

300 Militia, that had taken Post there, only the Evening before, under the Command of General Davidson. Their General, and Two or Three other Officers, were among the killed; the Number of wounded was uncertain, and a few were taken Prisoners. On our Side Lieutenant-Colonel Hall and Three Men were killed, and Thirty-six wounded, all of the Light Infantry and Grenadiers of the Guards. By this Time the Rear of the Column had joined, and the whole having passed with the greatest Dispatch, I detached Lieutenant-Colonel Tarleton, with the Cavalry and 23d Regiment, to pursue the routed Militia; a few were soon killed or taken, and Lieutenant-Colonel Tarleton having learned, 3 or 400 of the neighbouring Militia were to assemble that Day at Tarrank's House, about 10 Miles from the Ford, leaving his Infantry, he went on with the Cavalry, and finding the Militia as expected, he, with excellent Conduct and great Spirit, attacked them instantly, and totally routed them, with little Loss on his Side, and on their's between 40 and 50 killed, wounded or Prisoners. This Stroke, with our Passage of the Ford, so effectually dispirited the Militia, that we met with no further Opposition on our March to the Yadkin, through one of the most Rebellious Tracts in America.

During this Time, the Rebels having quitted Beattie's Ford, Lieutenant-Colonel Webster was passing his Detachment and the Baggage of the Army: This had become tedious and difficult by the Continuance of the Rain and the Swelling of the River; but all joined us soon after Dark, about Six Miles from Beattie's Ford. The other Fords were likewise abandoned by the Enemy. The greatest Part of the Militia dispersed; and General Morgan with his Corps marched all that Afternoon, and the following Night, towards Salisbury. We pursued next Morning, in Hopes to intercept him between the Rivers; and after struggling with many Difficulties, arising from swelled Creeks and bad Roads, the Guards came up with his Rear, in the Evening of the 3d, routed it, and took a few Waggon, at the Trading Ford of the Yadkin. He had passed the Body of his Infantry in Flats, and his Cavalry and Waggon by the Ford; during that Day and the preceding Night; but at the Time of our Arrival the Boats were secured on the other Side, and the Ford had become impassable. The River continuing to rise, and the Weather appearing unsettled, I determined to march to the Upper Fords, after procuring a small Supply of Provisions at Salisbury. This, and the Height of the Creeks in our Way, detained me Two Days; and in that Time Morgan having quitted the Banks of the River, I had Information from our Friends, who crossed in Canoes, that General Greene's Army was marching with the utmost Dispatch to form a Junction with him at Guilford. Not having had Time to collect the North Carolina Militia, and having received no Reinforcement from Virginia, I concluded that he would do every Thing in his Power to avoid an Action on the South Side of the Dan; and it being my Interest to force him to fight, I made great Expedition, and got between him and the Upper Fords; and being assured that the Lower Fords are seldom practicable in Winter, and that he could not collect many Flats at any of the Ferries, I was in great Hopes that he would not escape me without receiving a Blow.

Nothing could exceed the Patience and Alacrity of the Officers and Soldiers, under every Species of Hardship and Fatigue, in endeavouring to overtake him; but our Intelligence upon this Occasion was exceedingly defective, which with heavy Rains, bad Roads, and the Passage of many deep Creeks, and Bridges destroyed by the Enemy's Light Troops, rendered all our Exertions vain; for, upon our Arrival at Boyd's Ferry, on the 15th, we learned that his Rear Guard had got over the Night before, his Baggage and Main Body having passed the preceding Day, at that and a neighbouring Ferry, where more Flats had been collected than had been represented to me as possible. My Force being ill suited to enter by that Quarter so powerful a Province as Virginia, and North Carolina being in the utmost Confusion, after giving the Troops a Halt of One Day, I proceeded by easy Marches to Hillsborough, where I erected the King's Standard, and

invited, by Proclamation, all loyal Subjects to repair to it, and to stand forth and take an active Part in assisting me to restore Order and Constitutional Government. As a considerable Body of Friends were said to reside between the Haw and Deep Rivers, I detached Lieutenant Colonel Tarleton on the 23d, with the Cavalry and a small Body of Infantry, to prevent their being interrupted in assembling. Unluckily a Detachment of the Rebel Light Troops had crossed the same Day, and by Accident fell in with about Two Hundred of our Friends, under Colonel Pyle, on their Way to Hillsborough, who, mistaking the Rebels for Lieutenant-Colonel Tarleton's Corps, allowed themselves to be surrounded, and a Number of them were most inhumanly butchered, when begging for Quarter, without making the least Resistance. The same Day I had certain Intelligence that General Greene, having been reinforced, had recrossed the Dan, which rendering it imprudent to separate my Corps, occasioned the Recall of Lieutenant-Colonel Tarleton's Detachment; and Forage and Provisions being scarce in the Neighbourhood of Hillsborough, as well as the Position too distant (upon the Approach of the Rebel Army) for the Protection of the Body of our Friends, I judged it expedient to cross the Haw, and encamped near Allamance Creek, detaching Lieutenant Colonel Tarleton, with the Cavalry, Light Company of the Guards, and 150 Men of Lieutenant-Colonel Webster's Brigade, a few Miles from me on the Road to Deep River, more effectually to cover the Country.

General Greene's Light Troops soon made their Appearance; and on the 2d a Patrole having reported, that they had seen both Cavalry and Infantry near to his Post, I directed Lieutenant-Colonel Tarleton to move forward, with proper Precautions, and endeavour to discover the Designs of the Enemy. He had not advanced far, when he fell in with a considerable Corps, which he immediately attacked and routed; but being ignorant of their Force, and whether they were supported, with great Prudence desisted from Pursuit. He soon learned from Prisoners that those he had beat were Lee's Legion, 3 or 400 back Mountain Men under Colonel Preston, with a Number of Militia; and that General Greene, with Part of his Army, was not far distant. Our Situation for the former few Days had been amongst timid Friends, and adjoining to inveterate Rebels: Between them, I had been totally destitute of Information, which lost me a very favourable Opportunity of attacking the Rebel Army. General Greene fell back to Thompson's House, near Boyd's Ford, on the Reedy Fork; but his Light Troops and Militia still remained near us, and as I was informed that they were posted carelessly at separate Plantations, for the Convenience of subsisting, I marched on the 6th to drive them in, and to attack General Greene, if an Opportunity offered. I succeeded completely in the first, and at Weitzell's Mill on the Reedy Fork, where they made a Stand, the back Mountain Men, and some Virginia Militia, suffered considerably, with little Loss on our Side; but a timely and precipitate Retreat over the Haw prevented the latter. I knew that the Virginia Reinforcements were upon their March, and it was apparent that the Enemy would, if possible, avoid requiring an Action before their Arrival.

The Neighbourhood of the Fords of the Dan in their Rear, and the extreme Difficulty of subsisting my Troops in that exhausted Country, putting it out of my Power to force them, my Resolution was to give our Friends Time to join us, by covering their Country as effectually as possible, consistent with the Subsistence of the Troops, still approaching the Communication with our Shipping in Cape Fear River, which I saw it would soon become indispensably necessary to open, on Account of the Sufferings of the Army, from the Want of Supplies of every Kind; at the same Time I was determined to fight the Rebel Army, if it approached me, being convinced that it would be impossible to succeed in that great Object of our arduous Campaign, the Calling forth the numerous Loyalists of North Carolina, whilst a Doubt remained on their Minds of the Superiority of our Arms. With these Views I had moved to the Quaker Meeting, in the Forks of Deep River, on the 13th, and on the 14th I received the Information, which occasioned the

Movements