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GREAT EVENTS IN
NORTH CAROLINA HISTORY.



Our Own Pirates.

June 1902

—BY—
S. A. ASHE.



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The North Carolina Booklet.

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- ✓ 3.—July—Indian Massacre and Tuscarora War.
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- 8.—Dec.—Historic Homes in N. C.,—The Groves, and others.
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- ✓ 9.—Jan.—Old Charleston on the Cape Fear. *Feb.*
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- 11.—March—Confederate Secret Service.
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nation, formerly tendered July 6, 1902.

Vol II No

Vol. II. No. 1, is bound in Vol. I. April 1902
on page 20 - will be found the Protest
Commonwealth, the Civil Govt. of N.C.
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VOL. II.

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Our Own Pirates,

Black Beard and Bonnett.

BY
S. A. ASHE.

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**“Carolina! Carolina! Heaven’s blessings attend her!
While we live we will cherish, protect and defend her.”**



OUR OWN PIRATES.

BLACKBEARD AND BONNETT.

S. A. ASHE.

Every age has its peculiarities, which pass away under the influence of advancing civilization. And so we find some very odd things have happened in the world which may have seemed natural enough at the time but appear to us as more than passing strange. History tells us that while first the settlers were seeking homes in the wilds of North Carolina, there existed, a little further South of us, in the West India Islands, a regular government of desperate sea-robbers, embracing thousands of men, who not only swept the seas with fleets of ships, but even captured forts and cities and destroyed European squadrons sent out to disperse them.

The tales of their adventures now seem to be marvelous, but in this case truth is stranger than fiction. When these robbers had taken towns and despoiled them of booty they repaired to other towns where they lived soberly or riotously, according to their individual whims, selling their stuff openly, without regard to the manner of its capture, and enjoying the fruits of their crimes as if they had only made lawful gain in legitimate business. Indeed King Charles II even conferred knighthood on the most successful of these notorious freebooters, Henry Morgan, who was long a chief among the Buccaneers, as they named themselves.

Although the calling was not altogether respectable, yet this suffices to show that in the good times of the auld lang syne people were more tolerant as to sea-rovers than in the present day.

Eventually the Buccaneers disbanded, but the spirit of making unlawful gain did not entirely die out. The European government two centuries ago did not possess many ships in their regular navies, but when at war, they gave commissions to sea captains to fit out private ships and make roving cruises to prey upon the commerce of their enemies; and since there was nearly always a war on foot, privateersmen were seldom long out of employment.

These private war-vessels would sail from port under bond to engage in no unlawful enterprise, but when in distant seas, where dead men tell no tales, the captains would not be very careful to keep within the letter of the law. Any fish that came to their nets were very good fish—and the gold of a friend was quite as yellow as the gold of a foreign enemy. Many privateers were fitted out in New York and at other towns along the American coast, and these practiced the trade of making captures quite successfully, for being so distant from the navies of Europe they pursued their work with but little fear of interruption. Indeed, some of the governors of New York, of South Carolina, of Massachusetts and of other colonies were said to have been interested in the success of some of these cruisers, and harbored the pirates as if all the prizes taken were according to the rules of international law. Because of these numerous piracies on the high seas, commerce was so greatly impeded along the American coast that it became

necessary to capture the privateers who had thus become pirates.

The king had no ship to send, so it was agreed to fit out a big privateer to catch the little ones. Mr. Livingstone, one of the most influential men in New York, started the plan and subscribed for one-fifth of the stock in the company, and he recommended a man named Kidd to be the captain. The Lord Chancellor of England and many other noblemen also took stock in the enterprise and the king said he would take for his part one-tenth of all the vessels that Kidd might capture. It was a speculation that they hoped would prove a bonanza—an expedition which it was expected would make great gain for those who furnished the money. The vessel was equipped, armed with the best cannon, manned by brave seamen, and Kidd was duly commissioned to sail out as a privateer in pursuit of piratical crafts. But alas for the speculation! Kidd soon fell into evil ways himself and set up for a pirate on his own account.

