

A REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIER

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as fair a chance ; besides, I would be less exposed, less fatigued, and if there should be any time of resting, I could come home and enjoy it ; he said he had had some experience and learned a lesson from that.

The British and Tories had overrun Georgia, and even driven out the celebrated Clarke, with all his veterans, as far as the very confines of North Carolina. All the south and south-western parts of South Carolina were nearly subjugated, and but a small part stood out with firmness, and that part itself divided. The British were pressing on Charleston, and had eventually got possession of it, and now began to come "squally times." So soon as Charleston fell, there was a proclamation for all to come forward, submit, and take protection ; peace and pardon should be granted. In order to expedite the business, there were officers sent out in various directions, with guards or companies of men, to receive the submission of the people. Vast numbers flocked in and submitted ; some through fear, some through willingness, and others, perhaps, through a hope that all things would settle down and war cease. But not so ; there was some conditions annexed, that some of the patriots of the day could not submit to and therefore determined to hold out a little longer. Among the officers sent out on this occasion, there was one Lord Hook, who came up and stationed himself at or near Fishing Creek at some distance below where we live. His proclamation came out and a day was appointed to deliver his speeches. Almost all the men of families attended. He got up, harangued the people in a very rough and insulting manner and submitted his propositions for their acceptance. Some bowed to his sceptre, but far the greater part returned home without submitting.

I omitted to mention in the proper place, that in conversation with my father on the subject of enlistment, he observed to me that should volunteers be called which he confidently anticipated, that he would join the ranks ; he said, " though over

age for the laws of my country to demand it, yet I think the nature of the case requires the best energies of every man who is a friend to liberty." Not many miles distant from where this Lord Hook, whom I have mentioned, had made his stand, there was a set of ironworks called Billy Hill's Ironworks, which were very profitable, both to the proprietor and all the country around. Lord Hook, provoked at the non-compliance of the people, determined to take vengeance ; and to that end mustered his forces, charged on the ironworks, killed several men, set the works on fire, and reduced them to ashes. I must here relate the expression of my father, when he returned home from Lord Hook's exhibition. My step-mother asked him thus : " Well Daniel, what news?" My father replied, " Nothing very pleasant. I have come home determined to take my gun and when I lay it down, I lay down my life with it ;" then turning to me said, " my son you may prepare for the worst ; the thing is fairly at issue. We must submit and become slaves, or fight. For my part I am determined—to-morrow I will go and join Moffitt."

offitt, while these things were transpiring, had been engaged in raising volunteers, to be all mounted and ready at a minute's warning, to be called " Minute Men." He had already raised about seventy men. A nomination of officers had taken place, and he was unanimously chosen colonel of the troops. Accordingly, next day we shouldered our guns and went to Moffitt. The gun that I had to take was what was called a blue barrel shot gun. When we presented ourselves, " Well," said the colonel to my father, " Daniel, I suppose you intend to fight." My father said he had come to that conclusion. " Well, James," he said to me, " we shall have plenty for you to do, and two or three more such, if they could all have as good luck as you. We will try to take care of you and not let the Tories catch you."

In a few days there was a meeting of several officers, and it was determined to attack Lord Hook, and take vengeance

for the burning of the ironworks. The time and place was appointed for a rendezvous, several parties united in the plan, we met, mounted on horseback, and advanced towards his lordship, early in the morning. Not long after sunrise, we came in sight of their headquarters, which were in a log building. In the rear of the building was a large peach orchard; at some distance behind the peach orchard we all dismounted and tied our horses; we then proceeded on foot through the orchard, thinking the peach trees would be a good safeguard, against the charge of the horseman. We had not proceeded far until the sentinels discovered us—fired on us and fled. The troops were soon mounted and paraded. This, I confess, was a very imposing sight, at least to me, for I had never seen a troop of British horse before, and thought they differed vastly in appearance from us—poor hunting-shirt fellows. The leader drew his sword, mounted his horse, and began to storm and rave, and advanced on us; but we kept close to the peach orchard. When they had got pretty near the peach trees, their leader called out, “disperse you d—d rebels, or I will put every man of you to the sword.” Our rifle balls began to whistle among them, and in a few minutes my Lord Hook was shot off his horse and fell at full length; his sword flew out of his hand as he fell and lay at some distance, and both lay till some of his men gathered about him and around him two or three times. At length one halted and pointed his sword downward, seemed to pause a moment, then raising his sword, wheeled off and all started at full gallop. We then moved on to the house without opposition, but all had disappeared. In the yard sat two good looking fellows bleeding pretty freely, their horses standing at no great distance: one of whom was shot through the thigh.

Before the body of Hook was examined, two claimed the honor of killing him; both showed their guns and named the part of his body they had taken aim at, and both claimed the sword. One presented a large rifle, the other a very small

one. The person having the small gun, cried, “I shot him! I shot him! I shot two balls which entered close under the ear.” When Hook was examined, the two small balls were found to have passed through the place as described. We then bound up the wounds of the two men, took three swords, three brace of pistols, some powder and lead, perhaps my Lord Hook’s watch, and but little else, and departed, every man for his own place. For my own part, I fired my old shot gun only twice in the action. I suppose I did no more harm than burning so much powder.

