

### Interesting Relic.

We find in the last number of the *Culpeper Observer* the subjoined letter, addressed to General WASHINGTON by a citizen of Fauquier County, Va., in the year 1781:

ELK RUN, FAUQUIER COUNTY, Va., Jan. 20, 1781.

DEAR SIR: Gen. ARNOLD, with 1,800 men, is now encamped three miles west of this spot. They continue to exercise the most unheard of cruelty, indiscriminately, on men, women, and children, and wanton destruction of every kind of property. All eyes are turned to you for vengeance. It was only yesterday that SALLIE MERCALP was shot from her horse by a British sentinel, while she was endeavoring to make her escape. She is the wife of Capt. MERCALP, with whom you are well acquainted. I will help you with twenty mounted men, most of them good marksmen; and, if no objection is made, they would prefer to be near you, and bring with them their own rifles, in the use of which they will prove effectual. The bearer, JACK BROWN, 6 feet 8 in his stockings, though above the average, is not a very unfair sample of the remaining nineteen, who anxiously await your reply to this tender of their services, and hope you will accept the same in the manner they desire.

I would suggest that you retain JACK, and in his place send back TIM WEEDEN with your reply. For other information I refer you to Jack. I would trust my life in his keeping. With a high regard, your very humble servant,

HORACE RANDALL.

General GEORGE WASHINGTON, Philadelphia.

A few weeks since, says the *Observer*, in repairing a mantel-piece at Mount Vernon, an old letter was found, of which the above is a true copy. It had fallen through a crevice, and made a lodgment where, without the knowledge of any one, it has remained undisturbed for more than seventy years. What is most remarkable in connection with this letter is that *the writer is still alive, and still resides in Fauquier!* On being shown the letter he recognized the same. It was read to him by JAMES JEFFRIES. "Yes," said he, "I remember well. SALLY MERCALP recovered from the shot, and with her husband afterwards moved out to Kentucky. Her son was afterwards Governor of Kentucky. They moved out with Col. TOM MARSHALL, in 1793. Col. MARSHALL was Colonel of the Virginia Artillery of the Third Regiment, and fought at the Battle of Brandywine. Capt. JOHN CHILTON was under him and killed in that battle. LAFAYETTE had just been promoted; was then about 21, and was wounded at the same time. Col. TOM MARSHALL was the father of JOHN, afterwards appointed Chief Justice of the United States. He died about the year 1802 or 1803. We have seen his grave at Washington, Mason County, Ky., about five miles from Maysville." As Mr. JEFFRIES came to that portion of the letter in relation to JACK BROWN, RANDALL was brought to tears. He exclaimed, "My God! poor JACK BROWN; I was the cause of his death, just to gratify TIM WEEDEN's wife, who had not seen her husband for two years." Mr. JEFFRIES remarked, "You did it all for the best, in a good cause, and it should not disturb you; it shows the goodness of your heart." "Yes," said he, "those are precisely the words of General WASHINGTON to me about 18 months afterwards."

RANDALL has never received a pension for his services, of which he always speaks in a light manner. If not entitled to one, he at least deserves the gratitude of his countrymen. The original letter may be seen at the office of the County Court of Fauquier.