

KEOWEE COURIER

TO THINK OWN SELF BE TRUE, AND IT MUST FOLLOW, AS THE NIGHT THE DAY, THOU CANST NOT THEN BE FALSE TO ANY MAN.

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FOR THE KEOWEE COURIER.

CLEANINGS FROM THE UNWRITTEN HISTORY OF PICKENS DISTRICT.

All that portion of the District of Pickens below a line drawn directly from Tugalo river to the Saluda, and crossing the Keowee at its junction with Little river, was once a part of Abbeville. This state of things, however, continued but a year, or two at the extreme. The line was extended Northward as far as the Oconee Station, and the whole region of country from that down to the present Abbeville line, became Pendleton District. With the history of the subsequent extension of the boundary to North Carolina, and the division of Pendleton into Anderson and Pickens, for judicial purposes, most people in the upper part of South Carolina are entirely familiar. The first permanent settlement of territory, now comprised within the limits of Pickens District, was made about the year 1781—many of the emigrants coming from North Carolina, and among them was Colonel Benjamin Cleveland, who had commanded a regiment of Militia at the battle of King's Mountain with great skill and bravery, and who fixed his place of abode on Tugalo river, near the point where the Chauga flows into it.

The reader will perceive that our narrative is now confined exclusively to the Tugalo settlement;—and he is assured that this is a faithful record of the statement given by one of the earliest settlers in a recent conversation. The first white inhabitants on the Tugalo had for their immediate neighbors the Cherokee Indians, with which tribe they were ever on terms of friendship. The Creek Indians lived at some distance, and, as a nation, were at peace with the whites until the war of 1817. But marauding bands of their young warriors kept the pale-faces in a state of constant alarm for several years after their establishment in the country. These vagabonds seemed to have been actuated solely by an unhalting thirst for blood and plunder; and they committed their depredations, in almost every instance, with perfect impunity: for they invariably fled to Florida, where they were protected and encouraged by the Spaniards. (Hence the good policy of that treaty, by which the whole of Florida was ceded to the United States in 1819, under the Administration of President Monroe.) The frequent robberies and *scalping* attacks of the savages gave rise to several exploits of a very romantic and heroic character. An account of some of the most interesting of those incidents connected with the early history of the Tugalo settlement, we shall now proceed to give without any of the colorings or embellishments, which the imagination might suggest. For the protection of the inhabitants against the hostile incursions of Indians, a strong block-house was built near Tugalo river, on the Carolina side, and about 6 miles above the confluence of that stream and the Chauga. This strong-hold was called the "Tugalo Station," and in it the helpless women and children, as well as the aged tottering grand-sires, found safety and comparative quiet. The only serious attempt at taking the "Tugalo Station," that the Indians ever made, was completely foiled by the cool

daring of two men! The names of these brave men were William Ward and Kinneith Findley. On that occasion all the other militia-men had imprudently left the Station and gone down the river some distance to a "frolick." After sunset, Kinneith Findley started to hobble his horse on a little streamlet that flowed hard-by, and upon which there some fine pasturing grounds;—on reaching the summit of an inconsiderable ridge between the block-house and the place where he wished his horse to graze, he discovered about forty Indians, "in grim array," stealing up the slope. Hastening back to the block-house to get help and his rifle, he and Ward sallied forth and went boldly up to the top of the hill, and fired on the Indians, killing one and wounding another. The enemy returned fire, but without effect. The two heroes retreated to their place of refuge, barred the gates and stood sentry during the whole night. In the meantime, the Indians, knowing that their designs against the Station were discovered, and not knowing how many men were left at the block-house, turned their faces towards the impenetrable wilds of Florida, and retreated with, perhaps, much greater speed than they approached. Next day the whites followed their troublesome foes and overtook them just at dark, at a thick swamp, where some slight skirmishing took place, one man being killed. The men bivouacked on the ground, intending to renew the fight in the morning, but the enemy decamping in the night, it was not thought prudent to make any further pursuit.

