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The
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THE FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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THE FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF FLORIDA, 1856
THE FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Successor, 1902
THE FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, incorporated 1905
by GEORGE R. FAIRBANKS, FRANCIS P. FLEMING,
GEORGE W. WILSON, CHARLES M. COOPER, JAMES
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1929

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* * * To explore the field of Florida history, to seek and gather up the ancient chronicles in which its annals are contained, to retain the legendary lore which may yet throw light upon the past, to trace its monuments and remains, to elucidate what has been written, to disprove the false and support the true, to do justice to the men who have figured in the olden time, to keep and preserve all that is known in trust for those who are to come after us, to increase and extend the knowledge of our history, and to teach our children that first essential knowledge, the history of our State, are objects well worthy of our best efforts. To accomplish these ends we have organized the Historical Society of Florida.

GEORGE R. FAIRBANKS.

Saint Augustine, April, 1857

JOHN FORBES & CO., SUCCESSORS TO PANTON,
LESLIE & CO., vs. THE CHICKASAW NATION
A Journal of an Indian Talk, July, 1805

Chickasaw Nation.

July 17 [1805]. The Chiefs and Indians, General Robertson and Silas Dinsmoor of the U. S. assembled in Council 11 A M to make a treaty ; the business was opened by G. Robertson who requested the Nation to appoint their Interpreter. Malcolm McGee was then appointed ; the Commissioners then shewed to the Indians their respective commissions from the President which were acknowledged.

G. Robertson- The talk I now hold in my hand will explain the reasons that has brought Mr. Dinsmoor and myself to this ground. This after the desire and wish of your father the President. The talk was then read by Mr Dinsmoor stating that it was to relieve them from debt and to prevent a dispute that might happen between them and the Cherokees concerning land to which each had a claim &c-

18th-Major Colbert replied by disputing the claim of the Cherokees and on the other hand the good ad-

Note.-The original manuscript of this journal is preserved by Mrs. Heloise H. Cruzat of New Orleans, a descendant of John Innerarity of Pensacola, the last surviving partner of Panton, Leslie & Co. and its successor John Forbes & Co. Mrs. Cruzat has long been at work on the mass of colonial documents of Louisiana in the Cabildo at New Orleans, especially in abstracting and translating an *Index to the Records of the Superior Council*; this work, which is a synopsis of the records, is appearing continuously in The Louisiana Historical Quarterly. With the same skill she has transcribed this journal, and though parts of it have grown more or less illegible, all but a few lines are reproduced. For this work and for permitting its publication the editors express their thanks.

There will follow in an early number of the QUARTERLY a similar journal of John Innerarity himself recorded during a journey to the Indian country in 1812, and his observations at a like talk with the Creek Indians.

vice of their father, the President supported by the Commissioners and an Explanation of Treaties ensued. Major Colbert then demanded that the letter which I had proffered to read the day before from Mr. Simpson should be read. I got Col. McKee who happened to be here at this time to give out the sentences to the Interpreter, which he did with the greatest perspicuity, standing up beside him and explaining what I conceived not to be well understood by McGee.

General Robertson remarked that the letter from Mr Simpson has been read to you at your request; its purport you understand. We have unfolded freely our business with you ; we have concealed nothing from you that you ought to know.-

Major Colbert. We have frequently heard this debt of Panton Leslie & Co talked of by travelling people. I advised Mr Simpson, that if this debt was to be paid in land to come forward and make his demand. I have always thought that when one man contracted a debt he was bound to pay it. It was not right that this house should suffer. Those Indian debtors got from them value. I have told the house that we are indebted, that this claim ought to be paid. I sent a talk to them that if the Chickasaws sold land to pay this debt they would not sell in the same manner as the Chaktawz. In consequence of this we will now give as much land as will pay this debt provided we can agree upon a price.

General Robertson wishes to know what land they will sell and their price.

Maj. Colbert. Very good.

Majr. Colbert Begg that the President of the United States and the Merchants will have Mercy on his Nation in their present situation.-

Major Colbert. Last Winter we talked about the claim of Panton Leslie Co against the Nation. We possessed the same opinion at that time that we do now.-

23d July 1805. [*sic, indicating perhaps that this part was written up afterwards.*]

Major Colbert. We have agreed to pay the National debts now, when is the day we shall see the money to pay those debts.

General Robertson. Do you want an answer to the question now, or do you wish to proceed further, before we reply.

Major Colbert. Yes, we want an answer now.

General Robertson. So soon as the treaty shall be ratified, your order will be paid, for that on the whole amount stipulated for.

Major Colbert. Where will this money be paid.

General Robertson. The Merchants in Nashville will be glad to pay Money for Drafts on the treasury of the United States, or the money will be paid at bank as the parties may agree & I suppose whatever is due to you Merchants would be more conveniently paid at bank.-

Major Colbert. If the money could be paid near us, it would be more accommodating.

The Commissioners acceded that the money should be paid in the Chickasaw Country if required.

Major Colbert. It is the wish of our people, that if the house of John Forbes & Co Should hereafter Credit our people-they should be obliged to look to individuals whom they trust for their pay.

The Commissioners approved the proposal.

Major Colbert. I mean not that house only, but the Merchants in every part.-

J. Gordon for John Forbes & Co. [*sic*]

Jy 18th After the Commissioners retired from the Council at the request of the Indians who desired to be by themselves I took occasion to shew them the letter that Major Colbert had a reference to when he said that he had wrote to Mr. Simpson "that if the Chicka-

saws sold land to pay this debt they would not sell in the same manner as the Chactaws” George was then informed that this letter was wrote under a mistaken Idea, that the Chactaws wished to sell land to Individuals, which they had no power to do ; and could have no alusion to price for in fact the Chactaws had as yet sold no land, not even to the United States- I then took the letter and insisted that George should hear it read to know if it was the same letter he had sent, of which he said he had a copy, and if it contained his sentiments: I then read the letter, he said that it was the same he had sent and that it contained his sentiments- I then observed that Mr. Simpson believed in his talks ; and on that account furnished the Chickasaws with goods, referring at the same time to the Conclusion of said letter of the 10th Octr 1804- he said that the letter he had sent to Mr. Simpson [sic] a short time afterwards George called me into the Council and through the Interpreter Malcolm McGee asked. of us how it came to pass that the same amount still stood against Levi Colbert, P. Brown, McGillivray &c when they had paid off a part. -

I replied that those were just and true accounts two years since when they were drawn out; these were the very accounts that were shewn to their father the President, in order that he might form an Idea of the quantity of land that would be requisite for their payment; that I believed that the total amount, if the accounts were made out to this day, would be nearly the same ; for if some had paid off a part there were others who had got more in debt: that even if I had had the accounts drawn off at the very moment I set out for the treaty, they would not now be exact; because there were four or five traders in Mobile while I was on my way here (referring to Brown and McGillivray) and consequently they would have owed

more or less than the sum stated in the accounts I would have brought with me-all the House wanted was what was justly owing to it: and all they had to do was to sell upon the liberal terms now offered them, as much land as would be adequate to the payment of that debt; to propose selling for a less sum than \$12000 would not be worthy of the attention of their father, the President, and perhaps a lesser sum would not defray the debt- George desired me to read the debts of the Individuals, (which I had before, at his request read to him in private), I then read them-George observed that there were therein the Debts of

Malcolm McGee	50	
james Gunn	71	41/2
John McIntosh	24	41/2
James Allen	130	41/2
William Mizells	486	51/2
John Gilchrist	63	

These the Nation had no right to pay because they were not traders, also the debt of George Colbert which he had paid Turnbull and the debt of Zebulon Mathers

I replied the Debt of Mizells I will endeavour to recover; the others who owe but small sums I conceived had traded in a greater or lesser degree: as for Turnbull's debts; the House had honestly paid the money down for, I also thought that in answer to these objections, they ought to consider how long the House had trusted their property in their hands, without any other security than their own honor. I then read accounts due since 1792. In justice these accounts should bear interest but Mr Simpson left generously the payment of interest to your own option-

George Colbert said that it was all very well, but the Indians could never be made to understand anything about interest; he added: "I would think very hard if he put me into his corn field to work without pay; I have many things to look after at home but cannot attend to them on account of this treaty. If I bring

this business to bear, I shall have a claim on Mr Simpson and on the United States for my services."

