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had been so fool-hardy, they would very quickly have raised men enough to arrest his progress, and make him repent his rashness. As it was, John Clarke, raised a few men as quickly as possible, and went in pursuit. Captain John Gillespie, of Guilford county, having probably been notified by express, came down with his company, and with his aid, they ran Fanning back to his old haunts. Gillespie was a man of most daring courage, and would have been glad to measure swords with Col. Fanning or any other Tory in the land. They overtook one of those, whom they found at the "gallows limb," about to bury or rob the corpse of the Whig whom they had just hung, and Clarke shot at him. He wounded him, but not badly. The man however, "played possum" so well, that he deceived them, and they left him before he was dead, when he jumped up and ran away. They left so soon, because they were impatient to overtake the rest, and they got in chase of one or two, but they could not overtake them. During this pursuit, they got in chase of Michael Robbins, who was yet skulking about in the country, and Clarke shot at him with his pistol, but missed, and Robbins escaped; immediately after which Robbins left the country and never returned. If we are right in our conjectures, this proves that Fanning, for natural abilities, was no ordinary man, and that, during his brief career, he was a more terrible scourge to this country, than the good people of the present day can easily imagine.

THE MEBANE FAMILY.

"Colonel Alexander Mebane, the patriarch of the family, came from the north of Ireland and settled in Pennsylvania, where he remained several years, when he removed with his family to North Carolina and settled in the Hawfields, in Orange county. He was a man of good sense, upright, industrious and prudent in the management of his business affairs and soon acquired considerable wealth. He was commissioned Colonel and Justice of the Peace under the Regal government. He had twelve children, six sons and six daughters, all of whom, except one, married and settled and raised families in Orange county.

After the Declaration of Independence it was soon ascertained that they were in the neighborhood of many Tories; but the old gentlemen and all his sons except the youngest who was not grown, at once became Whigs and active defenders of the liberties of the country and supporters of the army. The British and Tories committed great depredations on the old gentleman's property—burnt his barns and fences, plundered his dwelling and took away every thing they could carry, even emptying the feathers from the beds and carrying away the ticks and furniture. The old gentleman was too old to become an active soldier himself; but his sons were active and zealous in the cause of Independence. William, the oldest, was a Captain in the militia.

Alexander was constantly and actively engaged in the service of his country, and in addition to other duties, he discharged that of Commissary in collecting and distributing supplies of necessary provisions to the troops. The neighborhood was so much harassed by the Tories that he was compelled to send some of his oldest children and servants to a place in an adjoining county out of their range. When Cornwallis took Hillsboro', he narrowly escaped on foot, leaving a valuable mare, saddle, bridle, holsters and pistols. Whilst the British army were in Hillsboro', a company of them who went into the country around to collect supplies visited his mill and dwelling, when there was no person on the premises except his wife and some of the youngest children, and carried away meal from the mill, and bacon and poultry from and about the house. A few days after this, Lee's company of Light Horse with a company of Catawba Indians passed by the mill; and in a day or two after this, eight or ten of General Picken's men called at the gate, when Mrs. Mary Mebane, wife of Alexander, went out accompanied by some of the youngest children who were at home with her, and one of the men presented a pistol to her breast and threatened to shoot her unless she would tell them where her husband was. She replied that he was where he ought to be, in General Green's camp; and after some more talk, they asked her for something to eat. She brought it out to them, and they eat it sitting on their horses, and departed.

Col. Robert Mebane was a man of undoubted courage and activity in the cause of his country and was a Colonel in the Continental line of the army. He was in many battles and skirmishes with the British and Tories. At the battle on Cane creek he displayed great prowess and valor and fought hero-like. General Butler having ordered a retreat, Colonel Mebane rushed before the retreating army and, by violent efforts, got a part of them stopped, and gained a victory. Towards the close of the battle, ammunition becoming scarce, he passed along the line carrying powder in his hat and distributing it among the soldiers, encouraging and animating them to persevere in the bloody strife. He was afterwards with his regiment on the waters of the Cape Fear, contending with the Tories; but being notified that his services were needed in the northern part of the State, he set out accompanied only by his servant. On the way, he came upon a noted Tory and horse thief, by the name of Henry Hightower who was armed with a British musket. Knowing him, and perhaps too fearless and regardless of the consequences, he pursued him and when within striking distance with his arm uplifted, Hightower wheeled and shot him. Perhaps one of the first expeditions in which he was engaged was in company with General Rutherford, in 1776, with one thousand and nine hundred men, against the "overhill Cherokees," routing them, burning their towns and destroying their crops, in which he displayed his fearlessness and unflinching

courage. In person he was large, strong, active, and of commanding appearance.

