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BY DAVID OVER.

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COUNTING HOUSE ALMANAC FOR 1861.

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South Carolina during the American Revolution.

The following reminiscences of the conduct of South Carolina during the Revolutionary war, we condense from two articles published in the columns of a contemporary. Being sustained by the record, they are worthy of attention. There are some noble names in the history of South Carolina, such as those of Marion, Sumter, Moultrie and Laurens, but they were exceptions to their fellow-citizens, bitterly proscribed and hunted down by a population among whom disaffection to the American cause and attachment to Great Britain, were as ripe as Secessionism is now. There is "something in blood," and the traitors of one generation most usually produce traitors in the next.

In 1802 Gen. Moultrie published two volumes of "Memoirs of the American Revolution, so far as it related to the States of North and South Carolina, and Georgia," &c. They show why South Carolina and the whole country should be proud of him; and as clearly, why he and the whole country were ashamed of her.

When Prevost appeared before Charleston, in May, 1779, the Governor and Council were in the town. Frightened as they were, they had sense enough to appoint Moultrie to the command of the troops, but they were too far gone to sustain him.

The Governor (says Moultrie) represented to me the horrors of a storm. He told me the State's Engineer (Col. Seaf) had represented to him the lines to be in a very weak state. After some conversation, he proposed to me the sending out a flag, to know what terms we could obtain. I told him I thought we could stand against the enemy; that I did not think they could force the lines, and that I did not choose to send a flag in my name; but if he chose it, and would call the Council together, I would send any message. They requested me to send the following, which was delivered by Mr. Kinloch:

"Gen. Moultrie, perceiving from the motions of your army that your intention is to besiege the town, would be glad to know on what terms you would be disposed to grant a capitulation, should he be inclined to capitulate."

Prevost's reply, which absconded in promises never intended to be kept, was given to the Governor, who called a meeting of the Council, at which Moultrie, Pulaski, and Laurens, were present also. The military men concurred in advising the citizens not to think of surrendering, and demonstrated that the enemy could be beaten off; one of these advisers had done the thing before. But the Governor could be made to believe nothing which did not go to overrate the British power and disparage that of his own country. Finally,

Moultrie was authorized to send word to Prevost, that surrender upon his terms was declined; but offering, if he would appoint a Commissioner to confer about terms, to send one to meet him at such time and place as Prevost might prescribe.