I replied that Mr Simpson was grateful and would faithfully represent to him his services. I was then informed that I might leave the Council which I accordingly did-

19th All this day the Indians were from time to time in Council ; and the treaty from report was in a very wavering condition- I had a private conversation with George I told him that the high esteem Mr Simpson had for him, and that he considered him as his friend ; that Mr Simpson was liberal, and his services would be rewarded ; he told me that Mr Simpson would be paid and walked into the Council.

20th The Indians still in Council- after supper the Chiefs still sat till a late hour; I was called out of bed and asked how these accounts were not correct? that McGillivray and the Browns had paid. I asked them if the accounts rendered to these men did not show what they had paid? I was answered in the affirmative. I repeated what I had before said that it was now two years since these accounts were made out; they were made out in order to present to their father, the President, with those of the Chactaws- I was then asked how these accounts could be made out when they gave no orders to that purpose ; that their letter was only sent down to Mr. Simpson last fall ; they added this looks as if the House wanted to take advantage of us. I replied that it took some time to arrange those accounts and carry on business at the same time: that a merchant had a right to make out his accounts when he pleased, in order to have them in readiness; for they must be paid at some time and in some manner. But that these accounts were not carried to the President without their approbation nor before the receipt of their letter. that they ought to have a better opinion of the House of their friend Mr Forbes

than to suspect that he wished to cheat them after the many proofs they had of the correctness of the accounts rendered them and the fair and open manner that the House had always dealt with them ; that they would have conceived it very hard if in order to have these accounts correct at this day, the House had stopped their supplies. All Mr Simpson wants is the just debts to be paid, but he has long laid out of his money, he now wishes a speedy payment, and the only way to do it, is as he advises you ; let an order be drawn out for the amount of the money the nation appropriates for the payment of their debts to that House, say \$12000 payable to the order of that House ; I as their agent will give from under my hand that the accounts shall be justly settled, as they have always been, and the overplus whatever it may be faithfully remitted to the Nation. I will only add one word more- I wish you to recollect, as I have before said, how long has the House trusted their property in your hands and I would then ask why you should be afraid to trust the small sum that may be coming to you on settling in their hands?- George Colbert said that they did not think that the House wanted to cheat them, but they thought it hard that the Nation should pay the debts of those white men such as Mizells - I then offered that on having the order signed before the Commissioners, I would give them a paper expressly mentioning the names of those white men that they objected to, that their debts should not be included in the Nation's and that the House would take on themselves to recover them.-

George observed that it was difficult to make the Indians understand those things, that it was very late, and for this night they would retire to rest.-

21 - The Indians in Council all this day by themselves, in the forenoon a report was spread abroad that land for the \$12000 to pay the House was given

up by the Nation, equal to the quantity demanded by the Commissioners ; the Chief Ockoy having at last agreed as to the quantity, who had withheld his vote for a considerable time- In the afternoon the traders then went in Council to plead for the payment of their debts also; here stout arguments took place on both sides and they came to no conclusion for this day - during the debates as George was several times not in Council I endeavoured to talk with him, but could not without appearing to importuning on account of the flocks of Tennesseans which were continually with him and his brother Levi selling them callicoes, trinkets, &c., I then had recourse to Col. McKee who did not appear as an interested person and to whom George often spoke in confidence, to endeavour to make George understand the Business and Counteract the bad advice that I plainly perceived was given George by those Tennessee people : they had additional consequence by the Chiefs observing their intimacy with General Robertson, whose influence in this nation is extraordinary: add to this their coming with full pockets, and paying the expenses of this treaty for which George & Levi Colbert, were the Contractors, taking Bills from the Commissioners to be paid in Nashville &c &c.————

22d - This day the Business of the treaty came to a final conclusion, they gave up land for \$12000 to pay the House-and after loud debates Ockoy, who again stood single, gave up land to pay the traders also as per treaty: he then shook hands with General Robertson, & the treaty was to be made out & signed to-morrow-Ockoy then harangued the red men, which was not interpreted, but I understood through some of the Interpreters, that it was not to blame him for what they had now done, they had agreed by mutual consent to pay their merchants, & that the door was now open to them that they had also paid off their traders

and general satisfaction was spread throughout; but little of it fell to my share: my business was not settled & I was determined to have a conversation with George. I went to him with Malcolm McGee, to explain the order which Mr Dinsmoor drew out privately for me - I explained to him my intentions he replied that I was a man in which the House had placed confidence in, that certainly I had heard him tell General Robertson that we were to be merry to say & do no more business that he had rather too much whiskey in his head to do business & surely I would not wish to force a man in that condition to do business- I told him I was sorry for the intrusion & we would talk of it tomorrow- he agreed.-

23d The treaties were made out this morning, Col McKee was called aside by George and as Col. McKee afterwards told me asked his advice about giving the order, McKee told him that he was not an advocate in the first place-for the nation to pay the debt of individuals: but since they had promised and now performed they ought to go through with it like men; all that Mr Simpson wants is a speedy payment;-and it will be for his interest, as well as a convenience for the nation if you give an order in favor of your merchants-the Col according to my instructions told him he knew Mr Simpson to be liberal, this George seemed to wish explained in more unequivocal language, the Col. then said if the order is given, through your interest, I will be answerable that Mr Simpson shall pay you 400\$ for your services ;-the Col. told me he did not know for a certainty, but he was of opinion if I did not get an order for the whole, I would at least for a part perhaps 10,000 and probably for the whole, but advised me not to appear anxious or say anything to him on the business, until the treaty was signed about mid Day the treaty was signed and I saw the Chiefs would in a short time go off, I then

took George to one side, with, the Interpreter and endeavoured to read and explain the order but he interrupted me several times saying he understood it, I made out to tell him that the reason I put the sum of 12000\$ was that, that sum was given up by the universal consent of the nation, for the purpose of paying the House, and that I would give the paper stating that the accounts should be justly settled and whatever might be coming to them, should be given to them by the House: that I wanted both papers signed before the Chiefs, and Commissioners who are now present--- George said to let him finish one business before he began another-- I replied certainly: but I hoped that if he had not time now, that he would not forget this business.-he then went and talked to the General of a reserve he should have made in the Treaty, of some land for a man named John Gordon & Co. [sic] but the Treaty was signed and could not be altered.-

from this moment I saw, he, George only wanted to put off the finishing of my business. He at last called me to one side, along with Malcolm McGee, and told me that I might be sure of the payment of the debt due the House. I told him I did not doubt, but that the House would be paid: but it was a hard thing, that I should go home without any security to Mr Simpson for the payment of the debt - George said that the money was to be paid in the nation, and then the House should be paid, that they could not be paid before the money came.- I then asked George, if he meant that all the debts should be paid that may be due on the arrival of the money in the nation ; if so, what security (I demanded) had /the House for giving the nation a farther credit- George replied, he did not believe there would be much more owing when the money came, than the amount now due the House ; that he had sent his horse down twice for Articles ;

both times they had come up light: he had sent for salt, and could get none- I told him that we were entirely out of salt, at that time ; or it would not have been refused him- he, George, observed further, that the same thing was told the Indian, but when the Indian shewd he had a little money, some salt was found - I replied he might be assured that the Indian did not properly explain himself to have been sent by him, George, or of what little salt was there, he would have had a share--- George said, he only mentioned those things: they are not relative to the payment of the Debt due the House, which will be faithfully paid : and Mr Simpson has no reason to be uneasy about it-

I again urged the signing of the order; at the same time informing him, that the reason I was so pressing, was that the King and Chiefs were about to leave the Treaty Ground - George replied that after they were gone, he would still be there-here our conversation ended————

25. Nothing further was done until to-day when we had all moved down to James Colbert- the Commissioners were adjusting their accounts ; and designed to set out immediately- I then drew out an instrument as a kind of bond for George to sign, binding on him to have an order given, so soon as the accounts were settled, and for which purpose he was to have a man appointed and sent down to Mobile in 60 days from the date of the Instrument--I explained this to him through James Colbert, who has really been a warm and true friend to the House in all this difficult business. I thought then he would have signed it, before the Commissioners, but he desired me to go along with him to the Widow McIntosh, at the same time desiring General Robertson, to stay untill we came back. I found there Col McKee, and the Interpreter Malcolm McGee, who has great influence with George.