Colonel John Mebane, late of Chatham county, entered as Captain in the service of his country in the time of the revolution. When Hillsboro' was taken by the British and Tories, the Tories commanded by the notorious David Fanning, he was captured and with Thomas Burke, Governor of the state, and William Kinchen and others, was marched under the Tory Col. McDougal, who, although there was an attempt made by the Whigs to rescue them at Lindley's mill, succeeded in taking them to Wilmington, N. C., when they were put on board a prison-ship and from there taken to Charleston, S. C. where they were still confined on board the ship for a long time, suffering extremely by the privations, heat, filth and vermin and the diseases common on board prison-ships. As John Mebane and William Kinchen, after their release, were on their way home, Kinchen was taken sick and died.

A skirmish took place in the Hawfields, near old Colonel Mebane's house, between a small party of Whigs and Tories, in which the Tories were defeated and fled. The Whigs pursued them. Joseph Hodge, a valiant Whig, who was very resolute and eager in the pursuit, overtook a noted Tory, by the name of John Hasting, who was an active Tory and had piloted the British and Tories through the neighborhood (he living near Col. Mebane's,) to places where their property was concealed.

Hasting was armed with a British musket and

bayonet. He was overtaken, surrendered to Hodge, and pitched his musket from him which stuck in the ground by the bayonet. Hodge, wheeled, to pursue the other Tories who were still before, leaving Hasting to the care of John Steel, who was just behind. Hasting took his gun and shot Hodge, as he rode from him, in the hip with the iron ramrod, and attempted to escape. Steel fired his rifle at him and the ball struck a tree near Hasting's head. Steel then charged upon him with his sword, cutting his nose through into the face, and splitting his head in a variety of places, and would have killed him if it had not been for the entreaties of Hodge, who was lying near with the iron ramrod sticking in him, and begged him to spare his life. He being then literally cut to pieces, he got a hat, fitted the pieces of skin on his head and put on the hat to hold them together. He was then put into the custody of Moses Crawford to take him to jail in Hillsboro'; but as they were passing the lane of James Mebane, Senr., Hasting snatched a stake out of the fence, knocked Crawford down and escaped. The ramrod was drawn, with much effort, from Hodge, and he had to secrete himself from the Tories until he got well. During this time he was occasionally visited by Doct. John Umstead, a worthy man and eminent physician, who practised medicine successfully for many years, after the war, in the Hawfields, and whose memory is yet cherished by many who had partaken of his kindness and skill. David Mebane, the youngest of the brothers, did not arrive at the

age at which men were taken into the service until near the close of the war, yet he served two terms in the militia.

After the close of the war, the sons of old Colonel Mebane were highly respected for their services in obtaining the liberty and independence of the country, and were frequently called upon to serve their country in various departments. William Mebane was chosen by the freeholders of Orange county, in 1782, to serve them in the Senate of the General Assembly, with William McCauley and Mark Patterson in the Commons. He was twice married. His first wife was a Miss Abercrombie, with whom he lived many years, and in his old age he married a Miss Rainey, a daughter of the Rev. Benjamin Rainey. He died leaving no child, having had none by either marriage.

Alexander Mebane was a member of the Provincial Congress or Convention that met at Halifax, on the 16th day of December, A. D., 1776, to form a Constitution of the State, and of the Convention at Hillsboro', to fix the Seat of Government and adopt the Constitution of the United States. He was a member of the House of Commons of the General Assembly, in 1783, '84, '87, '88, '89, '90, '91, and '92.

