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THE COLONIAL RECORDS

PREFACE.

OF

NORTH CAROLINA

(Colony)

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of the next house was shot and his body laid flat upon his wife's grave. Women were laid on their house-floors and great stakes run up through their bodies. Others big with child, the infants were ripped out and hung upon trees. In short, their manner of butchery has been so various and unaccountable, that it would be beyond credit to relate them. This blow was so hotly followed by the hellish crew, that we could not bury our dead; so that they were left for prey to the dogs, and wolves, and vultures, whilst our care was to strengthen our garrison to secure the living.

The ship by which this comes is ready to sail, so cannot enlarge; only desire my duty may be presented to my father and mother, my sincere love to yourself and brothers, and service to all friends, hoping for a speedy answer to my last by Madam Hyde, is what offers from

Your sincerely affectionate brother,

CHRISTOPHER GALE.

FROM CHARLES TOWN, CAROLINA.

THE MEMORIAL OF CHRISTOPHER GALE FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO THE HONORABLE ROBERT GIBS, GOVERNOR AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, AND TO THE HONORABLE COUNCIL AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

To lay before your honor the prospect or representation of as promising a country as was ever watered with the dew of heaven, would take up more time than the present exigency of the affair I am now set upon would give me leave; but much more time, and a hand more skilful, would be requisite to give you a view of the calamities and miseries of so fine a country laid waste and desolate by the most barbarous enemies: I mean the Corees and Tuscarora Indians.

Although I shall not use much eloquence to implore your aid and assistance in revenging such injuries, causes of that nature when truly stated being their own best orator; yet, I presume, I have all the advantages that may be of making a true representation of that affair to your honors, being an inhabitant of Beaufort precinct, where a great part of this hellish tragedy was acted. I shall, therefore, inform your honors, that on Saturday the 22^d of September last, was perpetrated the grossest piece of villainy that perhaps was ever heard of in English America. One hundred and thirty people massacred at the head of the Nuse, and on the south side of Pamptico rivers, in the space of two hours; butchered after the most barbarous manner that can be expressed, and their

dead bodies used with all the scorn and indignity imaginable; their houses plundered of considerable riches (being generally traders), then burned, and their growing and hopeful crops destroyed. What spectacle can strike a man with more horror and stir up more to revenge, than to see so much barbarity practised in so little a time and so unexpectedly? And what makes it the more surprising, that nefarious villainy was committed by such Indians as were esteemed as members of the several families where the mischiefs were done, and that with smiles in their countenances, when their intent was to destroy. I must inform your honors that the governors of North Carolina are not in a condition to take a full (I might say any) satisfaction on the enemy, nor to prevent their further progress, by reason their neighboring Indians are not to be relied on for any assistance, but rather to be feared they would be prejudicial in any expeditions; if not joined with the enemy as we have good reason to judge by their behavior both before and since the act was committed: therefore a strict and jealous eye is necessarily kept over them by the government, and our whole country drawn into garrisons to prevent mischief that way, which very much hinders the getting men into a body to pursue the enemy, who are at present between two and three hundred effective men, and above one thousand women and children; and I believe your honors will be of opinion, that it is altogether impracticable to attempt such a body of men, flushed with their first success, without Indians who are acquainted with their manner of fighting. Wherefore, on behalf of the government of North Carolina, by which I am employed, I earnestly entreat your honors to permit and encourage so many of your tributary Indians as you think proper, to fall upon those Indians our enemies, whose families are since fled down to the seaboard between Weatuck and Cape Fare rivers, whilst their men are still ravaging and destroying all before them, within sight of our garrisons; that by your assistance exemplary justice may be done to such barbarous villains as have laid waste and desolate such a flourishing part of the lords proprietors' country, and which, without your speedy relief, will be wholly deserted. If any Indians are found innocent of that massacre and will assist in the destruction of those inhuman wretches, care will be taken to distinguish those from the rest; but I very much fear that upon strict inquiry, it would be found that the whole nation of the Tuscaroras (though some of them may not yet be actors) was knowing and consenting to what was done; and that the success of those already in motion, if not put a stop to, will at last induce the rest to join with them in carrying on these bloody designs. Beside the daily expectation of a considerable number of Senekoes [Sene-

cas], which we are certainly informed are coming to cohabit with the Tuscaroras, our enemies, this winter, and become one nation, which in time may affect our neighboring governments as well as us. I firmly persuade myself that so much prejudice as the lords proprietors will receive by that fatal blow, the barbarous murder of so many of our fellow-subjects, among which number is the Honorable Baron de Graffenried, a landgrave of Carolina, and a member of the council, Mr. Lawson the surveyor-general, with divers others of note, will excite your honors' compassion toward such a country and hasten your assistance and relief.

I am, with all respect,

Your honors' most obedient, humble servant,

CHRISTOPHER GALE

[FROM THE VESTRY BOOK OF ST. PAUL'S PARISH, CHOWAN PRECINCT.]

The Proceedings of the Vestry for precinct of Chowan in the County of Albemarle in the provence of North Carolina met at the Hon^{ble} Col^l Hyde's then president.

Present

The Hon^{ble} Edw^d Hyde Esq^r prs^{dt}

The Hon^{ble} Thomas pollock Esq^r

William Duckenfield, Esq^r

The Hon^{ble} Tho^s Peterson Esq^r

Mr Thomas Luten

Mr Edward Smithwick

Mr Jn^o Bird

Mr Thomas Lee

Mr John Walker.

Ordered Imprimis—

That there be allowed and raised in the Said precinct of Chowan forty five pounds, and paid by the hereafter named and appointed Church Wardens to Rev^d Mr Urmston for having officiated in this precinct from the time of his first Coming into this Governm^t till the 25th Instant in the Commodities appointed by the Vestry Act.

Ordered that the Hon^{ble} Thomas Peterson Esq^r and Mr Thomas Lee be and are hereby chosen and appointed Church Wardens for the year ensuing the Date hereof and that they levy, raise, and Collect all sums appointed to be raised for the use of the parish, and that they be allowed for there So doing after the Rate of 20^l p^r C^t