He informed me and the Col. he was going to write to Mr Simpson, and then wrote the Letter I carry with me, of which he took a copy. He, George, expressed himself seemingly with the strongest language and said so soon as the money came, he would write to Mr Simpson, and that moment (knocking at the same time with his whip on the ground) the money shall be paid : the Col thought this letter was as good a security as I could expect, and as good as George had the power to give: this letter was interpreted by McGee and read to him, who acknowledged the letter, ascertaining the true sentiment of George Colbert.

ELOTCHAWAY, EAST FLORIDA, 1814

In 1811, when war clouds between the United States and Great Britain were gathering, the United States sent commissioners to Spanish Florida seeking a temporary cession to prevent its occupancy by the British in case of war. As might be expected Spain would not consent to such an arrangement, whereupon General George Mathews, representing the United States government in this negotiation, devised a plan to bring about a cession through the medium of a revolution of the inhabitants of East Florida, who would be assisted by residents of Georgia and by the regular armed forces of the United States. Such an occurrence actually took place in East Florida, and from March, 1812, to May, 1813, United States troops held possession of the province, except the fortified town of St. Augustine. The incident is known in history as the Patriot invasion, as the revolutionists called themselves "Patriots" in the cause of freedom. They organized the "Territory of East Florida," with John H. McIntosh Director; Daniel S. Delany, Secretary of State ; and B. Harris, President of the Legislative Council.

In the negotiations for the removal of the United States troops from Florida in the spring of 1813, the Spanish government agreed to grant amnesty to those of its citizens who had been associated with the revolution. It is interesting to note the attitude of the revolutionists in this particular, as expressed in the following proclamation : ¹

¹ This and the following quoted documents are from copies in the possession of the Florida Historical Society, unless otherwise noted.

EAST FLORIDA

A proclamation

Resolved, unanimously, that the Legislative Council view with disdain & abhorrence the proffer of pardon by the corrupt Government of St. Augustine : that they will and do pledge their reputation & property, to support the glorious cause in which they are engaged, & persist until they secure the safety, independence, & liberty of themselves & Constituents.

Patriots of East Florida!

At last the corrupt Government of St. Augustine has come forward with a proclamation offering “amnesty to the Insurgents who have co-operated in the invasion, (falsely so-called), of East Florida.” Weak must be the mind that can have the least dependence upon a promise so hollow & deceitful. Can anyone believe that such a corrupt, jealous, & arbitrary Government will adhere to promises however sacredly made? Will they not screw every title of your property from you under the pretext of making retribution for damages done to Individuals who have adhered to their oppressors? Aided by a venal Judge, supported by a cruel Government, your enemies will harrass you as long as a cent remain with you. But it is needless to dwell upon the subject. The pardon no doubt has been manufactured in St. Augustine--the Government of Spain knows nothing of it--it is designed to entrap the unwary, thinking that you are depressed by the rumor (however false) that the troops are to be removed.

Can you? Will you, in poverty become the sport of Slaves & the abhorred Army in St. Augustine? It has been unanimously resolved by the Legislative Council, that they in their representative & individual capacity, will not receive the pardon so treacherously offered, but will proceed and act to the utmost of their power until liberty and independence are secured. We

call upon you all to unite, & by our joint exertions secure our safety, property, liberty, & independence. There can be but two parties: friends and enemies. Those that are not with us will be treated as foes. Measures are now & will be taken to punish vigorously those who basely desert.

Spies & Emissaries will meet their just punishment.

Done in Council, 30th March, 1813.

(Signed) B. HARRIS,

Prest. of the Legislative Council

DANIEL S. DELANY,

Secretary of State

JOHN H. MCINTOSH,

Director Terry. East Florida.

Immediately following the withdrawal of the American troops in May, 1813, we find "General" B. Harris and a body of erstwhile Patriots conferring with the Indians of central Florida who expressed great desire to be at peace with the Patriots, in consequence whereof a treaty was made whereby the Indians lost a large body of their best land in what is now Alachua and Marion counties.²

Next in the chain of procedure is a "Republic of East Florida," (supplanting the "Territory of East Florida" of the Patriots) with an "Elotchaway District" whose capital was "Fort Mitchell,"³ located a few miles east of the site of Ocala, probably near Lake Bryant. Here the "Legislature" met on January 25, 1814, and was addressed by the Director, General B. Harris, as follows:

² Gen. Pinckney to Secretary Monroe, *Secret Acts, Resolutions and Instructions* (Washington, 1860) p. 70. Also referred to in Vignoles, *Observations upon the Floridas*, (New York, 1823) p. 148.

³ Probably named for Gov. David B. Mitchell of Georgia who succeeded Gen. Mathews as Commissioner of Florida affairs.

To the Honorable Legislative: Council of the Republic of East Florida.

Gentlemen: I congratulate you, as being the first Legislative body, assembled in the District of the Elotchewan Country, a quarter of the Continent heretofore the lurking places of the most inveterate and troublesome savages, who have been instigated by British Influence, aided by many of the Slaves of the unfortunate Patriots.

The revolution which took place in March, 1812, has produced calamities of the most distressing nature. The Patriots have undergone many privations, opposed by the Spaniards, Negroes, & Indians, who have been supplied with the munitions of war by British emissaries. Very few instances of retaliation have been effected, & it is to be lamented that in defiance of the Laws & Regulations of the United States, that a certain class of people on the Sea Coast, who are engaged in an illicit trade, have been instrumental in multiplying our mode of retaliation, into crimes of the blackest dye. And at the same time are entirely unmindful of the losses sustained by the Patriots, and we hear no mention made of the unparalleled conduct of the Spaniards who have not spared even the unprotected Widow and Orphan. But, Gentlemen, it is a subject worthy of remark, that the perfidy of our enemies is not concealed from the Government of the United States. And from information much to be relied on their Troops will shortly take an active part against our enemies.

It appears to be obvious, that the Patriots should from this place send forward a Minister to the President of the United States, vested with full and ample powers, to cede this Country to the United States, & at the same time to offer on the part of the Patriots, to engage in the contest with the United States against all his enemies.

It will now become necessary for the Council to

provide ways and means, for the encouragement, support & protection of the Inhabitants of this District.

The necessary regulations to promote good order, and a due subordination to the laws of this Republic I trust will receive your most serious considerations.

The appointment of a Contractor ⁴ for the Patriots will be necessary, as also the appointment of judges of the Inferior Court to fill vacancies.

I have the satisfaction to state to the Council, that from my present impressions there is a sufficient supply of provisions on hand, to serve the Patriots until the ensuing crop comes in, provided there is no waste committed.

Be assured, Gentlemen, of my readiness to aid every measure for the prosperity of our Infant Republic, while I remain,

Your obt. servt,

B. HARRIS,

Director.

The communication of the Director was followed by a Resolution of the Legislature, setting forth the calamities that had befallen the Patriots and urging the appointment of a "Minister Plenipotentiary" from the Republic to the Congress of the United States. In all of Florida's varied and assorted history this appears to be the only "Minister Plenipotentiary" on record.

By the Legislative Council of Elotchaway District, in the Republic of East Florida, A Resolution, to wit:

Fort Mitchell, January 25, 1814.

The Legislative Council of the Republic aforesaid, considering the various dispensations of divine Providence experienced in this (not long since) solitary wilderness, in the course of the two past centuries,

⁴ The duties of the contractor were to supply food and rations for the army-a sort of commissary-general.

and when we view the situation of the former Inhabitants compared with those that now possess the soil, we are ready with every expression of gratitude to the All-wise disposer of Events, to acknowledge, his Providential hand in bringing us into the Possession of this most Fertile and in other respects most desirable part of North America.