After a three years' cruise, during which he scourged the coast of Africa and sent many a poor fellow to Davy Jones' locker, he at last turned up in Boston, having burned his ship off New England after burying treasure at different points along the coast. He was speedily arrested, and a list of the places where he had hidden his gold was found among his papers. He was taken to England, tried and executed.

All along the coast tradition points out places where he concealed his plunder, and many are the "Money Islands" named from the supposed fact that he buried treasure there.

For instance, there is a "Money Island" situated between Wrightsville and Masonboro sounds, near Wilmington, which has been dug all over for Kidd's money. Whether any was found there is not known, but forty years ago we heard from the lips of an elderly lady, herself the daughter of a bold but respectable privateersman, many tales about Captain Kidd and his money, and in particular she would point out a gnarled and ancient live-oak tree just on the point at Wrightsville, and tell how, long, long ago, they found a key to Kidd's money-chest suspended from one of the knotty limbs, all rusty with age and stained with blood. They dug just beneath where the key was found for the iron chest, but if it was there those who dug never made much noise in the world about it. Similar tales of buried treasure are told around the inlets all along the coast, but those things are traditions and although curious and interesting are foreign to our purpose, for we are dealing now only with historical facts.

All vessels leaving the Gulf of Mexico turn the Florida peninsula and follow the Gulf Stream northward. And just off the point of Florida lie the Bahama Islands, which were given by King Charles II to some of his courtiers as a part of the princely domain of Carolina. Their number runs up into the hundreds—little islands separated by intricate channels, which none knew but the freebooters who frequented those dangerous seas.

It was there that the pirates chiefly congregated, and from this safe retreat they sallied out to reap a rich harvest of spoil from the merchant ships engaged in lawful commerce.

The inlets and harbors along the Southern coasts also

afforded them convenient refuge, and from these sheltered nooks they would dash out to sea and make prize of passing vessels. At times they would collect in large force and sail gallantly into some undefended port and take possession or make heavy demands upon the people for booty. Thus Charleston, which was then the most important town south of Boston, was made to pay tribute, and the entire Atlantic coast was more or less infested with those rovers of the seas. As they got much plunder—merchandise as well as gold—which they had but little use for, they were liberal and generous in dispensing it, gaining favor by their prodigality, which enriched those who dealt with them; and so, although they were public enemies, the pirates had many private friends among the people of the seaboard.

It was a strange time when a new continent was being settled, when the colonists were brought into deadly contact with the treacherous Indians, and when the bloody Spaniards to the South of us were steeped in crimes committed against humanity and Englishmen, and life was not so highly esteemed as now, and there was a roughness and ruggedness among the people quite in contrast with the humane sentiments that prevail in this more enlightened age. And pirates were not so severely judged as now. Indeed, those sea-robbers were not altogether so ferocious as they have been painted, for although when making a prize or seeking to escape capture they fought desperately, yet after the victory was won they did not make a frolic of butchering their prisoners. They seldom murdered them in cold blood. But the tale ran that they had the habit of rigging out a plank from the side of the vessel and, having blindfolded

their victims, they made them walk the plank. The poor fellows would inevitably fall into the sea and be drowned; but then the pirates could hold up their hands and say "There is no blood on our hands"—and dead men told no tales!

Along about 1717 there was a noted pirate named Hornigold, who had his headquarters at New Providence, down in the Bahamas, where Nassau now is, the port that the Confederate blockaders used to slip into during the late war, bringing back loads of Yankee meat for the Confederate army. All old soldiers recollect the Nassau bacon served out in rations in the war times. It came by way of the former haunts of the old-time freebooters.

In one of Hornigold's trips he enlisted with him an English seaman named Edward Thatch, sometimes called Edward Teach, who was born at Bristol in England, and who had followed the sea many years. On a cruise in 1716 they captured another vessel, which, as the sailors say, had clean heels, and Capt. Hornigold gave command of it to Teach, who sailed along with him, and, together, they devastated the American coast.

