

cerely that your Cornet has escaped, his conduct and resolution does him a great credit, and I wish I had it in my power to show him my sense of it by more substantial mark than this testimony, but the only mode I have is by offering him a Lieutenantancy of a provincial troop.' This Cornet Merritt declined.

"I shall conclude this detail with mentioning one more instance of the gallant behavior of Merritt, which it would be injustice to omit: Being obliged in an attack I made on the rebel partisan Snipe to approach the house in which he had his party, through a narrow lane, terminated within half musket shot of the house by a strong gate, which, I expected, would detain us some time to open, when it was probable their guard would fire on us, and as I was particularly anxious to prevent any kind of check with the troop I then had with me, I picked out Merritt, Corporal Frank and four men of my troop to proceed and make an opening for the detachment, which he effected with such readiness and spirit, that the passage was cleared by the time that the detachment could get up, although for that purpose, he had been obliged to dismount his party under the fire from their guard, and that the gate and fence on each side of it had been secured and strengthened, with an unexpected degree of care and attention. Col. Balfour, writing to me in the month of April. when I commanded at George Town, says, 'Being empowered by Lord Cornwallis to raise a troop of Provincial light dragoons, I have, for some time wished to try your Lt. Willson as captain and this gentleman as Lieutenant (meaning Cornet Merritt); they both have been recommended as good and active officers, and, if you agree with me in opinion that a troop could be raised in or near George Town I should have no hesitation in making the appointment.'

"Thus I have mentioned to you a few of the many meritorious services performed by the officers and men of my troop, when in Virginia and South Carolina. I regret much at my not having kept a journal during that time as it would now enable me to do more ample justice to those whose zeal, bravery and good conduct entitle them to my fullest and fairest report."

(End of extracts from Col. Simcoe's Journal.)

HAND TO HAND FIGHT

In an illustrated volume of "Interesting and Patriotic Incidents Strikingly and Elegantly Illustrated," published in New York in 1856, we find the following:—

"Colonel Herry, a revolutionary officer, states that he was sent by General Marion to reconnoitre George Town. His narrative is as follows: 'I proceeded with a guide through the woods all night. At the dawn of day I drew near the town. I laid in ambuscade with 30 men and their officers near the road. After sunrise a chair appeared with