It is a fact within the knowledge of the enlightened Inhabitants of the United States, that fruitless and unavailing have been the various efforts made to cultivate the minds & reform the manners of the Savage Race found by our forefathers, upwards of two centuries ago in possession of the whole limits now claimed by the United States and the Citizens of this Republic. Their heathenish principles still remain in them, & their cruel practices are the same. Unprovoked and in violation of their solemn treaty they in August, 1812, approached our settlements and with unrelenting hands, shed the Blood of our Fellow Citizens, carried off from the Patriots large numbers of their slaves, and pursued and killed others within the limits of Georgia, destroyed large quantities of other property and spread desolation and destruction wherever they found the unfortunate inhabitants of this Republic. All which depredations were committed by these savage and brutal hands at a time when they had but just before appeared most in amity with the people of this Republic and the Citizens of the United States.

The Citizens of East Florida having had their dwelling houses laid in ashes, their other buildings & their fences enclosing their farms destroyed and also being deprived of every Article of Provision, they, in order to preserve their own lives and those of their Families fled for shelter into the State of Georgia. At length gathering in a band, aided by the brave Colo. Newnan and their kindred in flesh and blood from

various parts of Georgia, they pursued the enemy into their own Territory and avenged the blood of their butchered friends. The savages in the action alluded to, under Payne their leader and king was put to the route, & with the loss of their blood, their lives & their king fled without the country that we now possess & for which we are bound to contend. And when we view our situation so contiguous to the United States and many of us raised within her boundaries and under her wholesome laws, we feel it to be our duty, and are grateful for an opportunity in a Legislative capacity to make a formal application to that Government to be ceded to the general Union as a Territory of the United States in a manner that shall ensure their aid and protection and instill them to our services on any legal application to meet the common enemy in the field.

Therefore, be it Resolved by the Legislative Council of the District of Elotchaway, in the Republic of East Florida in General Assembly met, That Wilson Connor, Esq. be appointed a Minister Plenipotentiary from this Republic to the Congress of the United States of America with the full and ample powers and authority to cede to the United States of America, the District of Elotchaway in the Republic of East Florida on such conditions as shall be plainly expressed in the Commission of the said Wilson Connor, Minister Plenipotentiary aforesaid to accomplish the object contemplated in this resolution.

And be it further resolved by the authority aforesaid, that the application as contemplated in the foregoing Resolution be made without delay, and that the Communication of the Director of this Republic made this day to the Legislative Council of the District of Elotchaway in East Florida, and this Resolution with the Petition of the people be immediately forwarded in an official manner by our Minister Plenipotentiary

aforesaid to the Congress of the United States of America.

(Signed) FRANCIS R. SANCHEZ,
President Protempore.

Approved, January the 25th
day, 1814, and in the 2d
Year of the Republic.

(Signed) B. HARRIS,
Director.

The following petition to Congress for admission into the Union was signed by one hundred and five citizens. This document is of great historical value, giving as it does the names of so many Americans settled in the peninsular of Florida in 1814. Some of these names are still perpetuated in Marion and Alachua counties.

The Citizens of the District, of Elotchaway In the Republic of East Florida met at Fort Mitchell, in Latitude 29 and 14 mins. on the 25th day of January, 1814.

To the Congress of the United States of America.
Humbly beg leave to Represent:

That in consequence of the mild and pacific Government of the United States of America they notwithstanding their present flattering prospects, in their first attempt, to extend their settlement in this our solitary Country, feel it as a duty that they justly owe to the Government of the United States, at this early period not only to petition, not only to be ceded to the United States as a territory thereof, but to tender to them our services, as Soldiers now in the field, to aid the United States in her present struggle with the British Nation and her heathen Allies in North America. True some of us who are, Gentlemen, your present petitioners, were born within the limits of Spanish America, and others have lived many years

within the limits aforesaid, but in consequence of the various wrongs done to several of your petitioners, they are glad to meet the arrival of a happy day, to have it in their power to shake off the Spanish Yoke, and to assume to themselves, and they presume justly, the liberties designed by the Supreme Governor of the Universe, to be enjoyed by all his rational creatures. It is, Gentlemen, a fact worthy of remark, that at least three of your petitioners, and one of them a Native of St. Augustine by birth, have suffered in the hands of the Spanish authority in East Florida, in a manner not even conjectured by those who have not personally experienced the distress and calamity incident to a State of Confinement in a close dungeon, and all this for no other reason than a firm attachment to the American Government, which ever was, and yet is, felt by your own suffering petitioners. Others, Gentlemen, of your petitioners tho' living for years within the province of East Florida, had difficulties of the most serious nature to encounter in being deprived of the Worship of God. True, a man might worship the supreme being in private, or in his family in his own home, but public worship unless according to the established order, was strictly forbidden. Add to this, the Authority of East Florida did arm their negro slaves and furnish the Indians with munitions of War to scatter desolation and slaughter through the country, without regard to Age [&] Sex. At length our feelings were roused from a sense of the duty we owed to God, to our families and to one another. We flew to arms, and notwithstanding we lost an immensity of our property, and the lives of a number of Citizens in the first part of the struggle, it was not long before our drooping hopes were revived, by seeing a number of the troops of the United States in East Florida, and approaching the walls of St. Augustine. Believing that those troops were under the special orders of the

United States, our minds naturally looked forward to a happy day, when under the auspices of Divine Providence, aided by the arms of our American brethren, we might safely calculate on growing [gaining?] complete and final success. But not long before our hopes seemed for a moment to be blasted by the order for removing the troops of the United States without the Province of East Florida, we fled from the territory, leaving all behind in a state of confusion. Our farms, our stocks, we may add, our all of earthly property was left behind us.⁵ To resume; the sword in this enfeebled situation at that crisis, appeared impracticable, and to sit silent while our heathenish enemies were triumphing in their unlawful gain was more than we would bear. Over-more we flew to our arms, determined to avenge the wrongs done us by the enemy or die like men.

So far we have succeeded & we are encouraged to believe that the hand of the Supreme Being is with us, and that under his special guidance, we shall e'er long be a happy people in the quiet possession of one of the most desirable parts of the world. We are now 100 miles south of Camp Pinckney, & within a few miles of Lake George-a water of the river St. Johns. We have 150 men at the fort and in the country now in service, and our number is daily increasing, and we venture to say that we hold the country or die like men. We dread no enemy; the United States only can route us, and as our bretheren we know they will not lift the sword against us. We hope, Gentlemen, that our Minister will be revived [received?] by you, & the object of his mission fully accomplished. We long for the arrival of a happy day when we shall be called on by the authority of the United States, as a territory thereof, to join his army to execute his orders & to

⁵ This refers to the collapse of the Patriot revolution of 1812-13.

show the world that the sons of America are bound to live free.

Signed at Fort Mitchell, Jan. 25th, 1814.

James Stafford	Jeremiah W. Daniel	Mark Atison
William Emmons	Thomas Prevatt	Jas. Osteen
David Cooper	Shadrack Moody	Isaac Osteen
Thomas Clark	Isham Hogan	Cornelius Johns
James R. Woodland	John Hogan	Wiley Harris
John U. Nalpus	Jeremiah Moody	William Johns
Solomon Lowry	Henry Hogan	Isaac Johns
John Bohannon	Jno. Gorman	Charles McKinny
Duncan Bohannon	Edward Dixon	William F. Murrie
Samuel Lamartin	Alexander Eliot	David Davis
Giles Ellis	Levi Callen	Abner Stubbs
Henry Tutchstone	J. M. White	John Bailey, Jr.
John Uptegrove	Danl. Blue	Shadrack Stanley
Francis R. Sanchez	Wm. Niblack	Wm. Stanley, Sr.
Ezekiel Alexander	Fredk. Slade	William Stanley
Joseph Crockett	David Hogan	Lewis Dewitt
David B. Williamson	Stephen Williamson	Jno. Bennett
T. Hollingsworth	Absolem Barden	James Hayes
Thos. Theop's Woods	Britton Knight	Benj. Hayes
Jones Bevan	John Doyal	Jessee Corker
Henry Nicholas	Hardy Lienier	David Baggs
Zachariah Roberts	Jas Lienier	William Gibbons
Enoch Daniel, Sr.	John Slade	Donald McCrummen
Robert Daniel	Capt. A. McDonald	Saml. Alexander, Cl
Simion Dell	Lt. Pliny Sheffield	Danl. Sauls
Wm. Daniel	John Mizell	Jos. Durriener
Robt. Purie	George Martin	Harmon Hollimon
Enoch Daniel Jr.	Jas. Nix	Ezekiel Stafford
Jno. Stafford	Jose Silver	Geo. W. Henderson
A. Broadaway	Nathaniel Stevens	Michael Henderson
Mascey Dell	Stephen Stevens	Wm. Underwood
Allen McDonald	Wm. Cone	Allen Sauls
Thos. L. Hall	Jacob Summerlin	Wm. Rollerson
Benjamin Moody	David Lang	Burton Lowden

JAMES DELL.