About this time he was elected a Brigadier-general by the General Assembly of North Carolina. In 1793, he was elected a member of Congress and served two sessions in Philadelphia. He was elected again to the next Congress, but died before the com-

mencement, on the 5th day of July, 1795. He was distinguished for his sound practical sense, his unblemished integrity and unflinching firmness. General Alexander Mebane was born in Pennsylvania, 26th of November, 1744. He was married to Mary Armstrong, of Orange county, in February, 1767, by whom he had twelve children, four sons and eight daughters. One of the daughters died before she was grown. All the other children married and had families. Of his sons there are yet alive, James Mebane, Esquire, now near Yancyville, Caswell county, who has been much in public life, served very often in both Houses of the legislature, was one of the first students at Chapel Hill, and one of the founders of the literary societies there. The Dialectic Society, to perpetuate his name and his services, have procured a life-like portrait of him, that may be seen in their hall. He married in early life, Elizabeth Kinchen, the only child of William Kinchen, whose name has been mentioned in this sketch, by whom he had six children, five sons and one daughter. William, who lives at Mason Hall, in Orange county, and Doct. John Alexander Mebane, at Greensboro', Guilford county. Of his daughters, two only survive, Frances, the wife of the Rev. William D. Paisley, who is the son of Colonel John Paisley, a brave and valiant soldier of the Revolution, and Elizabeth, the wife of William H. Goodloe, of Madison county, Mississippi. General Alexander Mebane was, in his person, what is generally termed a likely man, about six feet high, of

ruddy complexion, black hair and of robust appearance. He was a member of the Presbyterian church, and died on the 5th day of July, 1795, with a comfortable assurance of a glorious and blessed immortality. Some of his last words were—*I know Him in whom I have believed.*

Capt. James Mebane was also actively employed during the Revolutionary war. He married Margaret Allen, of the Hawfields, by whom he had a large family of children. He died some years before his wife.

Col. John Mebane, late of Chatham county, was elected for that county, and served in the House of Commons of the General Assembly, in 1790, '91, '92, '93, '95, '98, '99, 1800-1-3-8-9-11. About the close of the war he married Mrs. Sarah Kinchen, widow of William Kinchen, who died on his way home from the prison-ship, at Charleston, S. C., by whom he had one son, John Briggs Mebane, who represented the county in the House of Commons in, 1813, and one daughter who married Thomas Hill, of Rockingham county.

David Mebane, the youngest son of the patriarch of the family, represented the county of Orange, in the House of Commons, in the years 1808, '09 and 10. He married Miss Ann Allen, of the Hawfields. He had a large family of children, of whom, George A. Mebane of Mason Hall, merchant and Post Master, is one. After the death of his first wife, he married Mrs. Elizabeth Young, of Caswell, by whom he had

one daughter. He died several years before his last wife.

A considerable portion of this numerous family are now living in Orange, Caswell and Guilford counties; but a large portion have migrated to the west and are living in various States of Tennessee, Kentucky, Mississippi, Indiana, Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas."

The above sketch was furnished by James Mebane, Esq., of Caswell county, who is so well known over the State for his integrity, his strong good sense, his public spirit and the consistency of his Christian deportment. It was furnished at my special request, and for this act of courtesy and kindness I consider myself under strong obligations.

It was my design from the first, provided the *memoranda* could be obtained, to give a sketch of Col. Robert Mebane, whose military and patriotic services, during the war, I had always heard mentioned in terms of high commendation; and for this purpose I applied to his nephew, Doct. John A. Mebane, of Greensboro', who told me that he had several brothers who were equally patriotic and active during that eventful period of our country's history. I then told him that I would be glad to get an account of the others also; and he referred me to his brother James who was much older and much better acquainted with the history of the family. At my request he promptly consented to procure the facts from his brother; and the sketch which he has furnished is certainly a very well written one for a man who is

seventy-five years of age. It contains many facts of interest, as matters of history, and having been written, as it evidently was, with great candor and modesty, it will be read with pleasure by every one who admires the spirit and character of the men who achieved our independence.

According to the information which I have had from other sources, I would say that the writer, in this plain and honest statement of facts, instead of exaggerating, has fallen below the truth; and that in all honesty and fairness, much more might have been said. Some ten or twelve years ago I called to see Nathaniel Slade, then a man of advanced age, but a respectable citizen of Caswell county. He had been in the Guilford battle, and on more than one expedition with Col. Robert Mebane. The energy and firmness which Mebane displayed in the battle on Cane Creek have been already noticed. Disregarding the order of General Butler for a retreat, he rallied as many of the men as he could, renewed the conflict and gained a victory, or rather made it a "drawn battle." At the first opportunity, he went to Butler, told him that he had disobeyed his order to retreat, and then offered him his sword; but Butler had, of course, too much sense to receive it. In this he showed the courage and magnanimity of a hero; and all the testimony I have had, in regard to this whole affair, is perfectly accordant.