The expedition of Robert Walton deserves a place in this sketch. It seems that the Indians had stolen four or five valuable horses, and set out with them in all the haste of conscious wickedness to their hiding places in Florida. Walton and three or four others, who had been losers by the robbery, plunged into the then trackless forest and pursued them for five or six days. When at length, the Indians were overtaken, just at night-fall, they were revelling and dancing in high glee, at one of the large villages of their tribe. Whilst they were exulting over the apparent success of their late predatory excursion, (as doubtless they were,) the whites crept up to the pens, in which the horses were confined, and took off the bells that were on their own steeds and put them on the "Injun ponies," thereby keeping the robber Creeks in complete ignorance of their visit until the next morning. When Walton and his party had got all things in readiness for returning with their horses, some one proposed firing into the village, but a majority thinking it altogether impolitic, they departed without molesting the jolly dancers. The whites reached home in safety with their property, without being followed by their wily foemen. They were afterwards told by some friendly Cherokees, that when the Creeks saw next morning what had been done, they were so much terrified that the village was immediately deserted by the entire clan.

The fate of Jesse Grier seemed as hard as that of any other many whom the savages murdered during the whole of those troublous days. He had come from North Carolina to see some of his relations, and of course purposed staying but a short time. In company with Major Walton, Captain Hamilton, and some others, he set out one morning to visit the "Tugalo Station,"—on the way one of the men said, he thought he saw an Indian slip round the corner of a tobacco-house, whereupon the whole party retraced their footsteps to the main settlement to get a reinforcement. On returning to the tobacco-house, they failed to discover any signs of Indians whatever, and consequently rode on then without the apprehension of danger, and became quite careless. When they had reached a point just opposite to the centre of a canebrake, along the outskirts of which the pathway led, the Indians fired on them in such close proximity, that the

flash of the rifles actually burnt them, like a torch passing close to their faces—to use the language of one of the party. But strange to say, not a single shot took effect. Though several of the men were thrown from their horses, and some of the savages, who had reserved their fire, sprang into the path and discharged their guns. Major Walton was mortally wounded, and would have fallen from his horse, had he not been caught and sustained by the brave Captain Hamilton, who carried him beyond the reach of the scalping-knife, ere fainting and complete exhaustion from the loss of blood had deprived him of all powers to retain his seat in the saddle. Jesse Grier had been precipitated from his horse at the first fire of the Indians, and attempted to escape, but the blood-thirsty fiends soon overtook him, and did the work of death with their knives. He was found next day near the canebrake, scalped and mangled in the most inhuman manner. The Indians, as in most instances, escaped with impunity.

The massacre of George Blair's family was, perhaps, one of the most bloody tragedies of pioneer life. This man had, with great temerity, refused to carry his wife and children to the block-house.—One night while he and his family, and a young man from the neighborhood were sitting round a cheerful fire, several guns were suddenly thrust through the chinks of the cabin;—but he, supposing it to be some of the men from the Station trying to frighten him and make him fly to the place of refuge, sprang to his feet and commenced cursing them, saying that they couldn't scare him. His curses were answered by a volley of rifle balls, which killed every one in the house but himself. The wretched man escaped with his life under cover of the night.—His wife, his babes and his young neighbor were scalped and left weltering in their blood. And although no human executioner ever performed the righteous act of inflicting condign punishment on their murders, yet we are warranted in the belief, that conscience erects a living hell even in the bosom of the red man, who wantonly violates the natural laws of the Great Spirit.

KAPPA.

PICKENSVILLE, S. C.

[From the Spartan.]

The Committee who were instructed to prepare an address to the people of the District beg leave to submit the following through their Chairman:

TO THE PEOPLE OF SPARTANBURG DISTRICT.

FELLOW-CITIZENS:

Being appointed a Committee of Vigilance and Safety for Spartanburg District, we deem it our duty to lay before you the causes which made it necessary to constitute such a committee, and the course we shall pursue to carry out the objects for which we are appointed.