***Colo. Comdg. the Patriot
Forces of East Florida***

McKEENE GREENE

WILLIAM DUNENER [Durriener?]

[Endorsed on back of sheet] :

Representation to Congress signed by 105 of the Citizens of the district of Elotchawan and by James Dell, Colonel Commandant of the patriot forces of East Florida. Met and signed at Fort Mitchell in lat 29 14 on the 25th Jany. 1814.

Wilson Connor, Florida's first and only Minister Plenipotentiary, started for Washington with the foregoing documents on February 15th. A month afterward he reached Louisburgh, N. C., and wrote Secretary Monroe as follows:

To Honorable James Monroe Esq.

Sir : Being appointed by the Legislative Council of East Florida, to repair to the City of Washington, with full and ample powers to cede to the Government of the United States, the District of Elotchaway in the Republic of East Florida, and receiving a special Commission for that purpose, I on the 15th of the last month set out for the seat of your Government, where I expected to have arrived before this, but thro' indisposition & other unavoidable circumstances occurring, I have not been able to prosecute my journey, & least my delays should be attended with some unpleasant consequences, I have thought it most advisable to make a stand at Louisburgh, Franklin County, North Carolina, and send on my official documents to you, in order Sir, that you may in time, lay them before your Government, for their deliberations. I shall continue, Sir, at this place until I receive an answer from you, expressive of the sense of Congress on the subject, which I hope Sir, will be as early as possible. And should the determination of Congress be favorable to my mission, I will Sir without delay repair to Washington, or any other place, that you may see proper to name.

I have the honor to be Sir, with high consideration
Your Most Obt. Humble Servt,

WILSON CONNOR.

Honl. James Monroe Esq.
Secy. of State.

15 March 1814

The American government at the time was busily engaged in the war with Great Britain, and Secretary Monroe, sadly familiar with the recent complete failure of the Patriots and knowing the uselessness of another attempt at that time, in all probability discouraged the Minister Plenipotentiary of the District of Elotchaway in the Republic of East Florida from visiting Washington.

The District of Elotchaway comprised about 350,000 acres. Regular surveys were made and numerous claims staked out.⁶ The lines were carefully run and marked and were mute evidence for many years⁷ of another abortive attempt by Americans to wrest East Florida from Spain.

T. FREDERICK DAVIS

⁶ Forbes, *Sketches of the Floridas* (New York, 1821), p. 125

⁷ Vignoles, p. 148

THOMAS CAMPBELL to
LORD DEANE GORDON
An Account of the Creek Indian Nation, 1764
On Board the Dragoon
Portsmouth Harbour 14 June 1767

My Lord

Agreeable to my promise I send your Lordship a short account of my journey among the Indians with the situation of their country and some of their customs. With Sir John Lindsay's leave the twentieth Novemr Sixty four, in company and conjunctly with Mr. John Hannay, I sett out from Penzacola intrusted with talks from the Governor Johnstone and the Superintendent of the Indian affairs to the Kings, Chiefs, and leading men of the upper and lower Creek nation. We were eleven days upon the Path every evening putting up by some River or creek about sunset, turned out our horses, made a fire, dressed as much provisions as served us that night and next morning, spread our blankets and went to sleep. Earlie in the morning our guides would search, bring in, and pack our horses. We generally set out about eight in the morning, were obliged to travel slow and continue it all day as our horses were very bad. Thus we traveled till we came to the Muchlassah Village, which bears north from Penzacola two hundred and thirteen miles. As we went from the sea, the land improved in a slow and equal proportion, most perceptible by the sides of creeks and gullies, where both the trees and the canes as we

Note.-The original of this letter is preserved by Sir Arthur Grant of Monymusk, Scotland; to whom, and to Mr. George Cole Scott of the Virginia Historical Society, grateful acknowledgment is made for copies of this and other documents relating to British Florida. The rarity of extant letters of this period and territory adds to its already high value as source historical material.

advanced into the country increased in strength and number. Near the sea Your Lordship knows is pine barrens with a few dwarf oaks, and in the swamps there are a variety of Laurels, vines live oaks and cedars others. We got about thirty miles from Pensacola Fort where we halted. The second night we found the swamps filled with Reeds, the leaves of which our horses fed upon very well. In shape they resemble the Palmetto but of a much livelier green colour ; at the same we found a few chestnut trees and great deal of Sassafras and Golden Rods. We found many large pine trees lying across the road which kept us from traveling above twenty miles a day, they seemed to have been blown down as the roots were torn out of the ground. About fifty miles from Pensacola there is a pine barren, two or three miles of which is entirely clear above and many pine trees which grew, lay most irregularly upon the ground, where they appear to have been driven by some violent hurricane or earthquake. We crossed a great number of creeks, but only swam our horses over two, and found a large tree laid across each on which we carried over our provisions and blankets. When we got about an hundred miles up the country, we passed over several hills some pretty steep, but none high. We then passed through some large thick cane swamps, near a mile abroad, the canes near thirty feet high, with leaves and small branches from the root to the top. The horses and black cattle feeds entirely upon them all winter, in the Creeks nation, and keeps very fat. We passed different sorts of land, large tracts pretty clear of under wood & filled with red and white large oak trees, the scaly and smooth Heat berry, Dogwood & Sassafras, Chestnuts Spruce and yellow Pine tree, Sweet Maple or the Sugar trees, Mulberry and Plum trees, large gum trees, Cedar & Cypress generally in the swamps, the last very large, and the bark is used for covering of

houses. Between these & the cane swamps are Pine barrens and about fifty miles before we came to the first village we passed through a most delightful country. The fields large even and open and surrounded with their strips of Planten & varied by large avenues running from East to west, of which we could never see either end. When we went up the grass was all burned, but coming down it appeared most Beautiful. Upon our arrival at the Muckleassah the Wolf Kings village, they had up English Colowers, and he & the old men came to the traders house we put up at. A man who had been long among them spoak their language well, and was appointed one of our interpreters. After the Chief first, and the rest in turn had taken us by the hand, we all sat down, and after remaining silent for some minutes in order to rest and recollect, a custom they never neglect, the Wolf told us as we had traveled & must, be fatigued, he would ask no questions that night to trouble us, but would go home & send us some Refreshment. He took his leave and the rest followed, & immediately sent us some very fine boiled corned beef with sweet potatoes roasted, which were very acceptable ; next morning they came to us, and after being acquainted with the intent of our coming among them, said they were glad to see us, but that most of their Chiefs and other head men were bunting in the woods, and that there were none left in their towns & villages but old men & women & those unable to beare the fatigue of traveling and it would be some time before they would come in and we should have an opportunity of calling them together. We remained til the first of May and in that time traveled through most of their villages, & found what they told us to be true. When the head men were all come in we called two publick meetings, & delivered them what we had in charge, with which they were very much pleased, and most of the Chiefs & Princi-

pal men of Both the uper and lower Creek villages came down with us to the Congress at Penzacola the June following. The upper Creek villages lays mostly between and upon the Tallypoose and Coose Rivers, which form a bite of about forty miles broad, and joined little below the Alabama Fort, from which place they run into the head of Mobbille Harbour ; by this river the French sent up a large Canoes and supplied their Fort with gunes ammunion and men. The Banks of these Rivers are in many places high and steep and those parts which are low are mostly thick cane swamps. The ground is in general rich. The nation is bounded by our settlements upon the East, by the Cherrokees on the north East, the Choctaws on the west, the Chiccasaws on the north, and north west, and East and west Florida on the South. They have a great many small creeks that run across the country. Their villages & plantations are always near a running water. They begin to plant corn, Beans and Sweet potatoes the beginning of Aprile and the end of March, all the men and women gos into the field together without distinction and hoe and inclose for the use of the Village, which is distributed when ripe to the different families, in proportion to their number. Their Grounds are very rich as they seldom change and never manure them and have generally good crops and they depend so much upon it, as to Plant no more than just serves from one year to another. When they have a bad crop they must be in great distress, as Indian corn is their chief food all summer which they use in many different ways ; by beating to fine flower in a large wooden mortar they make bread of it ; by parching before it is made into flower they make homeny or Potage ; and by preparing it not quite so small, and Boiling it with oak or Heckerry ashes, they make their drink which. is mostly used all summer, the salts which is in the ashes makes it ferment after boiling which gives it an agree-

