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The North Carolina Booklet.

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GREAT EVENTS IN
NORTH CAROLINA HISTORY.



Monsieur Le Marquis De La Fayette.

—BY—

MAJ. E. J. HALE.



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RALEIGH, N. O.

NORTH CAROLINA BOOKLET.

VOL. I.

DECEMBER, 10, 1901.

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BY
MAJ. E. J. HALE.

RALEIGH:
CAPITAL PRINTING COMPANY.
1901.

**“Carolina! Carolina! Heaven’s blessings attend her!
While we live we will cherish, protect and defend her.”**

MONSIEUR LE MARQUIS DE LA FAYETTE.

It has been said that France had for centuries been preparing for the Revolution ; yet the world's picture of that great tragedy contains but a few figures, and the shifting scenes are comprised within but a limited period. It is so with other great events, and we deduce the corollary that the origin of them, generally, is difficult to trace, and that many minds and many circumstances are concerned in the least of them. But public opinion does not go amiss in its judgment of their main features, and it is that judgment which history ascertains and records. In this view history is not a lie, though it err so often in its details. Thus Washington comes down to us as contemporary history made him, the overshadowing domestic factor in the success of the American Revolution ; and La Fayette, mere boy as he was when he espoused our cause, as the embodiment, if not the creator, of that foreign movement in our behalf without which Washington's efforts would have been in vain.

While the fame of both these heroes is the common heritage of all the States, that of La Fayette appeals with especial force to women and to North Carolinians. He was a master of those elegancies of manner which distinguished the class from which he sprung, and which are so pleasing to the opposite sex ; he performed, as we shall see, a memorable act of homage to a woman ; and, under even more trying circumstances, he was the object of a devotion at the hands of his wife that was worthy of the best days of Roman

matronhood. At the same time, it happens that one of our chief commercial towns, shortly afterwards an alternate capital of North Carolina, was the first of the numerous communities throughout the Union to be named in his honor, and that he duly recognized the fact in his tour of America years afterwards. So it comes about that the North Carolina Society of the Daughters of the Revolution have very great reason indeed for cherishing the memory of Monsieur Le Marquis de La Fayette, French Patrician, American Patriot, and Patron of a historic Carolinian town.

MARIE JEAN PAUL ROCH YVES GILBERT MOTIER, MARQUIS DE LA FAYETTE, was born at the chateau of Chavagniac in Auvergne, France, on the 6th of September, 1757. He was left an orphan, with a princely fortune and a great title, at the age of thirteen. When but sixteen he married a daughter of the Duc d'Ayen, afterwards Duc de Noailles, of that great family of Noailles which has supplied so many of the most famous soldiers and diplomatists of France, and which reached also the highest eminence there in the church and in science. He chose to follow the soldier's career of his father, who had fallen at Minden, entered the Guards, and was nineteen years old and a captain of dragoons when the American colonies declared their independence. His memoirs contain the averment that "at the first news of this quarrel, my heart was enrolled in it."

La Fayette was of that *haute noblesse* of France whose members were, for the most part, opposed to the American cause, regarding its adherents as rebels against their King. It is said that on hearing the Declaration of Independence read, he was completely convinced of the justice of the col-

onists' cause, and he determined to give them all the assistance in his power. The Count de Broglie, companion in arms of his father, and other nobles exerted themselves to dissuade the young enthusiast from his purpose, but without avail. On the 7th of December, 1776, but five months after the Declaration, La Fayette concluded an arrangement with the American agent in Paris, Silas Deane, of Connecticut, who had been sent abroad to solicit aid, by which he was to enter the American service as major-general. At this moment the news of the series of grave disasters to the American arms which marked the closing months of 1776 reached Europe. These were the defeat of Sullivan and Stirling on Long Island on the 27th of August; the evacuation of New York early in September; the retreat after the battle of White Plains on October 28th; the surrender of Fort Washington with three thousand men on the 17th of November; the abandonment by Washington of his headquarters at Fort Lee in New Jersey, and his retreat across New Jersey into Pennsylvania, pursued by the British, his army reduced to but three thousand men. Indeed, according to the news, his army seemed on the point of destruction, desertions were constantly occurring, and the prospect was so gloomy that many friends of the cause in America itself shrunk from further recognition of it. Again La Fayette's friends urged the abandonment of his purpose. Franklin, and Arthur Lee, Deane's new colleagues, who arrived the day after La Fayette's contract was signed, felt it their duty to withhold any further encouragement of his plans, and the King himself, to whose ears news of his purpose had come, forbade his leaving. Instead of