You will all remember, that a few years since, a set of fanatics at the North, contemptible in number, with no political power, commenced a crusade against our rights and institutions, under the name of abolitionists. For a long time the South took no notice of it, and the Northern people treated them as disturbers of the public peace; but a material change has occurred in their prospects in a few years—by assuming a variety of shapes, adopting different names, and uniting with one political party after another, they have gathered strength and power to be heard in Congress—they are like the fabled ass in the lion's hide, covering a portion of the animal, yet leaving exposed some of the distinctive features by which it is well known. From a small rill they have increased to a mighty torrent, threatening to sweep before them all the barriers of the Constitution; take from us our rights and liberties, and degrade us to a social and political equality with our slaves.

It is unnecessary to recapitulate all the movements of the fanatical horde. It is sufficient to state, that after attempting to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia, refusing to deliver our fugitive slaves, murdering our citizens when endeavoring to recover their property and endeavoring to cheat us out of our rights in the Territory of New Mexico and California. They have now thrown in our midst their agents and spies, to instigate our slaves to revolt, and disseminate their incendiary writings for the purpose of arraying one portion of our people against another, knowing that as long as we are a united people their hellish schemes will be frustrated.

Under this state of things, this Committee has been organized; and it has always been the case among civilized nations, when any radical change of their institutions or form of government is attempted, to organize such Committees as this, (no matter by what name they are called,) whose powers rose superior to the Law, and whose duty it was to protect peaceable citizens in their rights and property and their persons from violence in any form and from any quarter.

In carrying out these views of what we conceive to be our duty, our object will be to prevent by all means in our power the spread of these abolition writings among our people, if harsh means be necessary, "we will not hesitate to use them," and any incendiary hereafter caught, may expect rough treatment—by this Committee.

We also expect to introduce some plan, whereby slaves will be kept in proper subjection—preventing, so far as in our power lies the giving or selling of spirituous liquors to them; and exercising that kind of surveillance over them which we think essential to keep them in proper submission and under reasonable discipline.

We will use all vigilance in detecting and punishing all persons interfering with or corrupting our slaves, or in any way attempting to interfere or endanger the relations which now exist between master and slave. Our intentions are to protect the citizens of this District and of the State from all interference with their rights and institutions.

In carrying out our views of the duties imposed on us, we may in some instances have to rise above the Law, but where the Law will apply the remedy, we will resort to legal proceedings, "and exercise that sound discretion" which is necessary under our peculiar circumstances.

In carrying out the views of the Committee, we need the co-operation and support of the citizens generally, and hope that all persons will feel called upon to give all the information in their power to aid the Committee in their operations.

W. C. BENNETT, Chairman.

[From the South Carolinian.]

AN INDEPENDENT PRESIDENT.

The Washington Republic makes General Taylor the very soul of independence. It may be known to our readers that there was an act of Congress, approved on the 24th of May, 1828, relative to reciprocal advantages between this and other governments. The first section of this act provides that "upon satisfactory evidence being given to the President of the United States by the government of any foreign nation, that no discriminating duties of tonnage or impost are imposed or levied in the ports of the said nation upon vessels wholly belong to citizens of the United States, or upon the produce, manufactures, or merchandise imported in the same from the United States, or from any foreign country, the President is hereby authorized to issue his proclamation, declaring that the foreign discriminating duties of tonnage and impost within the United States are, and shall be, suspended and discontinued, so far as respects the vessels of the said foreign nation, and the produce, manufactures, or merchandise imported into the United States in the same, from the said foreign nation, or from any other country; the said suspension to take effect from the time of such notification being given to the President of the United States, and to continue so long as the reciprocal exemption of vessels belonging to citizens of the United States, and their cargoes, as aforesaid, shall be continued, and no longer."

