

THE GLORIOUS FOURTH.

The Battle Ground Celebration— Speeches by Governor Aycock and Mr. Beasley.

The annual celebration at the Guilford Battle Ground last Thursday attracted a great many people, who greatly enjoyed the exercises of the day. The principal event of the day was an address by Governor Aycock on the colonial history of North Carolina. The speaker was introduced by the master of ceremonies, James W. Forbbs, Esq., as "a ripe scholar, a wise statesman, an uncommon orator, a Christian gentleman, and North Carolina's greatest living commoner."

The Governor spoke of the struggles which went on from the earliest settlement of North Carolina until the people wrested their freedom from British tyranny and oppression. He said, while in other sections of America, the struggle for liberty was usually begun by the leaders, in North Carolina it was the masses who first took up the fight for individual rights, maintaining the struggle until their representatives were instructed to declare for independence of great Britain. The first blood of the Revolution was spilled on North Carolina soil, at the battle of Alamance, and the Regulators who stood there against foreign oppression were not lawbreakers, though they were fierce. But for Alamance, declared the Governor, North Carolina would not have been the first state to pronounce the Declaration of Independence.

In closing his speech the Governor made a strong plea for education, saying this was the only way of maintaining the liberty bequeathed by the fathers. He declared the education of the people to be the highest duty of North Carolinians and said that every citizen should be willing to make any sacrifice necessary for the education of every boy and girl in the state.

Governor Aycock was followed by Mr. R. F. Beasley, editor of the *Monroe Journal*, formerly editor of the *Greensboro Telegram*, who delivered a learned and scholarly address on the battle of Elizabethtown, which was fought in Bladen county in September, 1781. This is a portion of important North Carolina history of which little is known, and Mr. Beasley's address displayed much thought and patient research. In this battle seventy brave and fearless men of eastern Carolina met and overwhelmed 400 trained British soldiers. Bravery supplanted the place of numbers and won for those seventy half-famished Whigs undying fame.

After the speaking the beautiful Colonial column and the monument to Col. James Morehead were unveiled with appropriate ceremonies. The Colonial column is the first monument erected to the memory of the men who fought at Alamance and who made memorable the few years just preceding that battle. The monument to Col. James Morehead, who was an officer in the Tenth North Carolina Continental line, and who was in the battles of Stono and Elizabethtown, was erected by his kinsmen, Col. James T. Morehead, Maj. Joseph M. Morehead and Capt. R. P. Gray.

A pleasing incident of the celebration was the presentation by Mr. D. L. Clark, the High Point artist, of a very fine oil painting of Maj. Joseph M. Morehead, the indefatigable vice-president of the Guilford Battle Ground Company. The presentation speech was made by Prof. M. H. Holt, of Oak Ridge. The painting was accepted by Dr. Charles D. McIver.

Judge Schenck, the venerable president of the Guilford Battle Ground Company, was too feeble to attend the exercises.