

sorrow, which is the sincere desire of us. Signed on behalf of the meeting.

"WILLIAM FERRELL, Clerk.

"South Meeting House, 20th of the 12mo, 1767."

Charles Lynch was afterwards reinstated, but again turned out with one James Johnson for taking up arms in his country's defence.

In the year 1780-81, General Cornwallis sent Colonel Tarleton and his troopers into the Piedmont country of Virginia, where there were many Tories, who gave much trouble to the Revolutionary party. Frequent conspiracies were put on foot against the Commonwealth, thereby occasioning great loss and injury to the cause of the colonists. Seeing that the state could not afford necessary protection, Colonel Charles Lynch, Colonel William Preston, Colonel James Calloway and Captain Robert Adams enlisted as many men as could be got for pursuit and capture of the marauders. When taken, the prisoners were brought before Colonel Lynch—who had been made judge and jury by his neighbours—who inflicted summary punishment by flogging, imprisonment, and, in some cases, death, the law thus administered being called in honour of the judge "Lynch's Law." The respectable Tories of the country having been flogged, instituted suit for the infliction of such punishment, whereupon the General Assembly, in October, 1872, exonerated the judge of Lynch's Law by the passage of the following Act:—

"Whereas divers evil disposed persons in the year 1780 formed a conspiracy, and did actually attempt to levy war against the Commonwealth, and it is represented to the present General Assembly that William Preston, Robert Adams, Jr., James Calloway and Charles Lynch, and other faithful citizens, aided by detachments of volunteers from different parts of the state, did by timely and effectual measures suppress such conspiracy, and whereas the measures taken for that purpose may not be strictly warranted by law, although justifiable from the imminence of danger:

"Be it therefore enacted That said William Preston, Robert