They took many prizes and obtained much plunder. Among the prisoners who fell into their hands was one Major Steed Bonnett who was a man of good education and great courage. He joined Thatch, and taking charge of a vessel, accompanied him as a consort, for the pirates liked to hunt in couples. While their chief rendezvous was New Providence they frequented the Carolina coast, where they made themselves very familiar. At that time the inhabited parts of North Carolina were confined to the northern sec-

tion. Bath town was a little straggling place; Beaufort had just begun to be settled, and New Bern and Edenton, but by an order of the Lords Proprietors the people were forbidden to settle in the Cape Fear country, and all along that river was an unbroken wilderness. Amid the quiet solitudes of the lower harbor of the Cape Fear the pirates established their quarters, whence they could conveniently sally out and seize their prey and return in safety with the booty. As they kept no record of their performances, the details of their murders and captures were never known. There is a record, however, that they once put some men ashore in Onslow county, but generally they forced their prisoners to join them or made them walk the plank, although, sometimes, when it was convenient for them to do so, they gave them a captured vessel which was not needed and let them go on their way rejoicing.

Thatch or Teach or Thack, for he was known by all these names, was a man who drank hard and led a carousing life. To great physical power, he united a strong will, dominated by ungovernable passions. He habitually wore big bushy black whiskers over his face, whence was derived the sobriquet "Black Beard," the name he is now most generally known by. He was fond of luxuries and aimable to the fair sex, and it is said that so successful was he in his wooings that he had no less than eight wives, and indeed some accounts say twelve; but where he kept them or whether he rid himself of any after the manner of his brother in story, old Blue Beard, is not recorded. Doubtless though he would not have hesitated to put any to death who disobeyed him, for he was passionate and of violent temper and

reckless of life. He used to be a good deal in the quiet waters of Pamlico and Albemarle sounds, and was on terms of easy intercourse with some of the people there. Indeed he was fond of boasting that he could invite himself to dine with any gentleman of the colony and that he would be welcomed. And without doubt there were many in the colony who, notwithstanding they held him in detestation and abhorrence were, nevertheless, deterred from fear of his vengeance from treating him as he deserved. But all were not so. There were some who keenly felt that this man should not be permitted to frequent the waters of Carolina as if he were an honest trader.

These belonged to the old families who had been long settled in the colony. Among them were the connections of the former president of the colony, Major Alexander Lillington, such as Edward Mosely, Maurice Moore, the Swanns, John Porter, Jeremiah Vail, etc., who represented the true sentiment of the old settlers.

An anecdote has come down to the effect that Black Beard, in pursuance of his boast that he could dine with any man in the colony he chose, one day sent word to one of the Swanns that he would take dinner with him and would come at noon. Steps ran down from Col. Swann's landing into the water, and a short way off in the harbor lay the pirate's vessel. At noon Teach manned his boat, and, with a dozen oarsmen, pulled up in fine style towards the landing; but promptly Col. Swann appeared on his steps at the landing place, rifle in hand, and warned the pirate that if the boat came nearer he would send a ball through his heart. With a fallen countenance, Black Beard beat a

rapid retreat, muttering loud curses over his discomfiture. He did not break bread with Col. Swann. The same spirit pervaded most of the gentlemen who were bound by ties to the colony, who were native and to the manner born, who felt that the good fame of the settlement, was their good fame—the good fame of their native land. But there were a few who were friendly with Thatch, and, strange to say, he found favor in the sight of Tobias Knight, who had, a few years before, come over from England as the Secretary of the colony, and who was a member of the council and a deputy of one of the proprietors, and, indeed, had even served as Chief Justice. But then it must be understood that none of these offices were in the gift of the people, and Knight was only an adventurer from the old country who had the address to win the favor of the governor's council, whose business it was to govern the colony as the agents of the lords proprietors, being most commonly at variance with the people and not popular among them. He was a friend of Teache's and gave him countenance and advice, and, it seems, also proposed to share his booty. But there is no evidence that the people generally sympathized with pirates, or that they would not have sought to capture Black Beard if the authorities had called on them for help. Of themselves they could do nothing; and indeed, without ships and without cannon, against a vessel ready at all points for a desperate encounter, the authorities themselves were powerless.

At length Hornigold and Vane and Teach and Bonnett and the other corsairs who ruled the seas on the American coast so interfered with commerce that some measure had to be adopted to arrest their ravages, and the King was in-

duced to offer pardon to all who, within one year, would surrender themselves and make oath not to engage in unlawful enterprises again. It was in 1717 that the King issued his proclamation to that effect, and some of the freebooters came in and made peace with the government and became planters and traders in various parts of America.