Immediately after the battle on Cane creek, General Butler collected as many men as possible, on the spur of the occasion, and pursued the Tories.

Slade and Mebane were both on this expedition, as they both belonged to Butler's District. Whether it was owing to the difficulties which could not be overcome, or to the want of sufficient firmness on the part of the commanding officer, the writer has no means of ascertaining; but they did not overtake the Tories and could not rescue the Governor. At a place called the Brown Marsh, they met a party of British and Tories, and a skirmish ensued. Slade told me that Butler, under an impression that the enemy had "field pieces," ordered a retreat after the first fire and set the example himself; but Mebane did just as he had done on Cane creek, disobeyed orders, rallied as many of the men as he could, and continued the fight until they were overpowered by numbers, or by British discipline, and were obliged to retreat. Slade said that he was not far from Mebane, and heard him giving his orders in a bold strong voice: "Now give it to them boys—fire! Load again, boys, and give them another round—fire!" True courage is one of those things which cannot be counterfeited; and a man of real energy and firmness will make his mark wherever he goes. In this affair at Brown Marsh, as at the battle on Cane creek, Mebane showed an utter disregard of his own safety; and the old man Slade, when speaking of it seemed to become quite enthusiastic. It was on his return from this expedition that he was killed or mortally wounded by the Tory, as above related, and his death was much regretted by the Whig party.

In the last will and testament of Colonel John Me-

bane, of Chatham county, which is dated May 31st, 1834, I find the following bequest which relates to a military relic of his brother, Colonel Robert Mebane, and touchingly indicates the martial spirit of the two brothers. "Item. I give and bequeath to my nephew, Dr. John A. Mebane, of Greensboro', my silver hilted sword, it being the first sword taken from the British in North Carolina during the revolutionary war, by my brother Col. Robert Mebane."

The sword mentioned in the above extract, was taken by Colonel Mebane, from a British officer, somewhere about Wilmington, or in that region, but precisely when, and under what circumstances is not now recollected. It has been carefully preserved by Doctor Mebane, to whom it was bequeathed; and will probably be handed down as a kind of "heir-loom" in the family, for generations to come.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM CLARKE.

Samuel Clarke, whose sons appear to have been all decided Whigs, during the war, is said to have come originally from the north of Ireland, and belonged to the stock of Scotch-Irish Presbyterians. He came to North Carolina, with a young family, in the early settlement of the country, and located himself on Deep river, a few miles above Bell's mill. The family were all Presbyterians during the war, and for a number of years after. As there were some other Presbyterian families near enough to attend preaching at the same place, they built a log house for a place of public worship, about three miles from Bell's mill and known for a long time as Bell's meeting house. Here they had preaching occasionally, and it is said that a small church was organized there, but it is believed that they never had stated preaching by any minister of that denomination, or, not for any length of time.

Nothing more is known to the writer, in regard to the number or circumstances of the old man's family, except that he had six sons, William, Thomas, Edward, Samuel, Joseph and John, all of whom, as I have been told, were Whigs during the war; and three or four of them were very active, resolute and efficient men. William was probably the oldest, and became the most prominent. John, though the youngest, is said to have been a man of more daring courage than any of them, but his impetuosity was

some respects differs widely from our own. His was made from a brief acquaintance of a few months, our own deduced from the general record of the race covering the intervening period since his day :

"The natives I shall consider in their persons, language, manners, religion, and government, with my sense of their original. For their persons, they are generally tall, straight, well-built, and of singular proportion: they tread strong and clever, and mostly walk with a lofty chin. Of complexion, black, but by design, as the *Gypies in Scotland*. They grease themselves with bear's fat clarified, and using no defence against sun or weather, their skins must needs be swarthy. Their eye is little and black, but unlike a straight-looking *Jew*. The thick lip and flat nose, so frequent with the East *Indians* and *Blacks*, are not common to them, for I have seen as comely *European*-like faces among them, of both, as on your side the sea; and truly an Italian complexion hath not much more of the white, and the noses of several of them have as much of the *Demon*.