It might also be known to many of our readers that England has imposed rigid restrictions upon commerce for many years by her navigation laws. These laws added to a large extent in making England "mistress of the seas," and almost confined the commerce of the British Empire to British vessels. On the 26th June last, the British Parliament passed an act repealing these restrictive laws, with the exception of the coasting trade of the kingdom—thus opening up the trade of the British possessions in the whole world to the competition of our merchants and navigators, without any restriction whatever. Now, any man of common sense will think that our enterprising commercial men will find an inexhaustible field in the opening up of this vast trade, and that of course they will seize the advantage to extend the area of their maritime commercial enterprises.

But not so fast; these laws, very properly, are reciprocal. The British statesmen only extend the privileges to those nations who have also thrown off the shackles of commerce. Well, according to the act whose provision we publish above, it is very evident our discriminating tonnage duties were repealed by the act of the British Parliament—the repeal to take effect so soon as that Government notified this of the change. But the Cabinet of General Taylor say not so.—The Republic, their organ, declares that General Taylor will not issue his proclamation because he is merely authorized to do it by an act "passed twenty years ago." The Republic seems to think that age has invalidated the act, and rendered it obsolete; and soberly says the President is "neither bound nor required to take any step in the premises." Now, we will tell our readers the secret of this opposition. The last Administration was active and instrumental in obtaining the repeal of the restrictive laws of Great Britain—and the measure is of course a prominent adjunct of the Free Trade policy. Herein lies all the hostility of the Cabinet—for no one will imagine that Gen. Taylor knows or cares any thing about it—to this and other kindred measures. It is not clearly the duty of the President to issue his proclamation implied in the "authority" given him to do so, then the bestowal of the authority was superfluous. It would make his will supreme on this important subject.

The framers of the above act never dreamed that any administration would be so insane as to hesitate to seize such important advantages.

THE MURDERER-JOE.—The slave Joe, who is now in Jail for the murder of Jesse Weatherford, says, that his owner, before he was sold out of Jail at this place some years ago, was a Mr. Cevins Whitmore, a soap factor, and Tallow Chandler, at the corner of St. Philips and Rutledge Streets, Charleston, So. Ca. He says that his true name is George.

About six or seven years ago he was lodged as a runaway in the jail of this District—stating that his name was Joe, and that he belonged to Col. Patterson on Mackey's Island, S. C. He persisted in this statement for twelve months, tho' severely whipped to extract the truth as to his real owner.

After twelve months imprisonment he was sold as the law directs, and purchased by Mrs. Blalock of our village, in whose possession he has since remained. He now frankly admits that his former master was a kind and indulgent man.

On Monday last he was tried and condemned to be hanged on Friday the 21st inst.—*Edgefield Advertiser.*

Gen. Taylor and the Tariff.—Gen. Taylor, while at Pittsburg, was waited on by a deputation of manufacturers, who addressed him on the subject of the Tariff.

The President replied that the subject of the tariff had engaged his earliest attention, and that he was thankful to receive all information bearing upon that important matter. The Secretary of the Treasury had been engaged in collecting information, and the Executive would be prepared to recommend to Congress such improvements in the present system as would encourage all the great interests of the country, and at the same time insure stability. He believed there were certain articles which required protection; but as this government was in the first instance organized by mutual consent and compromises, he trusted the same spirit would yet prevail, and that the people of the country would be willing to meet each other half-way in all measures of the general welfare. Stability in the tariff was what was required, and that could never be effected by ruining any interest. The Executive would be prepared to co-operate cordially in any amelioration of the present system.

FIRST CAR ON THE COLUMBIA AND GREENVILLE RAIL ROAD.—We were highly gratified on Tuesday evening, to see a Car on the Greenville Rail Road. The persevering and industrious Conductors have commenced laying down the iron at the junction of the S. C. R. R., and the car in question, is used for the purpose of conveying the necessary materials as they progress. Three cheers and a "God speed" to the Greenville Rail Road car. *[Temperance Advocate.]*

SIGNS OF CIVILIZATION.—Mr. Scofield of New London, in his letter from California, writes that he was absent from camp four days, and though he intended to go where no one had been seen before, yet all along he found marks of civilization, such as pieces of playing cards and brandy bottles.