Gen. Moultrie says: "When the question was carried for giving up the town upon a neutrality, I will not say who was for the question; but this I well remember, that Mr. John Edwards, one of the Privy Council, a worthy citizen and a very respectable merchant of Charleston, was so affected as to weep, and said: 'What, are we to give up the town at last?' The Governor and Council adjourned to Col. Beekman's tent on the lines, at the gate. I sent for Col. John Laurens from his house, to request the favor he would carry a message from the Governor and Council to Gen. Prevost; but when he knew the purpose he begged to be excused from carrying such a message; that it was much against his inclination; that he would do anything to serve his country, but he could not think of carrying such a message as that. I then sent for Col. McIntosh and requested he would go with Col. Roger Smith, who was called on by the Governor with the message. They both begged I would excuse them; hoped and requested I would get some other person, however pressed them into compliance, which message was as follows: 'I propose a neutrality during the war between Great Britain and America and the question whether the State shall belong to Great Britain or remain one of the United States be determined by the treaty of peace between these two powers.' 'Chief Justice Marshall, in his Life of Washington, thus chronicles this disgraceful business: 'The town was summoned to surrender, and the day was spent in sending and receiving flags. The neutrality of South Carolina, during the war, leaving the question, whether that State should finally belong to Great Britain or the United States, to be settled in the treaty of peace, was proposed by the garrison, and rejected by Prevost. Ranney, in his history, published in 1789, thus states the action of his own State: 'Commissioners of the garrison were instructed to propose a neutrality during the war between Great Britain and America, and that the question, whether the State should belong to Great Britain or remain one of the United States, be decided by the treaty of peace between these powers.' 'The British commanders refused this advantageous offer, alleging that they had not come in a legislative capacity, and insisted that, as the inhabitants and others were in arms, they should surrender as prisoners of war. 'Prof. Bowen, of Harvard, in his Life of Lincoln, (see Sparks' American Biography), remarks upon this ignominious proposition: 'This proposal did not come merely from the commander of a military garrison, in which case, of course, it would have been only obligatory; the Governor of the State, clothed with discretionary powers, and probably most of his Council along with him. Whether such a proposition would have been justifiable under any circumstances, is a question that need not be discussed; at any rate, it would not have evinced much honorable or patriotic feeling. But to make such an offer in the present case was conduct little short of treason. Till within a fortnight, not an enemy's foot had pressed their ground; and even now, the British held no strong position, had captured none of their forts, and occupied only the little space actually covered by the army in front of the town. The garrison equalled this army in strength, and might safely bid it defiance. No success was at hand for the British, while the certain arrival of Lincoln within a week would place them between two fires, and make their position eminently hazardous. Yet, which these prospects before them, the authorities of the place made a proposition which was equivalent to an offer from the State to return to its allegiance to the British crown! The transaction deserves particular notice here, because the surrender of Charleston in the following year, a surrender brought about by the prevalence of the same unparliamentary feeling, was made the ground of some very unjust reflections upon the conduct of Lincoln, his military commander. 'This was South Carolina in 1779, and she was as cowardly and selfish in 1780, as the record proves. 'Early in the year 1780, Sir Henry Clinton and Vice Admiral Arbuthnot appeared before Charleston, but it was not until April that they commenced operations on the land within half-a-mile of the American works. The town contained some two thousand regulars, and more than twice that number of militia and armed citizens, under the command of Gen. Lincoln. 'On the 10th April, 1780, the British commanders summoned Lincoln to surrender the town, which summons received at once the following answer: 'To Gen. Sir Henry Clinton and Vice Admiral Arbuthnot, &c. 'GENTLEMEN—I have received your summons of this date. Sixty days have passed since it was known that your intentions against this town were hostile, in which time has been afforded to abandon it; but duty and inclination point to the propriety of supporting it to the last extremity. 'I have the honor to be, &c. B. LINCOLN, Commander in the South Department. 'CHARLES-TOWN, April 10, 1780. 'On the 8th of May, another summons from Sir Henry brought from Lincoln an offer of terms, which were rejected; but the 'militia and citizens' took the matter in hand, and, only three days afterward, Gen. Lincoln thus addressed Gen. Clinton: 'To His Excellency Sir Henry Clinton. 'SIR—The same motive of humanity which inclined you to propose articles of capitulation to this garrison, induced me to offer those I had the honor of sending you on the 8th instant. They then appeared to me such as I might proffer, and you receive with honor to both parties. Your exceptions to them, as they principally concerned the militia and citizens, I then conceived were such as could not be concurred with; but a recent application from those people, wherein they express a willingness to comply with them, and a wish on my part to lessen, as much as may be, the distresses of war to individuals, lead me now to offer you my acceptance of them. 'I have the honor to be, &c. B. LINCOLN. 'CHARLES-TOWN, May 11, 1780. 'By the terms of the surrender, the Continental troops were prisoners of war, but 'THESE PEOPLE' were prisoners on parole. 'Sir Henry Clinton, writing to Lord George Germaine, one of his Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, from 'Head Quarters, Charleston, South Carolina, June 4, 1780,' says: 'With the greatest pleasure, I further report to your Lordship that the inhabitants from every