yielding to the dissuasion of his friends or listening to the royal command, our hero purchased a ship on his own account and invited such of his friends as were willing to share his fortunes to accompany him. At the instance of the British ambassador to France, orders were issued to seize his ship then fitting out at Bordeaux, and La Fayette himself was arrested. But the ship had been sent to a neighboring Spanish port before the orders for her seizure could be executed, and La Fayette escaped from his guards in disguise. It was May, 1777, when he joined his ship, and, with eleven chosen companions, he set sail for America. Though pursued by two British cruisers which had been sent to intercept him, he reached Philadelphia in July of that year and presented himself to the Congress of the Revolution sitting there. It turned out that Mr. Deane's contracts abroad had been so numerous and for officers of such high rank that Congress was unable to ratify them without injustice to others who had won promotion by service in the field. Especially did it seem so in the case of this youth with a contract for a major-general's commission, and the reception accorded him by Congress took him aback. He soon appreciated the situation, however, and addressed a note to the president of Congress asking permission to serve in the army as a volunteer and without pay. His offer was "so different from those made by other foreigners," says Mr. Bigelow in his biography, it had been "attended by such substantial sacrifices" and "promised such substantial indirect advantages," that Congress passed a resolution (July 31, 1777,) "that his services be accepted, and that, in consideration of his zeal, illustrious family, and con-

nexions," he have the rank and commission of major-general of the United States. The next day Washington invited him to become one of his military family, which he gladly accepted, and the association thus begun ripened into the friendship which bound the two together during their lives.

Congress, it would seem, meant that his appointment should be merely honorary, but the battle of the Brandywine, which occurred on the 11th of September, two months after his arrival, gave him the opportunity to distinguish himself in the field, which he hastened to avail himself of. He received a bullet in his leg without being disabled; was commended by Washington for displaying the possession of "a large share of bravery and military ardour" and other good qualities; and, upon Washington's recommendation, was given a command equal to his rank. What an extraordinary attainment for a youth of twenty!

The further military career of La Fayette in the Revolution is familiar history—his brave conduct at Monmouth (June 28, 1778), which elicited from Congress a formal recognition of his services, and his retreat from Barren Hill, which was described as "masterly;" his operations in command in Virginia from July, 1779, to October 1781, including his efforts to capture the traitor Arnold in the former year; his borrowing money from Baltimore bankers on his personal responsibility in order to relieve the necessity of his troops; and his participation with Washington in the capture of Cornwallis and his army at Yorktown, October 19th, 1781, where, by an agreeable coincidence, his wife's cousin and brother-in-law, the brilliant Louis, Vicomte

Noailles, concluded the capitulation with the British commander. This versatile gentleman, by the way, afterwards became a successful banker in Philadelphia, but later accepted a command against the English in San Domingo, under Rochambeau, where he made a brilliant defence of the mole St. Nicholas, of which we have recently heard so much in connection with our late operations against Spain.

From his arrival in this country in July, 1777, until the surrender at Yorktown, La Fayette's military service was continuous, with the exception of six months, (January to July, 1779), when he was sent on a mission to the French Court, which was so successful that Congress voted him a complimentary resolution. Immediately upon the termination of the campaign which destroyed the British hopes, at Yorktown, La Fayette sought and obtained leave to return to France, where it was supposed he might be useful in negotiations for a general peace. He was appointed by the French Government chief of staff of a combined French and Spanish expedition against the British West Indies, which was nearly ready to set sail when the preliminary treaties of peace, on November 30, 1782, between Britain, France, Holland and the United States, put an end to the war. To La Fayette was accorded the privilege of first communicating this intelligence to Congress. Upon his return from America, crowned with all the laurels it was able to bestow, he was notified by the French Minister of War that he should have the same rank under his King which he held in the United States, and that his commission should date from the surrender at Yorktown.

With the exception of a visit to the United States in

1784, where he remained for five months, the guest of the nation, he did not appear again in public life until 1787, when he took his seat in the Assembly of Notables. He was thenceforward a conspicuous figure in the history of France. On the 11th of July, 1789, he presented to the National assembly a Declaration of Rights (*Declaration des droits de l'homme*) modelled on Jefferson's declaration of 1776. The King had become but a shadow, and LaFayette, destined soon to see his own land in revolution, was placed in command of the newly organized national guard, which numbered over three millions of men. For the succeeding three years his history is the history of France. He is described by his biographer, whom we have before quoted, (Mr. Bigelow), as almost the only one in that cycle of horrors, the French Revolution, who did not lose his reason or his humanity. He was endowed with unparalleled responsibility and subjected to inconceivable perils amid a frenzied people "who had come to regard order and humanity as phases of treason." Yet his voice was ever for order—for that "liberty restrained by law" which he had so signally helped Washington to establish in America, but for which his own countrymen were so ill prepared. In his role as mediator between the lingering monarchy and the fierce advocates of equality, La Fayette performed at this time an act which none less gifted than he with courage, calmness of mind, resourcefulness in emergencies, and the supreme graces of a courtier, could have successfully accomplished.