able tartness, makes it cool, refreshing wholesome and fit for that hotte season. About the beginning of Aprile the fields begins to look very agreeable. The peach trees plum trees of many different sorts are in Blossom. The dogwood trees, the Sweet Smelling Shrubs, of which they have great variety are in full bloome, the Red birds, Blue birds and nightingles sing sweetly all day and in the night the woods re-sound with the most wild noise of beasts birds & reptiles; the beginning of May they are obliged to weed from the Indian corn the wild onions which grow very thick among them. At this time the wild strawberries are ripe of which fruit they have great plenty. They are very near as large as our common garden ones, very sweet and have a delicious flavour. They have very good horses between the English and Spanish breed and a great many of them run wild about the woods and increase fast. The black cattle, sheep and goats increases fast. They have not many at present as they got them but lately among them. The Wolf has got about two hundred head of Black cattle most of which he has given to his children for fear they should be killed after he dyes. They have great plenty of hogs of a good kind which are best in December when they live intirely in the woods upon acorns, Chesnuts and roots. In every village they have fowels, and during the winter the River & ponds are filled with wild fowls. Their meats are many, but what they live mostly upon when hunting in the woods is Dear, Bear, Beaver, Buffalo and wild Turkeys, but when they are hungry they will put up with: possums squirrels, racoons, Foxes or any other creature comes in the way. Their meats must be very much boiled or Roasted before they will eat of it; the most common way they dress it is upon a stick put up before the fire and some distance from it, which dries out the juice gradually and makes it keep for monthes. They sometimes boil

it into Broth with Indian corn. The men are in general middle size well limd and clean, made with features serious, manly and agreeable. The women are short thick and strong in proportion, and some of them very handsome. They give their children great indulgence ; their sons they teach to bear with patience cold, heat, hunger and to dispise all fatigue, to live without fire or any other food except a little parched Indian corn for several days, when they have the least expectations of surprising an Enemy for attack as their Game, by stealth ; when at ware they generally are in parties of twenty or thirty, sometimes fewer. They never ask any but their own family or clan to go with them and these they only acquaint they are going out against such a nation and will remain a certain time at such a creek or hill where those who have a mind will find them. Their prisoner they often kill in a very cruel manner, and the wemen assists and are worse then the men. This seems not however to be their natural disposition for they are compationate and asist each other when in distress and are hospitable to strangers where they have no suspicion of their having desins against them. They are jealous of our growing power from the quick increase of inhabitants on our settlement, and cultivation of their neighbouring lands. They have been for several years past laying up stores of powder, Balls and other necessaries, knowing it is impossible they can continue long in peace, for no Indian is looked on as a man til he has killed and scalped. They have within these few years killed several of our subjects and never given the least satisfaction. This makes the young men presumptuous and the old provide cautiously against the evil they cannot avoid. It lays with the family injured to revenge their own quarrel. If a man is killed his family will revenge it upon him who committed the murder, but if he escapes they will kill one of his fam-

ily and none of the rest of the tribes will offer to inter-fear. The customs and superstitions among them are many, the Laws few, but tho in an irregular and confused manner yet almost always put in execution. The women before marriage have a right to do or act with the men as they please, but if they should transgress after bound in wedlock the parties concerned have their ears and hair cutt off and beat often till left for dead. At a certain time the women neither eat sleep or live in the same house with their husbands. When they go out to hunt none asks where they are agoing or how long they intend to stay, that depends intirely upon the success they have; they take horses sufficient with them to carry their provision, Blankets & nives. The head man may call a publick meeting, but any tribe may go to warr without consulting the nation, none but near Relations enquire after the Sick, and the name of the deceased is never mentioned ; when a man dyes they bury his gun, shot, pouch and blankets with him, Shoot his horses & dogs and put from their sight any thing that was his. They have publick square in every village where all councils are held, the sides are about forty five feet, and each is divided into their cabins covered with cane mats, they sit on these according to their different Ranks, which they acquire by the number of scalps they have taken. They do not begin to speak immediately when they sit down in the square & never upon publick business til they have smoacked & handed about a certain Black drink called cassina ; never but one speak at a time, the rest give silent and serious attention. They have a great feast called the Busk some time in July to prepare for which they fast, Phisic, and keep from their wives four days; they then burn of the new corn and of Venison & put out all the old fire & make anew before they will eat of the first fruits. The new, fire is made by rubing two dry sticks against each other. There are many

other ceremonies attending this great feast. man may put away his wife and a woman her husband but she is not at liberty whatever time she and her husband parted til after the Busk ; a woman must remain four years single after the Death of her husband & her freedom begins from after the Busk, the fourth year. I will tire your Lordship no more about the Indians. I received a letter from Mr. Ried by the active Is dated the 23rd of March in which he mentions Capt. Murray being very well and that Mr. Goold has got ten shillings & a servant added to his former salary for Surveying. I desine bark from my Gaurd Ship the first of July next, and expect to remain some time on, shore as it is just ten years since I first came into the marines, nine I served on board of ship, seven of which was in the West Indies, and got my Corn. Several officers have been put over my head, one lately who had been at Patagonia, if that was the certain road to promotion in our service I should be very happy in going, but I believe it entirely depends upon interest of which I have very little or none.

I beg your Lordship will not be at the trouble of writing to me but if it is in your power to assist in my promotion without taking from your own friends I should be layed under the greatest obligation. I wish your Lordship all health and happiness and remain with true respects and esteem.

Your Lordship
Most obedient and most
humble servant
Thomas Campbell

Lord Deane Gordon

JOHN FORBES

(d. 1783)

(First Church of England clergyman in East Florida, member of the King's Council, Judge Surrogate of the Court of Admiralty, Assistant Judge of the Common Law Court, Chief Justice.)

John Forbes was probably, born in Scotland. He received his education at King's College in old Aberdeen, where he passed through the ordinary course of Greek, mathematics, and philosophy, and attended lectures in divinity. The University of Aberdeen conferred on him the degree of Master of Arts in the spring of 1763 ; the principal and masters certifying at that time that he had "behaved with great Modesty & Dis-cretion, was diligent in his Studies, & made very good Progress in the different Branches of Learning." On the 16th of May, 1763, he was recommended to the bishops of the Church of England for ordination to the ministry; and was soon afterwards ordained deacon and priest.

When Florida became a British possession, the boundaries of East and West Florida were fixed by royal proclamation. There were hardly more than seven thousand inhabitants in the newly acquired territory, and they were gathered principally in the towns of St. Augustine and Pensacola. With the Spanish cession, there was a considerable loss of population; and, as a result, the English government took measures to attract settlers. Parliament promptly made provision for the appointment of four ministers of religion and two schoolmasters. ¹

¹ Public Record Office, Colonial Office, 5:563.

John Forbes was the first clergyman licensed to officiate in East Florida. On May 5th, 1764, he gave the customary bond "to be conveyed in some ship or vessel to the said province" within three months, his destination being St. Augustine.² He must have arrived on the scene very shortly, as he wrote in September, 1775 :- "I have resided constantly in this warm climate for above eleven years, and I find my health and constitution greatly impaired."³ In another letter he said:- "I have from the establishment of the civil government of this province officiated as Minister of St. Augustine."⁴

He was conscientious in the discharge of his parochial duties. His field was a difficult one and the territory quite extensive ; besides, he was the only English clergyman in East Florida during the greater part of the British occupation. In fact, he was the one minister of the nine appointed to the two Florida provinces who remained throughout practically the whole period. The others stayed a short time and moved to other fields or returned to the mother country. But Mr. Forbes faced the situation with courage and resolution. Once a year he generally visited "at a considerable expense and great fatigue" the most remote parts of East Florida. In a letter to Governor Patrick Tonyn (September 26th, 1775), he said :- "A desire of being useful to the people among whom I have for some years lived, endeavoring to inculcate the principles of Christianity and a regard to order and subordination has Sir, I assure you, induced me to refuse advantageous offers of settling in a more healthy and less expensive country. There having been in general no other clergyman in the province has tied me down more closely to constant residence and prevented me

² Fulham MSS., see Sources, post.