quarter repair to the detachments of the army, and to this garrison, to declare their allegiance to the King, and to offer their services in arms in support of his government. In many instances, they have brought prisoners their former oppressors or leaders; and I may venture to assert that there are few men in South Carolina who are not either our prisoners or in arms with us. 'South Carolina has not neglected to furnish witnesses of her own to corroborate the statements of Sir Henry Clinton. While he was writing that letter, the patriots of Charleston were writing such letters as this: 'To their Excellencies, Sir Henry Clinton, Knight of the Bath, General of His Majesty's Forces, and Major ARBUTHNOT, Esq., Vice Admiral of the Blue, His Majesty's Commissioners to restore peace and good government in the several Colonies in rebellion in North America: 'THE HUMBLE ADDRESS OF DIVERSE INHABITANTS OF CHARLES-TOWN: 'The inhabitants of Charles Town, by the articles of capitulation, are declared prisoners on parole; but we the undersigned, having every inducement to return to our allegiance, and ardently hoping speedily to be re-admitted to the character and condition of British subjects, take this opportunity of tendering to your excellencies our warmest congratulations on the restoration of this capital and province to their political connection with the Crown and Government of Great Britain, an event which will add lustre to your Excellencies' characters, and we trust, entitle you to the most distinguishing mark of the Royal favor. Although the rights of taxing America in Parliament excited considerable feelings in the minds of the people of this province, yet let it, with a religious adherence to truth, be affirmed, that they did not entertain the most distant thought of dissolving the union which so happily subsisted between them and their parent country; and when, in the progress of that fatal controversy, the doctrine of INDEPENDENCY, which originated in the more northern Colonies, made its appearance among us, our NATURAL REVOLVED AT THE IDEA, and we look back with the most painful regard on those convulsions that gave existence to a power of subverting a Constitution for which we always had, and ever shall retain, the most profound veneration, and substituting in its stead a RANK DEMOCRACY, which, however carefully digested in theory, on being reduced into practice, has exhibited a system of tyrannical domination only to be found among the uncivilized part of mankind, or in the history of the dark and barbarous ages of antiquity. 'We sincerely lament, that after the repeal of those statutes which gave rise to the troubles in America, the overtures made by His Majesty's Commissioners, from time to time, were not regarded by our late rulers. To this fatal intention are to be attributed those calamities which have involved our country in a state of misery and ruin, from which however we trust it will soon emerge, by the wisdom and clemency of your excellencies' Government, and the influence of prudent laws, adopted to the nature of the evils we labor under, and that the people will be restored to those privileges, in the enjoyment whereof their former felicity consisted. 'Animated with these hopes, we entreat your Excellency's interposition, in assuring his Majesty, that we shall glory in every occasion of manifesting that zeal and affection for his person and Government, with which gratitude can inspire a free and joyful people. 'CHARLES-TOWN, June 5, 1780. 'John Wragg, Wm. Valentine, Christopher Williams, Wm. Gillison, D. Pendergrass, Daniel Bell, John Stoughton, John Rose, Edw. Cure, Jacob Valk, Thos. Timms, Robert Wilson, Sr., Leonard Askew, Hopkins Price, Andrew McKensie, Roger Deunhol, Robert Lithgow, Wm Wayne, James Williams, James Ross, John Moncrief, John Wells, Jr., Allard Bellin, John Wogner, John Ward Taylor, Lock Holmes, James Cook, Chr Fitzsimmons, John Davis, Benj Baker, Sr., John Fisher, Charles Atkins, Andrew Mitchell, Farq McCollum, George Adamson, Alexander Smith, James McGowan, William Davie, James Duming, John Spried, William Nerroob, John Daniel, William Walsh, John Smith, Lewis Duquane, James McKiow, William Burt, John Watson, Anthony Montell, James Lynch, George Grant, Abraham Pearce, John Mior, Fred Augustine, John Webb, Robert Williams, Alexander Macbeth, John Robertson, John Liber, Hugh Rose, Patrick Bower, Thomas Todd, Brian Foskie, Thomas Eustace, James Strickland, William McKinney, John Abercrombie, David Bruce, John Gray, Thomas Dawson, Thomas Winstanley, Charles Bannidge, William Bower, Alexander Walker, John Lyon, Robert Philip, Fred Johnson, Archibald Gordon, Emanuel Marshall, Thomas Clary, Thomas Hooper, Ch. Sutter, Robert Lindsay, Thos. Richardson, James Racl, Peter Dumont, Thos Saunders, Ed. Loggee, Henry Harder, Aaron Leocock, Arch. Brown, Wm. Russell, Thomas Goram, James Hartley, Andrew Thompson,

