

## **GUILFORD BATTLE GROUND AFFAIRS.**

**Congress Should be Urged to Make a National Reservation of This Historic Spot—The Annual Celebration—A Soliciting Committee Named.**

As the Fourth of July approaches, interest naturally centers in the affairs of the Battle Ground Company, which has for years carried on a noble, patriotic and self-sacrificing work that should be shared by the masses instead of a few public-spirited men. The annual celebrations at the Battle Ground are invariably the source of both pleasure and profit to the tens of thousands who gather there year after year, yet the widespread interest that characterizes these gatherings will be intensified this year by the fact that Congress has seen proper to make a handsome appropriation for monuments to two other Revolutionary heroes whose names, graven in stone, should properly appear at this fountain-head of patriotism. Better than our own people no one realizes the importance of preserving this hallowed spot for all time by having the government throw about it a mantle of protection. The foundations of our nation trembled until the battle of Guilford Court House turned the tide that swept the British from our fair land. The scene of that memorable conflict holds interest not for Guilford county or North Carolina alone, but for the whole nation, and there is every reason why the government should assume the responsibility of keeping up the beautiful reservation that has been reclaimed by the descendants of those who figured in the memorable conflict. No financial consideration is involved in this transfer of the property to the government. The spirit that prompted the reclaiming of the Battle Ground from a veritable wilderness would, from generous motives, now turn the beautiful park over to the government free of charge without encumbrance if it were known that it would be maintained in a man-befitting its importance. Touching the matter of a transfer of title to the government Major Joe Morehead last week embodied the following wise suggestions in a public statement prepared for the press of the city:

**TO THE PEOPLE OF GREENSBORO:**

The first need of the Guilford Battle Ground Company is the adoption of its grounds by the general government. This will supersede all other needs. This ought to be done. It is due North Carolina, who has redeemed this Revolutionary battle field, the one redeemed in America.

It is due the whole nation, for it is sound policy. It is due the dead patriots of '76, who on the night of the 14th of March, 1781, in the sixth year of a dreadful war slept here literally upon the ground three men under one wretched blanket. These men thought they were fighting for something. Let Congress endorse them.

This adoption ought to be made. With the snap of a finger by Congress it can be done. Will it be done? This depends upon the action of North Carolinians, especially upon the action of the people of Greensboro. The tardy, but final, voting of monuments to Generals Nash and Davidson shows that Congress, like everybody else, helps those who help themselves.

In view of the splendid progress made in the last three years, the present year included, the Battle Ground Company confidently appeals to Greensboro for the largest subscription it has ever made to the cause. We have purchased twenty acres of land in the very heart of the battle site—beautifully completing the grounds. We have erected four large bronze and granite manuments—two of these of strikingly unique and appropriate designs, and two of them handsome and costly. This year we have secured and will set three more.

We ask of the people of Greensboro a very large contribution now because we need it now, and because we deserve it. A very large subscription will not be needed, nor will it be expended in the celebration of the coming Fourth of July. But it will be needed, and can be most judiciously expended then and throughout the coming winter. Besides for the first time in our history the condition of our state's treasury has prevented this year, and continues to prevent, our receiving any help whatever from that source on our annual appropriation.

We urge that men who can give 25 cents and no more, give that amount. Let all take a hand. We urge those who have heretofore given \$5, \$10 and \$25 to double their subscriptions. Our committee of disinterested, wise and public spirited citizens will wait on you.

Yours truly,  
JOS. M. MOREHEAD,  
President G. B. G. Co.