Teach brought his crew to North Carolina, and, having surrendered, the King sent him a pardon, and old Black Beard made a great pretence that he would thereafter lead an honest life. But he soon became dissatisfied with his inactivity. Maybe his numerous wives bothered him; but however that was, constant carousals depleted his store of gold, and when his money was all squandered, the reformed pirate was in desperate straits. His ship still lay in the harbor—and she was a fast sailing craft, easy to fetch, but hard to catch. The temptation to return to his old courses was irresistible, and, gathering a crew about him in November of that year, he sailed from Bath on a piratical cruise and again became the terror of the seas. He returned to his old haunts at Providence, and there re-established the reign of the Buccaneers, of whom he became the acknowledged chieftain. So frequent were his devastations that the trade of Charleston was almost destroyed, and the King, being pressed for aid, despatched a force under Sir Woods Rogers to break up the pirates. Rogers was one of the most famous officers of his day. He had circumnavigated the globe, and it was he who rescued from his desert island in the South Sea poor Alexander Selkirk, whose story the charming pen of Defoe has immortalized under the title of Robinson Crusoe. Rogers, with his wonted vig-

or, made a rapid descent on Providence and captured such of the Buccaneers as happened to be there, except Vane, who, with a crew of ninety men, managed to escape.

Black Beard, with Major Steed Bonnett and some of his vessels were off on a cruise and eluded the vigilance of the British squadron. In June 1717, however, he again appeared off the coast with four vessels flying his black flag. The governor of South Carolina sought to persuade him to accept a new pardon and come in and cease his interference with the commerce of the colonies. But Teach felt too secure in his strength and in the fleetness of his ships to heed such counsel. He had staunch vessels and desperate fighters to command and knew no law but his own rough will. Proudly he sailed along the coast, the sovereign of the seas. Kings had their domain on land but he ruled the waves. Still in so short a time as eight days, misfortune overtook him. His own fine ship was cast away at Topsail inlet, where another one of his sloops was wrecked, and most of his men, disheartened, began to disperse. Some went to Pennsylvania and some to New York to quit their evil ways forever, while others under Steed Bonnett sailed away to the southward.

Teach kept one ship for himself, the "Adventure," and taking a crew of twenty men came into Bath and surrendered, again claiming the benefit of the King's proclamation and declaring his purpose to abandon a pirate's career and lead a new life. And strange to say again did he receive mercy, for the King was pleased to pardon him once more, and the pardon was duly made out and sent to Virginia for him. But it never took effect. Before it reached

America other things had happened, and Black Beard had been called to a bar of justice more to be feared than even the courts of the King of England.

The declaration of his intention to reform was a mere ruse. He had no purpose of reformation. His old passion for piracy, his love of gold, his daring spirit, were too strong for lawful purposes. He kept a crew of rough fellows about him and caused such a serious disturbance at Bath that the Governor had to take measures to quell the trouble. At length after a month's rest, he left the harbor and turned the prow of the "Adventure" once more to the sea. This time he cleared for a voyage to St. Thomas, but on the 22d of August he fell in with two French vessels returning homeward from Martinique loaded with cocoa, sweetmeats, cotton and sugar. One of these vessels he despoiled, transferring the plunder to the other, while he put both crews on the vessel he had robbed and allowed them to depart in peace. The loaded vessel he carried into Ocracoke inlet, arriving there on the 13th of September. That night he rowed in his periauger to the residence of Tobias Knight near Bath, carrying a present of four kegs of sweetmeats and other booty, quitting the house of his friend before daybreak. On the way back he met with a boat in which were William Bell, his son and an Indian, loaded with rum and merchandise, which he attacked, and robbed. He landed his cargo and hid his sugar, cotton, etc., in the barn of Tobias Knight, where they were concealed under fodder—and then burnt the French ship which he had brought into the harbor. The news of his proceedings caused great indignation among the people and alarm among

the merchants trading along the coast, and application was made to Governor Spotswood of Virginia by some of the colony to rid them of the pest.

