

**CELEBRATION OF THE BATTLE OF
KING'S MOUNTAIN, OCTOBER,
1855, AND THE ADDRESS OF THE
HON. JOHN S. PRESTON**

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Celebration of the Battle of King's Mountain, October, 1855, and the Address of the Hon. John S. Preston by John S. Preston

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JOHN S. PRESTON

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BATTLE OF KING'S MOUNTAIN,

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A D D R E S S

OF THE

HON. JOHN S. PRESTON.

TOGETHER WITH

THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETINGS AND ACCOMPANYING
DOCUMENTS.

YORKVILLE, S. C.

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King's Mountain Celebration.

PRELIMINARY MEETINGS.

From the Yorkville Enquirer, June 7, 1855.

IN another column of to-day's issue will be found the proceedings of the meeting held on the 4th instant, in relation to the King's Mountain Celebration. From unforeseen circumstances, the day was rather unfavorable to a large concourse of persons. During the last two or three weeks the rains have been almost incessant, and farmers were of course eager to embrace the first opportunity of bestowing necessary attention to their farms. Yet it was gratifying to the friends of the project to see such a goodly number in attendance. All portions of the district were well represented; and we doubt not the action of the meeting was a faithful reflex of the opinion of the entire district. It was truly encouraging, too, to witness the harmony that prevailed in the meeting. All present seemed to take a deep interest in the move, and the feeling as far as manifested was very decidedly in favor of the celebration, and that, too, on as grand a scale as possible. Quite a broad platform has been erected; but, from the character of the celebration in contemplation, it was important to provide sufficient room for all whom we earnestly desire to participate. It must be borne in mind that it should be a jubilee not of the district or state alone, but of the several states whose historic connection with the battle entitles them to full and equal participation with ourselves. The glory of the achievement is as much their heritage as ours.

The battle-ground is in our district, and the other districts of the state, properly enough, expected that we should take the initiative. But the whole plan and scope of the meeting was to make it a state affair, and committees were appointed in reference to that fact. Our citizens must not suppose that they will have to bear the whole burden of the day. The state would not be willing to accord to them such pre-eminent distinction, even if they were ambitious or presumptuous enough, as our neighbors would suppose, to aim at it. We have sufficient guarantees from numerous districts in the state to warrant us in the conclusion that they will gladly come to our assistance. We believe, too, our sister states—Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Kentucky—will cheerfully respond to the call that has been made upon them, and take up the line of march on a pilgrimage to the Mecca of their liberties. A general committee has been appointed on the part of the state, to solicit the co-operation of these states in the proposed celebration. We have an abiding hope that this committee, composed as it is of the most talented and influential men in the state, will exert themselves in promoting the object for which they were appointed. With our worthy chief magistrate as marshal, and the Hon. John S. Preston one of the orators of the day, by proper exertion on the part of the state committee the celebration will be alike creditable to themselves and the state they represent, and worthy the great event to be commemorated.

From recent demonstrations, we know the press will co-operate with us in this great undertaking. A number of the editors of this state, as well as North Carolina, have placed us under renewed obligations to them, for their zealous advocacy of the measure. If they continue to sustain it, with might and main, as we know they will, we have no fear of the result.

The re-union of the states on the ever-memorable spot, whose history covers with such peerless lustre their heroes and patriots, will open a well-spring of gladness deep and exhaustless. We meet as children of the same family, as joint possessors of the same heritage of fame. It should be a source of gratulation, that here all party bickering and dissension may cease, and no political commotion mar the interest and pleasure of the scene. Sordid and corrupt ambition would stand rebuked and abashed in the presence of the divinity of the place. We must yield to the more ennobling feelings of our nature while contemplating the

purest models of patriotism. The moral sublimity of the achievement is, beyond doubt, the most attractive feature in this splendid panorama of events. Occurring, as it did, so opportunely for the success of the cause then pending, it is invested with the semblance of divine ordination, and its claim is vindicated to be considered one of the most distinguished events in the annals of our revolutionary history. Defeat and disaster had weakened and dispirited the American forces—gloomy forebodings were entertained of disgraceful termination of the struggle after so many well-fought conflicts. But the victory of King's Mountain changed completely the tide of battle. These gloomy apprehensions were dissipated, desponding patriotism was cheered, victory after victory attended our arms, until at last the grand result of the battle of King's Mountain reached its culmination in the surrender at Yorktown.

PUBLIC MEETING.

In obedience to the call for a public meeting, a goodly number of the citizens of York district assembled in the court house, on Monday, the 4th instant, to take into consideration the project of a celebration of the next anniversary of the battle of King's Mountain. Hon. I. D. Witherspoon was called to the chair, and Samuel W. Melton appointed secretary. In a few pertinent and well-timed remarks the chairman stated the object of the meeting—that the citizens had been called together with the view of taking whatever preliminary action might be requisite to enlist the co-operation of the districts in this state, and the sympathy of the people of those states most intimately identified with the occasion, in order to the consummation of a celebration worthy of the day, and in keeping with the results attendant upon it—and in a truthful and forcible manner urged the adoption of measures best calculated to effect the purposes in contemplation. On motion of Colonel W. B. Wilson, a committee was appointed to report resolutions for the action of the meeting, and after a consultation, submitted the following:

Resolved, That it is expedient and proper to celebrate the anniversary of the battle of King's Mountain, on Thursday, the fourth day of October next.