

the enemy from crossing for several days, during which time the prisoners were got over the Yadkin, and on their march for Dan-river, which they likewise passed, and on the 14th of this month had reached Bedford court-house, in the state of Virginia.

General Greene, on the latter end of January, arrived at the light infantry camp at Sherard's-ford, on the Catawba. The enemy were a little lower down the river at M^cCowan's-ford, and the river was still so high that they could not cross. They had destroyed their wagons, and equipped themselves completely as light infantry. Their force consisted of between 2500 and 3000 troops including near 300 dragoons, and their mounted infantry. On the first of February they crossed at M^cCowan's ford, general Davison, with a party of militia, was posted there in order to oppose their crossing, but he falling by the first discharge, the enemy made good their landing, and the militia retreated. A place of rendezvous was appointed for the militia to collect at, who were posted at the different fords up and down the river. Part of them halted about seven miles short of the place of rendezvous, and were overtaken by Tarleton and dispersed. General Greene waited that night at the place appointed, but finding the militia did not collect, the light infantry next morning continued their march to Salisbury, and crossed the Yadkin. Before they had got over all the baggage and stores, the enemy approached, and there was a pretty smart skirmish between a party of our riflemen and the advance of the enemy near the ford. The boats being secured, and the river continuing high from the late rains, the enemy were for some time stopped in their pursuit. Heavy rains, deep creeks and bad roads, as well as delays for want of provisions and other causes, prevented our forming a junction as soon as was expected. General Greene therefore, fearing that the river might fall so as to be fordable, ordered the army to file off to Guilford court-house, where part of them arrived on the evening of the 8th, and the rest were expected to be in on the 9th. The enemy finding they could not pass at the Trading ford, near Salisbury, marched up the south side of the Yadkin, and on the night of the 7th crossed at the Shallow ford, and had on the 9th advanced towards Salem, one of the Moravian towns, within 25 or 30 miles of Guilford court-house.

These rapid movements having prevented the junction of the militia, general Greene ordered the stores and heavy baggage to be removed to Prince Edward court-house, in the state of Virginia, and having formed a light army, composed of the cavalry of the 1st and 3d regiments, and lieutenant colonel Lee's legion, a detachment of light infantry under colonel Howard, and some few Virginia riflemen, making in the whole 700, ordered them with the militia to harass the enemy in their advance, and check their progress, while he with the rest of the army crossed the Roanoke. In the mean while, general Sumpter was ordered to collect the militia in the upper part of South-Carolina, and general Pickens had orders to take the command of the men in arms in the rear of the enemy. Such was the situation of the two armies at the date of the last dispatches, which was the 10th ult.