"Their language is lofty, yet narrow; but, like the *Hebrew*, in signification full; like short-hand, in writing, one word serveth in the place of three, and the rest are supplied by the understanding of the hearer; imperfect in their terms, wanting in their moods, participles, adverbs, conjunctions, interjections. I have made it my business to understand it, that I might not want an interpreter on any occasion, and I must say that I know not a language spoken in Europe that hath words of more sweetness, or greatness in accent and emphasis than theirs; for instance, *Callescock*, *Itanooan*, *Orelato*, *Sook*, *Morim*, *Pogassie*: all which are names of places, and have grandeur in them. Of words of sweetness, *dana*, is mother; *Asamis*, a brother; *Netap*, friend; *Lagueret*, very good; *Pane*, bread; *Meloo*, eat; *Motta*, us; *Batta*, to love; *Pago*, in comes; *Somian*, *Furston*, the names of places; *Tonoo*, *Seems*, *Menno*, *Seoerere*, are the names of persons; if one asks them for anything they have not, they will answer, *Natta ne hata*; which to translate is, *not I have*, instead of *I have not*.

"Of their customs and manners there is much to be said; I will begin with children; so soon as they are born they wash them in water; and while very young, and in cold weather to chase, they plunge them in the rivers to harden and embolden them. Having wrapt them in a cloth, they lay them on a straight, thin board, a little more than the length and breadth of the child, and swaddle it fast upon the board to make it straight; wherefore all *Indians* have flat heads; and thus they carry them at their backs. The children will go, very young, at nine months commonly; they wear only a small cloth round their waist till they are big; if boys, they go a fishing, till ripe for the woods; which is about fifteen; then they hunt; and after having given some proofs of their manhood, by a good return of skins, they may marry; else it is a shame to think of a wife. The girls stay with their mothers, and help to hoe the ground, plant corn and carry burdens; and they do well to use them to that young, which they must do when they are old; for the wives are the true servants of the husbands; otherwise the men are very affectionate to them.

"When the young women are fit for marriage, they wear something upon their heads, for an advertisement, but so, as their faces are hardly to be seen, but when they please. The age, they marry at, if women, is about thirteen, and fourteen; if men, seventeen and eighteen; they are rarely older.

"Their houses are mats, or larks of trees, set on poles, in the fashion of an *English* barn, but out of the power of the winds; for they are hardly higher than a man; they lie on reeds, or grass. In travel they lodge in the woods, about a great fire, with the mantle of buffalo they wear by day wrap about them, and a few boughs stuck around them.

"Their diet is maize, or *Indian* corn, divers ways prepared: sometimes roasted in the ashes; sometimes beaten and boiled with water; which they call *amine*: they also make cakes not unpleasant to eat. They have likewise several sorts of beans and peas, that are good nourishment; and the woods and rivers are their *larder*.

"If an *European* comes to see them, or calls for lodging at their house, or signema, they give him the best place and first out. If they come to visit us, they salute us with an *Aah*; which is as much as to say, *Good be to you*, and set them down; which is mostly on the ground,

either of these they are not excused by the *Indians*. A tragic circumstance fell out since I came into the country: a King's daughter, thinking herself slighted by her husband, in suffering another woman to lie down between them, rose up, went out, plucked a root out of the ground and ate it; upon which she immediately died; and, for which, last week, he made an offering to her kindred, for amusement, and liberty of marriage; as two others did to the kindred of their wives that died a natural death. For, till widowers have done so, they must not marry again. Some of the young women are said to take ungodly liberty before marriage, for a portion; but when married, chaste. When with child they know their husbands no more, till delivered; and during their months they touch no meat they eat but with a stick, lest they should defile it; nor do their husbands frequent them till that time be expired.