William Layton, Nish Smith, Andrew Stewart, John Hartley, James Gillandau, Hugh Truir, Lewis Coffere, Hugh Kirkham, Wm. Farrow, Wm. Arisam, Thos. Deighton, Robert Paterson, John Parkinson, John Love, Alex. Ingles, Joseph Wyatt, John Caple, James McLinachus, Wm. Jennings, Patrick McKam, Robert Beard, Stephen Townshend, James Sneed, Ch. Burnham, Robert McIntosh, Charles A. Simonds, G. Thompson, Isaac Lesseomes, Isaac Manoye, Peter Procure, so as to project about three feet horizontally from the top of the walls. 'A noticeable fact in the bastionettes, to which we have before alluded, is the haste in which one of them has been built. The one completed is formed of solid masonry. In constructing the other, however, a framework of plank has been substituted. Against the inside of this wooden outwork loose bricks have been placed. Both bastionettes are armed with a small cannon and a howitzer pointed laterally so as to command the whole intervening moat by a cross fire. 'CASTLE PINCKNEY, is located on the southern extremity of a narrow slip of marsh land, which extends in a northerly direction to Hog Island Channel. To the harbor side the so-called castle presents a circular front. It has never been considered of much consequence as a fortress, although its proximity to the city would give it importance, if properly armed and garrisoned. From hasty observation we find that there are about 15 guns mounted on the parapet; the majority of them are eighteen and twenty-four pounders. Some 'Columbids' are, however, within the walls. There are also supplies of powder, shot, and shell. At present there is no garrison at the post; the only residents are one or two watchmen, who have charge of the harbor light. Some thirty or forty day laborers are employed repairing the eisters and putting the place generally in order. 'Declaration of Independence of South Carolina, done in Convention, Dec. 24, 1860. 'The State of South Carolina having determined to resume her separate and equal place among nations, deems it due to herself, to the remaining United States of North America, and to the nations of the world that she should declare the causes which have led to this act. 'In the year 1765, that portion of the British Empire embracing Great Britain undertook to make laws for the government of that portion composed of the thirteen American Colonies. A struggle for the right of self-government ensued, which resulted on the 4th of July, 1776, in a Declaration by the Colonies that they are and of right ought to be, free and independent States, and that as free and independent States they have full power to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, and to do all other acts and things which independent States may of right do. 'They further solemnly declared that whenever any 'form of government becomes destructive of the ends for which it was established, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute a new government. 'Deeming the Government of Great Britain to have become destructive of these ends, they declared that the colonies 'are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the States of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved. 'In pursuance of this Declaration of Independence, each of the thirteen States proceeded to exercise its separate sovereignty; adopted for itself a Constitution and appointed officers for the administration of government in all its departments—legislative, executive, and judicial. For purposes of defense, they united their arms and their counsels; and, in 1778, they entered into a league known as the Articles of Confederation, whereby they agreed to entrust the administration of their external relations to a common agent, known as the Congress of the United States, expressly declaring, in the first article, 'that each State retains its sovereignty, freedom, and independence, and every power, jurisdiction, and right which is not, by this confederation, expressly delegated to the United States in Congress assembled. 'Under this consideration the war of the Revolution was carried on, and on the 31 of September, 1783, the contest ended, and a definite treaty was signed by Great Britain, in which she acknowledged the independence of the colonies in the following terms: 'ARTICLE I.—His Britannic Majesty acknowledges the said United States, viz: New-Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, to be free sovereign, and independent States; that he treats with them as such; and for himself, his heirs and successors, relinquishes all claims to the government, property, and territorial rights of the same and every part thereof. 'Thus was established the two great principles asserted by the Colonies, namely, the right of a State to govern itself, and the right of a people to abolish a government which it becomes destructive of the ends for which it was instituted. And concurrent with the establishment of these principles was the fact that each Colony became and was recognized by the mother country as a free, sovereign, and independent State. 'In 1787, deputies were appointed by the States to revise the Articles of confederation, and on the 17th September, 1787, these deputies recommended for the adoption of the States the articles of union known as the Constitution of the United States. 'The parties to whom this Constitution was submitted were the several sovereign States.— They were to agree or disagree; and when nine of them agreed, the compact was to take effect among those concurring, and the General Government, as the common agent, was then to be invested with their authority. 'If only nine of the thirteen States had concurred, the other four would have remained as they then were—separate, sovereign States, independent of any of the provisions of the