Gov. Spotswood tells us that he had to act with the greatest secrecy because there were so many persons in Virginia who sympathized with the pirates that he dared not let even the members of his own council know his purpose, for fear his plans would be betrayed. Only the officers who were to command were taken into his confidence. Two sloops were privately hired and were manned and equipped from the British frigates Lyme and Pearl then in the Chesapeake, and on the 17th of November, they sailed out under the command of Lieutenant Maynard, a British naval officer from the Lyme, in search of the pirate vessel.

On the evening of the 21st of November these two vessels appeared at Ocracoke inlet, and Black Beard, for the first time, became aware of the effort that was being made to capture him. Recognizing his danger, he would have escaped to sea had it been possible; but he found himself at last at bay, with no channel open to avoid the conflict that seemed inevitable. Hitherto he had warred on those weaker than himself—vessels but poorly equipped and insufficiently armed; now he was in the presence of a foe more than a match for his pirate craft. But the danger only aroused his mettle. He prepared his vessel for action, arranged every detail with care, and having by his own display of courage strengthened the confidence of his desperate crew, he repaired to his cabin to spend the last night of his career of crime and sin. He sat down to his bottle and drank heartily, stimulating his spirits to frenzy, as a lion in the toils

making the last efforts for life. Knowing all the threads of the intricate channel, he complacently regarded the approach of Maynard's vessels as the next morning they carefully sought to enter the inlet. Repeatedly were they grounded on the hidden shoals, and with difficulty did they gain the entrance; but at length they passed the inlets and the conflict began. The pirate now brought to his aid his superior knowledge of the location, and manœuvred his ship handsomely, and in the running fight that ensued secured some advantages. But at length the attacking vessels pressed him so hard that the Adventure herself grounded on a projecting shoal, and an engagement at close quarters became inevitable. Maynard ordered his brave crews to prepare to board, and, with quickened zeal, sought to lay his two vessels alongside the pirate sloop. But the heart of Black Beard did not quail. He reserved the fire of his heavy guns, double-shotted, until his assailants were close at hand, and delivered a destructive broadside upon them. So successful was he in this defence that at this very first broadside twenty-nine of Maynard's force were either killed or wounded, and one of the sloops was seriously disabled. But Maynard was not made of the stuff to be driven off by a first repulse. He had come to destroy the pirate and he determined to fight it out to the bitter end. His decks were cleared of the dead and wounded, and he prepared every detail for a fierce renewal of the encounter. His own sloop alone was fit for action, but the Adventure being fast grounded, manœuvring was impossible, and the struggle resolved itself into a question of mere physical power. Observing that his vessel drew so much water that he could

not readily close in with the Adventure, he threw overboard whatever could be spared to lighten the ship, and then resolutely undertook once more to grapple with the enemy. The better to protect his men he made them remain below, while he himself heroically seized the helm and steered directly for the Adventure.

But if Maynard was resolute, so was Black Beard, who, resolving to sell his life as dearly as possible, had posted one of his bandits at the powder magazine with a lighted match, ready to make a heroic catastrophe-rather than permit his capture.

Maynard skillfully handled his ship and approached so as to prevent a similar broadside to that which had disabled his consort; he alone was on deck as the bow of his ship crashed up against the quarter of the stranded corsair.

Immediately Black Beard and his crew threw hand-grenades of his own manufacture that enveloped their antagonist in a cloud of dense foul smoke, under cover of which they leaped over her bows and hurried to assail the gallant Maynard who alone was visible. But instantaneously the men below rushed on deck and sprang to his relief and a furious hand-to-hand conflict ensued.

The pirates fought with a resolution born of despair. It was an effort to make havoc, without hope of success. Black Beard was cut down but seemed endued with more than human life, so violent was his fury, so terrific his frenzy. His men with equal passion fought in sheer desperation, inflicting great loss before they were subdued. But at length Black Beard, himself wounded unto death, when in the act of cocking his last pistol, fainted from loss of blood,

and falling, expired. Those who remained, overcome by superior numbers, were then subdued; and Maynard had the satisfaction and glory of a victorious issue of his undertaking although dearly bought with heroic lives.

