that even in so low a fresh Mr. Williamson's Ferry was not good. He succeeded in the unkind experi-

ment; for in addition to much difficulty, I had nearly drowned my best horse, and was glad to return to the house. He now kindly offered to set me over *gratis*. I accepted it and undertook, as there was no other hand, to steer the Flat up against the stream; but in my life I never endured more burning heat of the sun; I stripped to my shirt and labored hard for four hours to gain but one mile. Got to the ferry house much spent, and after a little refreshment threw myself on a bed and slept; awoke in a sweat much relieved by it. My friends would have smiled to see my repast and the figure I cut in eating it; fried pork and milk was a dish to which necessity gave a high relish. It was in the night before I reached the widow Allison's. It is an easy matter to write novels, if a man travels and describes nothing more than the truth. The world is full of vanity, and you meet with such comical animals upon the face of it, that to paint well is sufficient to interest a reader. At the tavern found a recruiting sergeant and some newly enlisted soldiers. But—hold—I have other business to do, than to write every thing I see and hear. I slept well, thank God, and got once more into my carriage on the morning.

12th.—But, to my unspeakable mortification, perceived that my two best horses were foundered, by getting into the corn field last night. Hobbled along with the greatest difficulty to Coosaw bridge. Was informed by Mr. DeSaussure, that there was to be a meeting of the officers of Beaufort Regiment at Vanbibber's tavern, where I might be furnished with horses. Concluded to stay and dine with them. In the mean time met with the unfortunate Dr. David Gould, whose narrative was truly affecting. Was very politely treated by Col. Bull and others; horses were found me at the first word. After much conversation on interesting matters, rode to my plantation. This day's jaunt was only twenty miles.

13th.—Found matters in good order at the plantation; but my horses so poor as not to permit my taking one of them with me. Gave the necessary orders in my own affairs, and rode in the evening to Dr. Budd's, eight miles.

Found there Mr. DeSaussure and Dr. Gould, by whom I. was informed of the unmanly manner in which a certain Doctor had ordered the horse he had lent me out of my chaise.

Mr. Hamilton's coming, relieved me from my difficulty by promising me horses in the morning.

14th.—My horses were so entirely weakened that with difficulty they dragged me to Arthur Middleton's plantation where fresh horses met me. With only one small disaster, reached Mr. James Skirving's to dine.

He politely offered me horses to town, and with a pair of them got to Mr. Jo. Bee's in the evening ; rode about thirty miles.

15th.—Set out in the rain and rode this day through the greatest quantity of water I remember ever to have seen. Met with some small difficulties but had them all compensated by the joy of my dear family and friends on my safe arrival.

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

[Original MS.]

CHARLES TOWN, December 12th, 1775.

In the Council of Safety.

The memorial of Messrs. Samuel and Benjamin Legare, of Charles Town, merchants, and affidavit therein referred to, being taken into consideration.

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this Council, that Messrs. Samuel and Benjamin Legare, may justly seize, and take into their possession, and cause to be sold at public auction, after ten days' notice, any effects of Lord William Campbell, in Charles Town, and out of the said sale to reimburse themselves to the amount of one hundred and sixty half-Johannes's, set forth in their memorial to be unjustly detained ; and also a sufficient sum to defray the expenses attending the said sale, and incidental charges, returning the overplus, if any there shall be, to the said Lord William Campbell, or to his representative in Charles Town. And, that the said Samuel and Benjamin Legare should, previous to this sale, give the Lord William Campbell due notice of this resolution, to the end that his lordship may, by a restitution of their property, prevent the said sale if he shall think proper.

A true copy from the minutes.

PETER TIMOTHY, *Secretary.*

COL. RICHARDSON TO THE HON. HENRY LAURENS.

[Original MS.]

CAMP GREAT SURVEY, DUNCAN'S CREEK, Dec. 12, 1775.

SIR:—In the evening of yesterday, the honor of your commands from the Council of Safety, came to hand by the Express, which has given me infinite satisfaction, the rather as they convey the lenitive