Constitution. In fact, two of the States did not accede to the Constitution until long after it had gone into operation among the other eleven, and during that interval they exercised the functions of an independent nation. 'By this Constitution, certain duties were charged on the several States, and the exercise of certain of their powers restrained, which necessarily implied their continued existence as sovereign States. But, to remove all doubt, an amendment was added, which declared that the powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people. On 23d May, 1788, South Carolina, by a convention of her people, passed an ordinance assenting to this Constitution, and afterward altered her own Constitution, to conform herself to the obligations she had undertaken. 'Thus was established, by compact between the States, a Government, with defined objects and powers, limited to the express words of the grant, and to so much more only as was necessary to execute the power granted. This limitation left the whole remaining mass of power subject to the clause reserving it to the States or to the people, and rendered unnecessary any specification of reserved rights. 'We hold that the Government thus established is subject to the two great principles asserted in the Declaration of Independence, and we hold further that the mode of its formation subjects it to a third fundamental principle—namely, the law of compact. We maintain that in every compact between two or more parties the obligation is mutual—that the failure of one of the contracting parties to perform a material part of the agreement entirely releases the obligations of the other, and that, where no arbiter is provided, each party is permitted to his own judgment to determine the fact of failure with all its consequences. 'In the present case that fact is established with certainty. We assert that fifteen of the States have deliberately refused for years past to fulfill their Constitutional obligations, and we refer to their own statutes for the proof. 'The Constitution of the United States, in its 4th article, provides as follows: 'No person held to service or labor in one State, under the laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in consequence of any law or regulation therein, be discharged from such service or labor, but shall be delivered up, on claim of the party to whom such service or labor may be due. 'This stipulation was so material to the compact that without it that compact would not have been made. The greater number of the contracting parties held slaves, and the State of Virginia had previously declared her estimate of its value by making it the condition of her cession of the territory which now composes the States north of the Ohio river. 'The same article of the Constitution stipulates also for the rendition by the several States of fugitives from justice from the other States. 'The General Government, as the common agent, passed laws to carry into effect these stipulations of the States. For many years these laws were executed. But an increasing hostility on the part of the Northern States to the institution of Slavery, has led to a disregard of their obligations, and the laws of the General Government have ceased to effect the objects of the Constitution. The States of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin and Iowa have enacted laws which either nullify the acts of Congress or render useless any attempt to execute them. In many of these States the fugitive is discharged from the service of labor claimed, and in none of them has the State Government complied with the stipulation made in the Constitution. The State of New Jersey, at an early day, passed a law for the rendition of fugitive slaves in conformity with her Constitutional undertaking, but the current of anti-slavery feeling has led her more recently to enact laws which render unoperative the remedies provided by her own law and by the laws of Congress. In the State of New York even the right of transit for a slave has been denied by her tribunals, and the States of Ohio and Iowa have refused to surrender to justice fugitives charged with murder and with inciting servile insurrection in the State of Virginia. Thus the Constitutional compact has been deliberately broken and disregarded by the non-slaveholding States, and the consequence follows that South Carolina is released from its obligations. 'The ends for which this Constitution was framed are declared by itself to be "to form a more perfect Union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, protect the general welfare, and secure to ourselves and our posterity." 'These ends it endeavored to accomplish by a Federal Government, in which each State was recognized as an equal, and had separate control over its own institutions. The right of property in slaves was recognized by giving to free persons distinct political rights; by giving them the right to represent, and burdening them with direct taxes for three-fifths of their slaves; by authorizing the importation of slaves for twenty years, and by stipulating for the rendition of fugitives from labor. 'We affirm that those ends for which this Government was instituted have been defeated, and the Government itself has been made destructive of them by the action of the non-slaveholding States. Those States have assumed the right of deciding upon the propriety of our domestic institutions, and have denied the rights of property established in fifteen of the States, and recognized by the Constitution; they have denounced as sinful the institution of Slavery; they have permitted the open establishment

of the institution of Slavery; they have permitted the open establishment