The survivors of the pirate crew were all found to be negroes. They were carried to Virginia, where the judiciary of the royal government had jurisdiction to try crimes of piracy, and were tried the following March. Contemporaneously with the descent on Black Beard, Capt. Brand of the frigate Lyme, had come overland into North Carolina, and accompanied by Edward Mosely and Maurice Moore and Jeremiah Vail, had been seeking information as to those who were in complicity with Black Beard. At first Tobias Knight denied all knowledge of the booty the pirate had brought in, but eventually admitted that it had been stored in his barn, where it was found hid away under some fodder. The claim was then made that Teach had found the French ship deserted at sea and that the goods belonged to him as the finder, but later, after Black Beard had met his death, the pretence was made that the goods had merely been stored in a warehouse to await the demand of the lawful owners. The pretence was too thin, and Capt. Brand had the stuff carried to Virginia where it was sold on account of the French owners and the money accounted for.

This man Knight was Secretary of the colony, and lived near Bath, but the public papers were kept at the house of John Lovick, the deputy Secretary, at Sandy Point, in Chowan, near where Edenton now is, and where Governor Eden himself resided. It was this man Lovick whom, subsequently, Gov. Burrington sarcastically dubbed "Eden's

affidavit man." Apparently to secure evidence that would throw light upon this dark spot in the history of the colony, Edward Mosely, who was the most influential man in the colony, along with Maurice Moore, his brother-in-law, who having come with his brother, Colonel James Moore from South Carolina to fight the Indians five years before when they rescued the colony from the great peril of being entirely cut off by the savages, was also greatly esteemed by the people, forcibly entered the Secretary's office and locking themselves in, remained there twenty-four hours examining the records and public papers. The object of their search was without doubt to obtain record evidence touching the pirates and their accomplices. And they claimed that their action was lawful because when the Lords Proprietors sent over instructions to the Governors, as they did every third year, they had invariably instructed that the records should be open to public inspection. This unusual seaching the records occurred on the 27th of December, and threw the Governor and his friends into great excitement, and thereupon a force was collected to arrest Mosely and Moore for high crimes and misdemeanors.

When the posse came to arrest Mosely, who was the leading lawyer in the colony, and had for many years been the Speaker of the House, he remonstrated with one of the men that it was a frivolous business and that he was astonished at their coming that way to arrest him; that the governor and authorities could easily procure armed men to come and disturb quiet and honest men, but could not, though such a number would have done, raise them to destroy Thack, but instead of that the pirate had been suffered to go on in

his villanies, etc. These scandalous utterances stung the Governor to the quick, and Mosely was arraigned for his crimes and the whole power of the government was brought to bear for his conviction. At November term 1719, he was fined five shillings for detaining the records, and for his scandalous language about the Governor he was fined 100 pounds and declared incapable of practicing law or of holding any office in the colony for a period of three years. But because he was employed in all the important cases pending, on the application of the Chief Justice he was allowed to appear in the cases already brought, and somewhat later he put on record that his language about the Governor had been hasty and passionate. When the three years of his sentence had expired, he was immediately elected to the assembly and chosen speaker of that body, for he was so influential with the people that he was Speaker of the House whenever he was a member. His sentence was not remitted, as some histories erroneously state.

As for Tobias Knight, when the pirates were tried in Virginia in March, the evidence implicated him so positively that a copy of the testimony was sent to the Governor of North Carolina with a request that he be sent to Virginia for trial. But his associates at the council board were not of that mind. They however, called on him to answer before them, and he filed a statement on May 27th, 1719, accompanied by the affidavit of Edmund Chamburlane, a young man who lived with him. The council was complacent enough to resolve that Knight was innocent, but he never again sat at the board, and two months afterwards had the grace to die.

When Black Beard came in to surrender himself, in June, Major Steed Bonnett and his consort under Richard Wormly, repaired to the solitudes of the lower Cape Fear, and from there continued their depredations on the commerce of Charleston, hardly any vessel going out or coming in escaping their plundering crews.

So great was the interruption of its commerce by these pirates that the people of that city determined to help themselves, and in order to destroy these corsairs fitted out two well-equipped vessels, putting them under Major Rhett, a bold, brave and determined man, who was born in London, but who had removed with his family to Charleston twenty years before.