The suggestion of a royal veto, even though limited, which was included in the scheme that the conservatives

of the national assembly proposed for their Constitutional monarchy, aroused vehement disturbances. These were increased ten fold by the "amazing folly of Versailles," where the court goaded the hungry populace of Paris to madness by a great banquet given on the 3d of October, 1789, to the soldiers quartered there, amid royalist songs and ladies' smiles. The degraded inhabitants of the Faux-bourgs assembled and armed themselves, determined to go to Versailles, the greater part for vengeance on the royal family, the others with the purpose of forcing the King to restore the royal residence to Paris. Over a hundred thousand ferocious men and women thronged the road to Versailles; the National Guard clamored to accompany them; LaFayette opposed their inclination, until, on the afternoon of the 5th of October, it became evident that his duty required him to go to what had become the post of danger. He arrived at Versailles at ten o'clock at night, after having been on horseback from before daylight in the morning, and having made incredible exertions to control the multitude and calm the soldiers. Between two and three o'clock, the Queen and the royal family went to bed. LaFayette, too, slept after the fatigues of the fearful day. At half past four a portion of the populace made their way into the palace by an obscure and secret passage. It is said that the form of the infamous Duke of Orleans was repeatedly recognized on the staircase, pointing the assassins the way to the Queen's chamber. They easily found it. Two of her guards were cut down in an instant; and she made her escape almost bare of clothing. La Fayette was aroused, and, rushing in with the national troops, protected the

Swiss guards and saved the royal family. Day dawned on these fearful scenes. As soon as it was light the same furious multitude filled the vast space known as the court of marble. They demanded that the King go to Paris; and they called for the Queen, who had but just escaped from their daggers, to come out upon the balcony. The King consented to go, but La Fayette was afraid to trust the Queen in the midst of the bloodthirsty multitude. He is described as going to her with respectful hesitation, and asking her if it were her purpose to accompany the King to Paris. "Yes," she replied, "although I am aware of the danger." "Are you positively determined?" asked La-Fayette. "Yes sir," replied the Queen. "Condescend then," said La Fayette, "to go out upon the balcony, and suffer me to attend you." "Without the King?" she replied, hesitating—"have you observed the threats?" "Yes, madam, I have; but dare to trust me." He led her out upon the balcony. The tumult rendered it impossible that his voice should be heard, and it was necessary that he appeal to the eye. Turning to the Queen, and with that dignity and marvelous grace which distinguished him, he simply kissed her hand before the vast multitude. An instant of silent astonishment greeted the act, but immediately it was interpreted, and the air was rent with cries of "Long live the Queen! Long live the General!" from the same fickle and cruel populace that two hours before had sought her life.

When the Constitution was proclaimed on the 14th of July, 1790, La Fayette felt that his life work was complete—he had at last secured for his country "liberty with or-

der"—and he resigned his command and retired to private life. At the outbreak of the war with Austria, at the close of 1791, he was summoned from his retirement and placed in command of one of the three armies sent in the field against that country and her allies. On the 12th of June 1792, so rapidly had the factions drifted apart, he publicly denounced the Jacobin Club, and called upon the assembly to suppress them. Thenceforth he became the object of their rage. On the 8th day of August a motion was made to have him arrested, and tried as an enemy of his country. The motion was defeated by 446 votes against 224; but two days afterwards the palace was stormed, and the King, and his Queen, whom La Fayette had saved by his courtier's ruse, the beautiful but hated Austrian, Marie Antoinette, were sent to the prison from which they passed to the guillotine.

With the destruction of the Constitution and the government, along with the monarchy, we are told that La Fayette felt that his occupation as the priest of liberty, humanity, and order was gone. He would have marched to Paris to defend the Constitution, but his troops sympathized with the sentiments which triumphed in the seizure of the monarch, the head of the government. He was himself soon forced to take refuge in neutral territory, where, however, he was seized by the Austrians and held as a prisoner of state for five years, first at Wessel on the Rhine, and afterwards in dungeons at Magdeburg, both in Prussian territory, where he was exposed to disgraceful indignities. But the Prussians became unwilling to bear the odium of such unlawful and disgraceful treatment of a prisoner of war,