³ P.R.O., C.O. 5:555, p. 269.

⁴ *Ibid.* p. 467.

from applying in person to my friends to use their interest to obtain for me an additional salary or other encouragement." ⁵

A church was built in St. Augustine by 1766 ⁶ and a steeple designed in 1773. ⁷

On the 2nd of February, 1769, he was married in Milton, Massachusetts, to Miss Dolly Murray, daughter of the Honorable James Murray of Boston. ⁸

As one of the few educated men in the province, Mr. Forbes soon proved an asset to the local government. He was made a member of the Colonial Council by Governor Grant; this appointment was confirmed by act of the Privy Council, 7th June, 1771. By July, 1774, he had become sole Judge Surrogate of the Court of Vice-Admiralty and Assistant Judge of the Courts of Common Law in the province ; for some months he had served in the absence of the Chief Justice. Of his preparation he writes :- "In the improvement of a regular and expensive education I have paid particular attention to the elements and principles of law, and since my appointment to these honourable trusts I have been at pains to qualify: myself for the honourable discharge of them". ⁹ Governor Tonnyn's regard for him is shown in a letter which that official wrote to the Earl of Dartmouth, October 23rd; 1775, after Mr. Forbes had requested leave to visit England. "I could not consent to Mr. Forbes requisition, without the highest imprudence. The official execution, of the law department, of this Province, stands at present in certain predicaments; if an opinion in the Law be wanted, I can alone depend on Mr. Forbes assistance for it unprejudiced, in many cases with impartiality." ¹⁰

⁵ *Ibid.* pp. 269-271.

⁶ Stork, *An Account of East Florida*. London, 1766, p. 33.

⁷ P.R.O., C.O. 5:553 pp. 68, 123; vol. 554, No. 29.

⁸ *Georgia Gazette*, April 5, 1769.

⁹ P.R.O., C.O. 5:555, pp. 467 ff.

¹⁰ *Ibid.* pp. 463ff.

In December, 1777, Chief Justice William Drayton was suspended from office by Governor Tonyn. Mr. Forbes was commissioned to act in his place till his Majesty's pleasure could be known. Thereupon he resigned the office of Judge of the Court of Vice-Admiralty, and took hold of his new duties. The files of the Public Record Office contain transcripts of some of the causes in which his name appears. His appointment was not confirmed, however; and a new Chief Justice, Mr. James Hume, succeeded him in 1779.

The growing intensity of the Revolutionary War involved the maintenance of a military force in St. Augustine. A regular army chaplain was assigned to the station ; but he officiated by deputy, and the deputy was Mr. Forbes.¹¹ So far as his parish work was concerned, Mr. Forbes never had a helper or substitute until the Reverend James Seymour, a Tory missionary who had left Augusta, Georgia, sought refuge in Florida.

The versatile clergyman was allowed leave of absence in 1783, after nearly two decades in the province. He returned to England bearing a letter from Governor Tonyn to Lord North, dated June 6th, 1783, and stating that he was "able to give your Lordship information."¹² His rest was of short duration: a note in the Public Record Office (November 10th, 1783) speaks of "ye Revd Mr Forbes lately deceased."¹³

EDGAR LEGARE PENNINGTON

***St. Andrew's Church,
Jacksonville, Florida***

SOURCES

The certificate of Forbes's University work and his missionary bond are among the MSS. of Fulham Pal-

¹¹ *Ibid.* 5:560, p. 495.

¹² *Ibid.* p. 662. See also note to *An Address . . . to Governor, Tonyn* in this issue of the QUARTERLY, p. 169.

¹³ P.R.O., C.O. 5:560 No. 12.

ace, London. Letters from Forbes, references to his work, and correspondence bearing on the claim of Drayton and Forbes to the office of Chief Justice may be found scattered through Volumes 555, 556, 558, 559, and 560 of the files of the **Public Record Office: Colonial Office: Class 5**. These may be consulted in the Stevens and Brown Transcripts in the Library of Congress. His marriage is noted in the Georgia Gazette (Savannah), 5 April, 1769. See also **Acts of Privy Council, Colonial Series**, Vol. V., p. 564.

ADDRESS TO GOVERNOR TONYN, JUNE, 1783

To His Excellency Patrick Tonyn Esquire
Captain General, Governor and Comman-
der in Chief in and over His Majesty's
Province of East Florida, Chancellor, Vice
Admiral and Ordinary of the same.

The humble Address of the Principal Inhabi-
tants of the said Province.

May it please Your Excellency,

We His Majesty's loyal Subjects, having fully and
dispassionately considered the calamitous state to
which we will be reduced by the cession of this Pro-
vince to the Crown of Spain, and the measures that
have been recommended to us by the Right Honorable
Lord Hawke, and the other proprietors of Lands resi-
dent in London, beg leave to address Your Excellency
requesting that You will be pleased to present our most
grateful acknowledgments to his Lordship, and them
for their early attention to our interest, and to inform
him that agreeable to his directions as many of us as
the time would permit have made Estimates and valu-

Note.-In this address there may be perceived something
of the shock and consternation resulting among the residents of
British Florida from the sudden intelligence that the country
was to be handed back to Spain and desuetude, and they were
to be homeless. The high historical value of the document, how-
ever, lies in that it is a list of "the principal inhabitants of
East Florida" at the time of the cession.

As the Reverend John Forbes (see *ante*) was the first
signer, and on this same day, June 6, 1733, was given a letter
by Governor Tonyn to Lord North stating that he (Forbes)
was "able to give your Lordship information"-which letter
he must have carried at once to England-and as this clergy-
man was an important figure in the colonial government and
high in the councils of the governor, it might be that the pur-
pose of his journey was to carry or accompany the address to London.

The original of this document is in the Public Record Of-
fice, London (Col. Of. class 5, vol. 560, pp. 625-629).

ations of our Estates, to request the continuance of that noble Peers interest, and to assure him that we will chearfully contribute our proportion towards de-fraying the expence that may arise in the prosecution of our claim.

We doubt not but Your Excellency has in the most forcible manner represented the advantages of this Country to His Majesty's Ministers, Being however deeply interested in its fate, we beg leave to suggest that could it be preserved under His Majesty's Protec-tion it would furnish comfortable habitations to His Majesty's loyal Subjects, and an asylum to those who will be disaffected under the American States.

From Your Excellencys long residence amongst us it becomes needeless to mention the numberless diffi-culties we have surmounted and the immense sums that have been expended in bringing this Country from an uncultivated wilderness to a respectable state of cultivation. The amazing progress it hath of late made, the Exports of Naval Stores Peltry and Lum-ber fully evince its utility to Great Britain, and to what consequence it might be raised were the more valuable uncultivated parts of the Northern and West-ern Coasts settled by men undoubtedly well attached to His Majestys Government, and who would glory in raising a progeny of the same principles. We humbly conceive that neither Nova Scotia nor the Bahama Islands can answer for commodious habitations to the owners of Slaves, and we are well informed that the West India Islands are overstocked. Besides, Sir, sen-sible of your Excellencys zeal for Government and at-tachment to the Mother Country it is with bleeding hearts we lament that many, of His Majesty's loyal Subjects, Soldiers, Sailors, and Husbandmen, sinking under accumulated misfortunes, and for want of such a residence as this Country if retained would afford will think themselves under the necessity of reverting

to the American States and thereby in the end reducing the strength of the Mother Country, and of seeing these American States growing upon its ruins by the industry of those very people who might be so beneficially employed in adding to the strength, and increasing the Commerce of Great Britain.