Major Rhett sailed out in search of the pirates and soon discovered Bonnett's ships in waiting for some prey; but when Bonnett saw that instead of the two vessels fleeing from him, they were seeking to overtake him, he quickly made sail for his den in Cape Fear harbor. Thither Rhett pursued with all sail set, and soon brought on a conflict. A desperate engagement followed within the harbor, the pirates fighting like mad-men, but getting the worst of the battle. Their vessel, however, escaped after the fight and, according to tradition, made its way to the mouth of Black river. There the pirates stood at bay. The men, fully aware that the halter awaited them, purposed to die rather than suffer capture. In the frenzy of despair they laid a plan to allow Rhett's force to board their vessel and then blow her up, all perishing in one fearful moment of destruction. Major Bonnett, however, was a man of education, and had seen much of the world, and he treasured

hopes of some day abandoning his nefarious life and returning to an honest calling, as others had done in South Carolina. He did not approve of this desperate heroism, and discouraging the men from it, at length persuaded them to abandon their project and surrender to Major Rhett, trusting that thereby he might secure some favor for himself. Thus the following day Major Rhett obtained possession of the pirate vessel without further bloodshed. Amid great rejoicing he carried Major Bonnett and the survivors of his crew, forty in all, to Charleston. After refitting his ship, Rhett sailed out again in search of Wormley, and having come up with him, the pirates fought so desperately that the whole crew was killed but two, and these were so severely wounded that when they reached Charleston they were immediately tried and executed to prevent their dying from their wounds.

Bonnett and his forty men were tried also, and were all hanged and buried in Charleston harbor below high water mark. On his trial it was pressed so hard that he was a "gentleman," and the people were so favorable to him, that the judge, Trott, in his charge to the jury, had to comment on the fact that being a gentleman was only an aggravation of the crime, to secure a conviction. After sentence, Bonnett, by means of friendly aid, escaped from prison in women's clothes, and on being retaken, he addressed a long and touching letter to Colonel Rhett, praying his intercession for a reprieve until the King could have an opportunity to pardon him, in which he expressed himself as follows:

"I entreat your charitable opinion of my great contri-

tion and godly sorrow for the errors of my past life, and if I had the happiness of a longer life granted me in this world, I shall always retain in mind and endeavor to follow those excellent precepts of our holy Saviour—to love my neighbor as myself; and do unto all men as I would they should do unto me, living in perfect holy friendship and charity with all mankind. This I do assure you, sir, is the sincerity of my heart upon the word of a penitent Christian and my only desire of my enjoying such a transient being, is that it may be for the future consecrated to the service of my Maker, and by a long and unfeigned repentance, I may beseech Almighty God, of His infinite mercy, to pardon and remit all my sins, and enable me to live a wholly religious life, and make satisfaction to all persons whom I have any ways injured.”

But this did not save him. He shared the common fate of his miscreant band, and thus the last of the famous pirates who had infested the coast of Carolina, suffered the merited penalty of his villainous crimes.

THE END.



Battles of Revolution Fought in North Carolina.

Moores Creek Bridge,	Feb'y 27th, 1776
Ramsour's Mill,	June 20th, 1780
Pacolet River,	July 14th, 1780
Earles Ford,	July 18th, 1780
Cane Creek,	Sept. 12th, 1780
Wahab's Plantation,	Sept. 21st, 1780
Charlotte,	Sept. 26th, 1780
Wilmington,	Feb'y. 1st, 1781
Cowans Ford,	Feb'y. 1st, 1781
Torrence Tavern,	Feb'y. 1st, 1781
Shallow Ford,	Feb'y. 6th, 1781
Bruce's Cross Roads,	Feb'y. 12th, 1781
Haw River,	Feb'y. 25th, 1781
Clapp's Mill,	March 2nd, 1781
Whitsell's Mill,	March 6th, 1781
Guilford Court House,	March 15th, 1781
Hillsboro,	April 25th, 1781
Hillsboro,	Sept. 13th, 1781
Sudleys Mill, (Cane Creek,)	Sept. 13th, 1781