and transferred him to the Austrians, who secretly confined him in the dark and damp dungeons of the citadel of Olmutz, in Moravia. The almost unbearable barbarities to which La Fayette was here subjected are supposed to have been due to the circumstance that, as leader of the early part of the French Revolution, he was held to have brought on those events which led to the overthrow of the Monarchy, and the death of Marie Antoinette, who was an Austrian. The nature of the treatment to which he was subjected may be inferred from the circumstance that he was officially informed that his situation was one which would naturally lead him to suicide. At the same time his estates in France were confiscated, his wife cast into prison, and *Fayettisme*, as adherence to the Constitution was called, was punished with death. His name was effaced from the reports sent by his keepers to their government, he was designated only by a number, and the world knew not but that he had ceased to live. His friends, however, all over Europe, were watching every opportunity to obtain some intelligence which should, at least, render his existence certain. The story of the eventual and most ingenious discovery of the place of his confinement by Dr. Erick Bollman, a Hanoverian, a protege of Madame de Stael; of Bollman's temporary rescue in 1794 of La Fayette, by the assistance of a young American, Francis K. Huger, of Charleston, then travelling in Austria; of the recapture of La Fayette and the capture of his rescuers; of his more rigorous confinement than ever, and their detention in prison, chained to a dungeon floor for eight months; of the hastening of Madame de La Fayette, now apprised of

her husband's existence and of the place of his confinement, to join him in prison; of her sending her son for safety to the care of Gen. Washington, and of her taking with her into the prison her two young daughters; of her sinking under the complicated sufferings and privations of her loathsome imprisonment; of her asking permission of the Austrian government to be allowed to spend a week in Vienna in order to breathe pure air for that space of time and to obtain medical assistance; of the reply that she might leave her husband upon condition that she should never return to him; of her immediate answer that she would refuse to avail of the offer upon those conditions; and of her thereupon signing her consent and determination "to share his captivity in all its details"—this story, romantic as any ever told in fiction, and interesting beyond measure, would fill many more pages than this booklet affords. We may content ourselves with reproducing the letter of Madame de La Fayette to the commandant of the citadel, which is as follows:

"The Commandant of Olmutz informed me yesterday that in answer to my request of being allowed to go for eight days to Vienna, for the purpose of consulting the faculty, his Imperial Majesty signified that on no consideration whatever, I am permitted to visit that capital; and that he will consent to my quitting this prison only on condition of never entering it more. I have the honor to reiterate the answer which I made to the Commandant. To solicit the assistance which the state of my health requires is a duty which I owed my family and my friends; but they are sensible that it is not possible for me to purchase it at the

price at which it is offered. I cannot forget, that while we are both on the point of perishing; me, by the tyranny of Robespierre; M. de Lafayette, by the moral and physical sufferings of his captivity; that I was not allowed to obtain any account of him, or to inform him that his children and myself were yet in existence: and nothing shall tempt me to expose myself a second time to the horrors of such a separation. Whatever then may be the state of my health or the inconvenience which may result to myself and my daughters from this habitation, we will all three avail ourselves with gratitude of the goodness of his Imperial Majesty, who permits us to share this captivity in all its details.”

Madame De La Fayette never afterwards made an effort to leave her husband. In reference to this episode, Madame de Stael has observed that, “antiquity offers nothing more admirable, than the conduct of General La Fayette, his wife and his daughters, in the prison of Olmutz.”

Strenuous efforts were made by our government to secure the release of the noble prisoner; Washington addressed a letter, written by his own hand, to the Emperor of Austria interceding in his behalf; and it is understood that at the negotiation of peace with Austria it was stipulated that the prisoners at Olmutz should be released. The Austrian government attempted to compel La Fayette to receive his freedom on conditions prescribed to him; but this he refused, notwithstanding the dreadful alternative of a continuation of his sufferings, declaring that he would never accept his liberation in any way that should compromise his rights and duties, either as a Frenchman, or *as an*

American citizen. He was, with his family, released at last, on the 25th of August, 1797; his wife and his daughters having been confined twenty-two months, and he himself five years. After two years spent in Holstein, he returned to France and established himself and his family at La Grange, a fine old castle about forty miles from Paris. Here his faithful wife, who had never recovered from the effects of her imprisonment, died in December, 1807.

Upon La Fayette's return to France in 1799, he rejected the overtures of Napoleon, who offered him the tempting place of Senator, with its emoluments, and he preserved his consistency by voting against the life consulate and the imperial title which Napoleon sought and obtained. He lived in retirement for many years at La Grange, though called from it to become Vice-President of the Assembly under Louis XVIII, before the battle of Waterloo.

In 1824, on the invitation of Congress, La Fayette visited the United States. He was received with every demonstration of affection, and overwhelmed with popular applause, in his travels through the country. Congress voted him, as part payment of the debt due him by the country, the sum of two hundred thousand dollars and a township of land.

On the 27th of February (Sunday), 1825, La Fayette, entered North Carolina. Volume VIII of the Fayetteville Observer (July, 1824, to July, 1825), which includes the issues of that paper during the period of his visit, contains elaborate accounts of his reception, from which the following extracts are taken or condensed.