"But in liberality they excel; nothing is too good for their friend; give them a fine gun, coat, or other thing, it may pass twenty hands before it sticks: light of heart, strong affections, but soon spent. The most merry creatures that live, feast and dance perpetually; they never have much, nor want much; wealth circulateth like the blood: all parts partake; and though none shall want what another hath, yet exact observers of property. Some kings have sold, others presented me with several parcels of land; the pay or presents I made them were not hoarded by the particular owners; but the neighbouring kings and their clans being present when the goods were brought out, the parties chiefly concerned consulted what, and to whom, they should give them. To every king then, by the hands of a person for that work appointed, is a proportion sent, so sorted and folded, and with that gravity that is admirable. Then that king subdivideth it in like manner among his dependants, they hardly leaving themselves an equal share with one of their subjects, and be it on such occasions as festivals, or at their common meals, the kings distribute, and to themselves last. They care for little, because they want but little; and the reason is, a little contents them. In this they are sufficiently revenged on us: if they are ignorant of our pleasures, they are also free from our pains. They are not disquised with bills of lading and exchange, nor perplexed with chancery suits and exchequer reckonings. We sweat and toil to live; their pleasure feeds them: I mean their hunting, fishing, and fowling, and this table is spread everywhere. They eat twice a day, morning and evening; their seats and table are the ground. Since the *Europeans* came into these parts they have grown great lovers of *strong liquors*, rum especially; and for it exchange the richest of their skins and furs. If they are heated with liquors, they are restless till they have enough to sleep; that is their cry. *Some more and I will go to sleep*; but, when drunk, one of the most wretched spectacles in the world!

"In sickness, impatient to be cured, and for it give anything, especially for their children, to whom they are extremely natural. They drink at those times a *terno*, or decoction of some roots in spring water; and if they eat any flesh, it must be of the female of any creature. If they die, they bury them with their apparel, be they man or woman, and the nearest of kin sing in something precious with them, as a token of their love. Their mourning is blacking of their faces, which they continue for a year. They are choise of the graves of their dead; for, lest they should be lost by time, and fall to common use, they pick off the grass that grows upon them, and heap up the fallen earth with great care and exactness.

"These poor people are under a dark night in things relating to religion; to be sure the tradition of it: yet they believe a God and immortality, without the help of metaphysics: for, they say, *There is a great King that made them, who dwells in a glorious country to the southward of them; and that the souls of the good shall go thither, where they shall live again*. Their worship consists of two parts, sacrifice and cantion. Their sacrifice is their first fruits; the first and fattest piece they kill goeth to the fire, where he is all burnt, with a mournful dirty of him that performeth the ceremony; next with such marvellous fervency and labor of body, that he will even sweat to a foam. The other part is their cantion, performed by round dances, sometimes words, sometimes songs, then shouts, two being in the middle that begin; and, by singing and drumming on a board, direct the choruses. Their postures in the dance are very antick and differing, but all keep measure. This is done with equal earnestness and labor, but great appearance of joy. In the fall, when the corn cometh in, they begin to feast one another. There have been two great festivals already to which I will come that will. I was at one myself: the entertainment

"This government is by Kings, which they call *Socoms*, and those by succession, but always of the mother's side. For instance, the children of him who is now king will not succeed, but his brother by the mother, or the children of his sister, whose sons (and after them the children of her daughters) will reign; for no woman inherits. The reason they render for this way of descent, is, that their issue may not be spurious.

"Every King hath his Council; and that consists of all the old and wise men of his nation; which, perhaps, is two hundred people. Nothing of moment is undertaken, be it war, peace, selling of land, or traffick, without advising with them: and, which is more, with the young men too. It is admirable to consider how powerful the Kings are, and yet how they move by the breath of their people. I have had occasion to be in council with them, upon treaties for land, and to adjust the terms of trade. The order is thus: The King sits in the middle of an half moon, and hath his council, the old and wise, on each hand; behind them, or at a little distance, sit the younger fry, in the same figure. Having consulted and resolved their business, the King ordered one of them to speak to me; he stood up, came to me, and in the name of his King saluted me; then took me by the hand, and told me, 'He was ordered by his King to speak to me; and that now it was not he, but the King, that spoke; because what he should say was the King's mind.' He first prayed me to excuse them, that they had not complied with me the last time, he feared there might be some fault in the Interpreter, being neither *Indian* nor *English*; besides, it was the *Indian* custom to deliberate, and take up much time in council before they resolve; and that if the young people and owners of the land had been as ready as he, I had not met with so much delay.' Having thus introduced his matter, he fell to the bounds of the land they had agreed to dispose of, and the price; which now is little and dear; that which would have bought twenty miles, not buying now two. During the time that this person spoke, not a man of them was observed to whisper or smile; the old, grave; the young, reverent, in their deportment. They speak little, but fervently, and with elegance. I have never seen more natural sagacity, considering them without the help (I was going to say the spell) of tradition; and he will deserve the name of wise that outwits them in any treaty, about a thing they understand. When the purchase was agreed, great promises passed between us, 'of kindness and good neighborhood, and that the *Indians* and *English* must live in love as long as the sun gave light'; which done, another made a speech to the *Indians*, in the name of all the *Sachemakers*, or Kings; first to tell them what was done; next, to charge and command them 'to love the *Christians*, and particularly live in peace with me, and the people under my government; that many Governors had been in the river; but that no Governor had come himself to live and stay here before; and having now such an one, that had treated them well, they should never do him or his any wrong;—at every sentence of which they shouted and said *Amen*, in their way.

