

Extract of a letter from an officer in the southern army, dated Halifax county, February 17, 1781.

“ Notwithstanding the signal victory, obtained by general Morgan, and the surprize of the king's regiment at George-Town, Cornwallis has pushed us to Halifax Court-house, and is now encamped within seven miles of our van, on the west side of the river Dan. I am at a loss which to commend most, the conduct of general Greene's retreat, or the vigor of his lordship's advance. Our small army, amounting only to 1500, has been exceedingly fortunate, neither stores, baggage nor men lost on the retreat. The enemy pursued with 3000 effectives. Lieutenant colonel Lee's legion, and the light infantry, covered our rear. Tarleton's dragoons have been severely handled. Lee's gallant partizans retaliate for past massacres where ever they meet them; one of his trumpeters was murdered by some of Tarleton's legion, in sight of the corps, which immediately made a charge, and sacrificed 16 of the enemy to his manes. In short, the enemy's cavalry were completely confined within their pickets, and whenever they advanced they suffered for their temerity.”