General LaFayette was met at Northampton Court

House by Chief Justice Taylor, Colonel William Polk (a revolutionary officer of distinction), General Daniel, General Williams, and Major Stanly. The Chief Justice addressed him as follows :

"General La Fayette: We are sent by the Governor to offer you a warm and affectionate reception in the State of North Carolina. Associated as your name is with that of the beloved father of our country, not less in the dark and dismal nights of the Revolution, than in the periods of its glory, we cannot but greatly rejoice at your arrival among us, that you may receive the grateful salutations of a free people, some of whom have witnessed your generous exertions in their cause, and all of whom have been accustomed to connect your name with whatever is just and elevated in sentiment, or praiseworthy and beneficent in conduct.

"Consistently devoted as your life has been to the cause of rational liberty, and liberal institutions in two hemispheres, it must be a source of the purest gratification to you to survey in this, that fabric of political freedom which has grown up and flourished under the practical operation of principles, for which you have made so many sacrifices; to witness the powerful effects of a just government in expanding the moral energies of man, and laying deep the foundations of his happiness.

"We rejoice, General, that after an interval of nearly half a century, you see the sons of those in whose cause you fought and bled, in the tranquil enjoyments of all those blessings, deeply sensible of their value, and firmly resolved to transmit them unimpaired to their children; and although in your long extensive tour through our country,

you will, of course, see different degrees of improvement, and find some of our sister States more happily situated to give you a reception suited to the universal estimate of your worth, yet amid the thousands who hail your arrival, there are none to whom it affords higher satisfaction than to our fellow-citizens, nor can a mind like yours view with indifference the improvements made in the State, since your former journey through it to join our army in the most hopeless crisis of the struggle. You will now see smiling villages and cultivated fields, and an industrious population, where before an almost trackless forest overspread the country. You will see a nation of farmers, unobtrusively cherishing the domestic virtues, practicing that of hospitality in its primitive purity, and gratefully feeling that a more fit occasion for its exercise never can occur than in welcomeing to their hearts and firesides the last surviving General of the Revolution, their venerable and beloved fellow-citizen, La Fayette."

To the Chief Justice's welcome, General La Fayette is represented as making a brief reply, but "pithy and full of sentiment." His meeting with Colonel Polk was most affecting. He was also received "with much warmth of affection" at Halifax.

He arrived at Raleigh on Wednesday, March 2d. He was received by Captain Ruffin's Company of Blues, and the Mecklenburg troop of cavalry. On reaching the Governor's House, he was thus addressed by Governor Burton:

"General,—In the name of the people of North Carolina, unanimously expressed through their legitimate organ, the Legislature, I bid you welcome to our Capitol. At the

Genl. Beaton

same time be assured of the deep and grateful sense entertained by the people of this State, of the value and importance of your services, in obtaining the independence they now enjoy. Hailed as your arrival has been by the plaudits of a nation, and cheered at every turn in your progress through the interior, by the enthusiastic efforts of genius, I am but too sensible of my own inability to add anything new or to do justice to the feelings of those whom I have the honor to represent on the present occasion.

“For you who have ever been animated and swayed by the enlarged and manly principles of rational freedom—whose sacrifices have been beyond all calculation, may I be permitted to say our hearts are filled with respect and veneration; and although, from the local situation of our State, you cannot be received and entertained with the magnificent display of wealth, which is the result of successful commerce, yet will North Carolina yield to none of her sister States, in admiration of your devotion to the cause of liberty, in gratitude for your distinguished services, rendered our common country, and lasting esteem for your personal worth.”

To which General La Fayette replied:

“On the first moment of my return to the blessed shores of America, I anticipated the pleasure to revisit this State and here to witness the prosperous result of that independence and self government, the cry for which had been heard from North Carolina long before it was re-echoed in a Continental Congress. This fond desire could not but have been enhanced by the very kind invitations, and testimonies of affection and esteem, I had the happiness to

receive from the Representatives of the people, in their Legislative and executive Branches. While I regret not to have had it in my power to tender in person, my acknowledgments to both houses of the General Assembly, I eagerly seize the present opportunity, to express at this seat of government, the high sense I have of my obligations to them, to your Excellency, to the State Committee, and to offer a tribute of my respectful, lively gratitude to the people of North Carolina, whom I would have been happy now to visit in several most interesting parts of the State ; but whose affectionate welcome, wherever I could meet them, has left on my heart a lively and indellible impression."

The General was then conducted to the Capitol, where, in front of the statue of Washington,* he was addressed by Colonel William Polk, in behalf of the citizens of Raleigh, to which he made an appropriate answer. He then viewed the statue of Washington, was introduced to the students of the University, who had come to Raleigh for the purpose of paying their respects to him, and was reconducted to the "Government House," where suitable apartments had been fitted up for his accommodation. At 5 o'clock he attended a dinner, and, in the evening, a ball, given by the citizens. The following toast was drunk at the dinner :

"General LaFayette—Our illustrious guest. The eloquence of gratitude is silence."