Your Excellency is sensible that prejudices have prevailed against this Country, that the Lands are well calculated for producing sufficient provisions for the maintenance of its inhabitants, and that they are fully capable of producing Rice, Cotton and Indigo for Exportation, that it abounds with Live Oak Timber fit for ships of war of any rate, that the Barrs of St. Augustine and St. John's are not unsurmountable obstacles to Commerce, and that the Harbour of St. Marys, Spirito Santo and Appalachicola are fit for every purpose of Commerce as well as for the reception of His Majesty's Ships, not to mention the advantage of furnishing the West India Marketts with several articles that must otherwise be supplied by the American States, and the intire loss of the numerous tribes of Southern Indians emerging from Barbarity, who would in peace consume our manufactures and increase our Trade, and in the late War have manifested a fidelity and attachment to the King and a disposition to act agreeable to the orders they received, which would do honour to a civilized nation.

Whatever the Event be Your Excellency may be assured that we ever shall preserve our Loyalty to the King and maintain a grateful remembrance of Your Excellencys exertions, and the good offices of our numerous friends in Great Britain, and humbly conceiving that our interest and that of the Mother Country are intimately connected-We are happy in our expectations from the late change in the administration that the Right Honorable minister at the head of the department actuated by that regard to justice and those

principles of humanity which ever influenced his conduct, will in his great wisdom adopt measures more beneficial to the interest of the nation at large, more adequate to our wants, and more suitable to our circumstances than any pecuniary consideration could prove.

John Forbes	Robert Spence
Thos. Brown	John Tunno
Henry Yonge	Alexr Barron
James Hume	David Yeats
Philip Moore	Peter Edwards
R. Kilsale	Thos Monteith
Will Chas. Wills	Thos Fraser Major S. C.
Geo. Robinsons	Patk Robinson
William Slater	John Holmes
Jno. Douglass	G. Ronpile
Jno Winicott	William Binnie
Thos. Waters	Jno. Mowbray
Will McKinnon	Benjn. Lord
Anthy Hutchins	Robt Scott
John Martin	Thos Hale
Thomas Dow	Benjn. Wallford
Thomas Withers	Mans. Moreas
Levi Allen	Geo. Grassell
Thos. Anderson	Peter Shirriff
Robt Smith	Edmund Mortimer
Jas Smith	Archd. McLachlan
John Clark	Josiah Tattnell
Barnard Humbar	Geo. Kemp
Robt Muffett	Jno Hamilton Lt. Col.
Colin McIver	R. Lawe
John Johnson	Sam Roworth
Adam Amoss	Lewis Fatio
G. Mackenzie	Alexr C. Wylly
Alexr J. Spiers &	Wm. Charleton Lt. R. Arty.
Patrick Crookshanks	T. H. Abbott, Capn. R. Arty
John Ross	Edward Abbott R. Arty
Willm Moss for self	James Hamilton
& Thos and James Moss	Alexr McCaskill
Elias Ball for self &	Francis Levett
Elias Ball Junr	Thomas McMain
James McMurray	Jno Leggett. Capt.
John Brown	Jos. Smith Capt.

Geo. Charleton	Farqn. Betheune
Joseph Manett	M. McIntosh
Jno Mullryne Tatttnall	Vichs Warrington
James Smith	Redmond Connell
Wm. Johnston	John McMain
Jas Campbell	Murdock MeLeod Surgeon
Spencer Man	Wm. Wylly Capt
Edwd Penman	John McDonald
John Wood	Chas. Stewart Lindsay
Andrew McMain	Jno O Halloran
Wm. Charlton Junr	Alexr Fotherningham
George McKenzie 60th Regt.	Lyfford Waldron
Daniel Manson Major	Thos. McDonald
Daniel McNiel	John Martin
R. Payne	Lewis Johnston Junr
Willm McLeod	John Johnston
Rodk McLeod	John Mitchell Junr
Thos Pan for	Lewis Kinnen Capt.
Denys Rolle &	Benjn. Douglass
Wm. Pengree	Donald Campbell Lt.
Thos Pan for self	John Kin
Wm. Panton for self	Donald Campbell Ensg.
& Chas. McLalchy	J. Manson Ensign
John Leslie &	Chas Prince Lt. R. Navy
Wm. Alexander	A. Campbell Capt S. C.
John Perpall	& & & &

***St. Augustine
6th June, 1783***

NOTES AND COMMENT

Prospects indicate a good attendance at the annual meeting of the Florida Historical Society, which will be held at Ocala on February 11, next.

The vicinity of Ocala holds a greater and more general historic interest than any other locality in central Florida. Much of its history throughout the earlier periods may be read in the sketch of the place by Mrs. Eloise Robinson Ott which appeared in the *QUARTERLY*, the issue of October, 1927. The journalists of Hernando de Soto's expedition make record of an Indian town in this neighborhood called Ocale, which must have given its name to the city of today. Nearby is the site of Fort King, the center of the activities of the United States army during much of the Indian disturbances in the 1830's; these are described in an article on the fort in the *QUARTERLY*, January, 1927. Here was held the Seminole council of 1834 with such direful consequences, a narrative of which council will be found in the *QUARTERLY* of April last. Within a few miles is the site of Fort Mitchell, the capital of the more or less imaginary Republic of East Florida of 1814-see the account of Elotchaway in this, number. No farther away is Silver Spring, a sight of which might well be the goal of a journey from any part of Florida. Most accounts of this marvel of nature, both old and recent, are filled with myth and mystery, much of which seems warranted ; but the description of Professor John Le Conte, written more than half a century ago, is divested of these and is perhaps as restrained and accurate as any:-

This remarkable spring is situated about five miles northeast of Ocala. . . . Its basin is nearly circular in shape, about two hundred feet in diameter, and surrounded by hills covered with live-oaks, magnolias, sweet-bays, and other gigantic ever-

greens. The amount of water discharged is so large that small steamers and barges readily navigate the Silver Spring up to the pool where there is a landing for the shipment of cotton, sugar, and other produce. . . . The maximum depth of water in the basin constituting the head of the spring was found to be not more than thirty-six feet in the deepest crevice from which the water boils up; the general depth in the central and deep parts of the basin was found to be about thirty feet. . . . The most remarkable and really interesting phenomenon presented by this spring is the truly extraordinary transparency of the water-in this, respect surpassing anything which can be imagined. All of the intrinsic beauties which invest it are directly or indirectly referable to its almost perfect diaphaneity. On a clear and calm day, after the sun has attained sufficient altitude, the view from the side of a small boat floating on the surface of the water, near the center of the head-spring, is beautiful beyond description, and well calculated to produce a powerful effect on the imagination. Every feature and configuration of the bottom of this gigantic basin is as distinctly visible as if the water was removed, and the atmosphere substituted in its place.

A large portion of the bottom of this pool is covered with a luxuriant growth of water-grass and gigantic moss-like plants, or fresh-water algae, which attain a height of three or four feet. The latter are found in the deepest parts of the basin. Without doubt, the development of so vigorous a vegetation at such depths is attributable to the large amount of solar light which penetrates these waters. Some parts are devoid of vegetation; these are composed of limestone rock and sand, presenting a white appearance. The water boils up from fissures in the limestone, indicating the ascending currents of water by the local milk-like appearance produced by the agitation of their contents.

These observations were made about noon, during the month of December-the sunlight illuminating the sides and bottom of this remarkable pool brilliantly, as if nothing obstructed the light. The shadows of our little boat, of our hanging heads and hats, of projecting crags and logs, of the surrounding forest, and of the vegetation at the bottom, were distinctly and sharply defined; while the constant waving of the slender and delicate moss-like alga, by means of the currents created by the boiling up of the water, and the swimming of numerous fish above this miniature subaqueous forest, imparted a living reality to the scene which can never be forgotten. If we add to this picture, already sufficiently striking, that ob-

jects beneath the surface of the water, when viewed obliquely, were fringed with the prismatic hues, we shall cease to be surprised at the phenomena with which vivid imaginations have invested this enchanting spring. On a bright day the beholder seems to be looking down from some lofty air-point on a truly fairy scene in the immense basin beneath him—a scene whose beauty and magical effect is vastly enhanced by the chromatic tints with which it is inclosed.