"The justice they have is pecuniary: In case of any wrong or evil act, be it murder itself, they atone by feasts, and presents of their *manum*; which is proportioned to the quality of the offence, or person injured, or of the sex they are of. For, in case they kill a woman, they pay double; and the reason they render, is, 'that she breedeth children; which men cannot do.' It is rare that they fall out, if sober; and, if drunk, they forgive it, saying, 'It was the *drink*, and not the man, that abused them.'

"We have agreed that, in all differences between us, six of each side shall end the matter. Do not abuse them, but let them have justice, and you win them. The worst is, that they are the worse for the *Christians*: who have propagated their vices, and yielded them tradition for ill, and not for good things. But as low an ebb as these people are at, and as inglorious as their own condition looks, the *Christians* have not outlived their spirit, with all their pretensions to an higher manifestation. What good, then, might not a good people graft where there is so distinct a knowledge left between good and evil? I beseech God to incline the hearts of all that come into these parts to outlive the knowledge of the *native*, by a fixed obedience to their greater knowledge of the will of God; for it were miserable, indeed, for us to fall under the just censure of the poor *Indian* conscience, while we make profession of things so far transcending.

"For their original, I am ready to believe them of the

of the like countenance, and their children of so lively remembrance, that a man would think himself in *Duke's Place*, or *Berry Street*, in *London*, when he seeth them. But this is not all; they agree in *rites*: they reckon by *moons*; they offer their *first fruits*; they have a kind of feast of *liberality*; they are said to lay their *altar* upon *twelve stones*; their mourning a *gear*; customs of women, with many other things that do not now occur."

Within the limits of our county are a number of Indian geographical names, which necessitate some allusion as to their meaning and derivation. All names derived from the language of the natives have undergone many changes in orthography. At first, every one spelled them to suit himself. The English, Irish, German, French, Dutch, and so on, had each their peculiar way of representing the Indian sounds. This gave rise to many variations. The dialectical differences in the Indian tongue greatly increased these variations. The ignorance and carelessness of many men in the proper use of letters in their own language and of the sound in other languages increased these variations still further. Hence we find such a diversity of orthography that sometimes it takes an experienced person to recognize some of the forms.

At length these words, by common usage, have come to a settled orthography. This usage often destroyed or mutilated the original word. This process of Anglicising Indian words generally consulted ease of speech, and seldom correctness of original sounds. Most of them, right or wrong, are now established. A very few still remain unsettled.

One difficulty with Indian names along the Susquehanna River is that the region was inhabited by tribes of both the Huron-Iroquois and Algonquin stocks of Indians; and each of these families had tribes on its banks, whose dialectical variations were so great that they hardly understood each other a word. This was the case with the Shawanese and Delawares, though both Algonquins. One safe rule may be adopted, viz., all names requiring the use of the lips in pronunciation did not originate from any of the tribes of the Huron-Iroquois family.

The regions of the lower Susquehanna having been overrun by so many Indian races and subdivisions of races, we may naturally look for remains of all these diversely speaking tribes in the geographical vestige that have come down to us. It is this that makes investigation so very difficult. To get at the meaning of a term we must first know the language or Indian nationality to which it belonged. To do this would involve a knowledge of several Indian tongues and many more almost equally difficult dialectical variations.

It is an interesting fact, also, that many of the names given by the incoming tribe were