General LaFayette rose, after this toast had been drunk,

*This was the marble statue of Washington, by Canova, in the rotunda of the Capitol, Houdon's bronze statue not then having been erected.

expressed his thanks to the company for their kindness, and, in conclusion, proposed the following :

“The State of North Carolina, its Metropolis, and the 20th May, 1775, when a generous people called for independence and freedom, of which may they more and more, forever, cherish the principles, and enjoy the blessings.”

On Thursday morning, he received the visit of the citizens generally, and, in the afternoon, took his departure for Fayetteville, escorted by Colonel Polk's Cavalry.

On Friday afternoon, March 4th, at 5 o'clock, LaFayette entered Fayetteville. He was accompanied by his son and secretary ; the Governor of the State ; General William Williams, of Warren ; Colonel J. G. A. Williamson, of Person, who had been appointed by the Governor to escort him through the State, and Judge Taylor, of Raleigh, in behalf of the citizens of that place.

“He was escorted from Raleigh,” says the Fayetteville Observer, “by Colonel Polk's fine troop of Cavalry from Mecklenburg ; was met at the house of Robert Campbell, Esq., ten miles from town, by the Fayetteville troop of Flying Artillery, commanded by Colonel Townes, and at Clarendon Bridge by the Magistrate of Police and the Commissioners of the town who were there to receive and welcome him, and by Major Strange's* Independent Company, Captain Hawley's Eagle Artillery, and Captain Birdsall's Light Artillery. This ceremony over, the corps of Artillery, with the Mecklenburg Troop on the right, the whole under command of Colonel Ayer, of the corps of Artillery, formed

*Robert Strange, afterwards Judge and U. S. Senator.

the escort to the Town House," to which they proceeded "amidst the discharge of artillery." "A spacious stage" had been erected "in front of the Town House, the troops formed lines on each side of the street, and the carriages, containing the General and suite, passed between them to the east door of the House. Here alighting from his carriage, with the gentlemen accompanying him, he was met by Judge Toomer, who, in behalf of the Committee and citizens of Fayetteville, welcomed him in the following words, "pronounced in the forcible manner for which the Judge is so remarkable:"

"General La Fayette: The Congress of the United States, expressing the will of ten millions of people, invited you to our shores, as 'The Guest of the Nation.' Your arrival was hailed as an era in the annals of our country. Wherever you were seen, you were greeted with acclamations. The 15th of August, in each returning year, will be celebrated as a day of jubilee, by the sons of freedom. Already has American genius consecrated your fame. History has recorded the incidents of your eventful life; oratory has portrayed your character, and poetry has sung your praise.

"The Governor of North Carolina, anticipating the wishes of his constituents, invited you to our State. The invitation was echoed from the mountains to the coast.

"My fellow-citizens, the inhabitants of Fayetteville, have also, solicited the honor of a visit. In their behalf, and as their organ, I bid you welcome to our homes. Forty-three years ago, our fathers named this town to commemorate your achievements and to express their gratitude. We

receive you with joy and exultation, at our family altars, and request your participation in our domestic comforts. We are plain republicans, and cannot greet you with the pomp common on such occasions. Instead of pageantry we offer you cordiality. We have no splendid arches, gilded spires, or gorgeous palaces to present you, but we tender the hospitality of our homes, and the grateful homage of devoted hearts.

“Ingratitude is no longer the reproach of republics. The free men of America, when asked for their jewels, rejecting classic example, point not to their sons, but to the surviving heroes of the Revolution.

“You, Sir, have been the steadfast friend of liberty, in every period of your life. In youth, you fought the battles of freedom; in age, you advocated the rights of man. You embarked your life and fortune on the tempestuous sea of American liberty, when clouds and darkness portended the most fatal disasters. Neither the admonitions of prudence, the precepts of wisdom, nor the frowns of power could restrain you. Our Commissioners at the Court of Versailles frankly represented to you the gloomy aspect of our affairs, at that crisis, and advised you not to link your fortune with ours, in the struggle for independence. Your Sovereign, also, interdicted your participation in the contest. Notwithstanding all these adverse circumstances, at the age of 19, such was the ardour of your devotion, you left wealth and beauty, family and friends, influence and distinction, and all the fascinations of the most polished Court, to encounter the perils of the deep, and to brave the dangers of the tented field, Your embarkation quickly

sounded the tocsin of alarm, and the fleets of France and Great Britain were ordered to pursue and arrest you ; but, protected by the genius of Liberty, you escaped the eagerness of pursuit. Your ardent devotion to this sacred cause, and your youthful enthusiasm, 'touched a nerve which vibrated to the centre of Europe.'

"The Southern States of the Union, Sir, have strong claims to your affection. North Carolina is the birth-place of American Independence. At Charlotte, in this State, independence was first conceived, and first declared. Although History may not have recorded this fact, yet witnesses still live to attest it ; and we now have before us, in the patriotic troop of Mecklenburg Cavalry, the sons of those heroes who made the bold declaration, that we were, and should be free and independent. South Carolina was the place of your first landing in America ; Virginia was the theatre of your youthful glory. Forty-eight years have elapsed since you passed through this state, to join the army of the Revolution. You disinterestedly lavished your treasure, and shed your blood, in the hallowed contests, and, by the influence of your high example, you consecrated the principles for which our ancestors contended. The heights of Brandywine witnessed your valour and your sufferings ; and on the plains of Yorktown you obtained a wreath of laurel, which encircles your brow with unfading verdure. Never, never can we forget the youthful stranger who, in the darkest hour of adversity, so generously flew to our succor, and so gallantly fought the battles of freedom.

"The names of Washington, La Fayette and Hamilton, will ever be dear to American patriotism ; and let it be

remembered that Washington and Hamilton fought for country and for home, La Fayette for liberty alone.

“ Your ardent devotion to the rights of man, was sealed with your blood in America, and attested by your sufferings in Europe. Your love of liberty exposed you to the persecution of tyranny, and you were cast into the dungeon of Olmutz; but incarceration could not extinguish the sacred flame which fired your bosom. An American youth of chivalrous feelings, aided in an attempt to rescue you from imprisonment; the attempt was abortive. Oppression riveted her chains, and rendered your confinement more oppressive. Amid all the vicissitudes of your fortune, it is gratifying to us to recollect, that your sufferings always excited the sympathy, and, on this occasion, induced the mediation of your friend and compatriot, the illustrious Washington.

“ Nature has lavished her choicest gifts on my native State. We have a salubrious climate, fertile soil, and numerous rivers susceptible of the highest improvement. I fear, Sir, your anticipations may not have been realized. We have neglected to improve our advantages; we have relied too much on the bounty of the Parent of every good. But the spirit of internal improvement is, at length, awakened; North Carolina may look forward with pride and pleasure to her destiny. We place our confidence in the liberality and exertions of succeeding legislatures. Colleges will be endowed; the arts and sciences will be patronized; roads will be made; rivers will be opened; our resources will be annually developed, and Fayetteville at some future day, may be worthy of the distinguished name it bears. You

have just left, in the capital of our State, the statue of Washington, the master piece of Canova. Would that you could have visited the University of North Carolina. These, Sir, are monuments of an enlightened liberality, in which we indulge a generous pride.

“The darkness of error is vanishing before the light of truth. The doctrines of divine right and passive obedience are viewed as relics of ancient barbarism. Our political institutions are founded on the sovereignty of the people, from whom all power is derived; and here the jargon of legitimacy is not understood. We recognize no Holy Alliance, save that of religion and virtue, liberty and science. The sun of freedom is extending the sphere of his genial influence; South America is ‘regenerated and disenfranchised;’ the thrones of Europe are supported by bayonets and must totter to their fall; and the genius of our country is ready to hail the spirit of ‘universal emancipation.’

“Sir, in behalf of my townsmen I welcome you to our homes.”

To which the General replied, as follows :

“Sir, at every step of my progress through the United States, I am called to enjoy the emotions arising from patriotic feelings and endearing recollections, from the sight of the improvements I witness, and from the affectionate welcomes I have the happiness to receive. Those sentiments, sir, are particularly excited when upon entering the interesting and prosperous town which has done me the honor to adopt my name, I can at once admire its actual progress and anticipate its future destinies; convinced as I am that the generous and enlightened people of North Car-

olina will continue all assistance to improve the natural advantages of Fayetteville and make it more and more useful to the State.

"Your kind allusions to past times, your flattering commendation of my personal services in our common cause, your remembrance of my peculiar state and connexions, and particularly of my obligations to my gallant Carolinian deliverer, call for my most grateful thanks. The spirit of independence early evinced by the fathers of the young friends who so kindly accompany me, is highly honorable to that part of the Union. I cordially join in your wishes for the universal emancipation of mankind; and beg you, my dear sir, and the citizens of Fayetteville, to accept the tribute of my deep and lively gratitude for your so very honourable and gratifying reception."

Upon the conclusion of the General's response, which was received by the multitude with enthusiasm, he was "conducted to the State Banking House, the residence of Duncan Mac Rae, Esq., which had been politely tendered by him for the General's use." Presently the distinguished guest appeared on the balcony, and was "saluted by the military," after which he dined in company with "the Governor, the several committees, and some of the oldest citizens of the town." About 9 o'clock he made his appearance in the ball room of "the new La Fayette hotel," (one of the finest hostelries in the South), where several hundred ladies and gentlemen were assembled, to whom he was presented, taking "each affectionately by the hand." LaFayette retired from the ball room at 11 o'clock, but the dancing continued until 3. The next day he reviewed the four

uniformed companies of the town and the Mecklenburg troop and expressed high satisfaction with their military appearance. Later he received a large number of ladies and gentlemen who called upon him; and subsequently he paid a visit to the Masonic Lodge, where he was addressed by Major Strange and made response and partook of refreshments. At 3 o'clock, "the General being under the necessity of departing in the afternoon," about a hundred and fifty gentlemen sat down to dinner with him at the La Fayette hotel. "Judge Toomer presided, assisted by Major Strange. On the right of the President sat General La Fayette, and on the left, Governor Burton." Some of the toasts given from the chair were as follows :

"The memory of Washington—He was the friend of La-Fayette."

"The nation's Guest.—The only surviving Major General of the Revolution."

When the latter toast had been drunk, General La Fayette arose, expressed his thanks for the welcome he had met with from the citizens of Fayetteville, and proposed the following toast :

"Fayetteville.—May it receive all the encouragements, and obtain all the prosperity which are anticipated by the fond and grateful wishes of its affectionate and respectful namesake."

At 5 o'clock the company rose from the table, and Gen. La Fayette took his departure for Cheraw on his way to Camden, which place he was under engagement to visit on the following Tuesday for the purpose of laying the corner stone of

a monument to General De Kalb, who fell in the battle there on the 16th of August, 1780. He was accompanied from Fayetteville by General Williams, Colonel Williamson, Judge Taylor and Major Stanly; a committee from Cheraw; a number of citizens of Fayetteville, and the Fayetteville troop of cavalry.

During his stay in Fayetteville the General was called upon by Mr. Isham Blake, a citizen of the town, who had been one of his body guard at Yorktown, and who was warmly received by him. The venerable Robert C. Belden, Esq., in his "Reminiscences of Fayetteville" (Fayetteville Observer, September 28, 1893), describes La Fayette, on the occasion of his visit, as being "somewhat above medium stature, broad shouldered and quite corpulent," and his son, George Washington La Fayette, as "a fine specimen of a man, well proportioned, graceful in carriage and of easy manners." Many stories are told of the incidents of this eventful visit. Two are worth recording. The aged courtier, as the ladies were presented, saluted each one, young and old, with a kiss. When a veteran of the Revolution was presented, he would enquire "are you married?" "Yes, General," one would say, and the gallant response was, "Happy man!" Another would reply, "No, General," and "Lucky dog!" would be the Frenchman's consoling comment.

Upon his return to France, La Fayette, now an old man, passed a comparatively uneventful life at his country estate, La Grange. During the Revolution of 1830, he again took

command of the National Guard. But his life was near spent, and he died in Paris in 1834, not long after delivering a speech on political refugees. His death occurred on the 20th of May, a day hallowed by the promulgation of the first Declaration of Independence on American soil—a historical fact some time much disputed, but which, as the reader will have seen, La Fayette did not hesitate to recognize, and with warm words, in his speeches at Raleigh and Fayetteville, in 1825.

The career of this remarkable man has been briefly sketched in these pages in connection with those local incidents which touch us of North Carolina more nearly. The biographer who has been several times quoted here remarks that few men have owed more of their success and usefulness in the world to their family rank than La Fayette, though still fewer have abused it less. Yet it must be added that the youth who, whatever his advantages of birth and fortune, could have attained so great a place as he on the lofty stage of the American Revolution, when such veteran soldiers of noble rank as Steuben, De Kalb, Pulaski, D'Estaing and Rochambeau were also actors upon it, must have been of heroic stature. Nor is this view in any degree lessened, but quite the contrary, by consideration of his marvelous and long sustained influence upon the people and fortunes of his native land. Of his moral side Mr. Bigelow says: "He had what Jefferson called a 'canine appetite' for popularity and fame, but in him the appetite only seemed to make him more anxious to merit the fame

which he enjoyed. He was brave even to rashness; his life was one of constant personal peril, and yet he never shrank from any danger or responsibility if he saw the way open to spare life or suffering, to protect the defenceless, to sustain the law and preserve order."

The Brandywine, on whose decks

Mathew Fontaine Maury began his nautical career, sailed from Hampton Roads under Commodore Charles S. Morris. Her mission was to convey La Fayette back to France after his last visit to the United States.

There were twenty-seven wardship men on board, and it was noticed that when others were at amusements, Maury was at the mill-top, studying seamanship. Then he made his mark among his fellows, and gained their entire respect. The monthly pay of these cadets was nineteen dollars. They assembled and resolved to appropriate one month's pay for a testimonial of their regard for the noble soldier who had helped to win the independence of their country. Maury was elected one of the Committee to secure the silver urn suitably inscribed, and to present it to the hero. This gift was the homage of youth to manhood. It was an offering from glad hearts on the altar of patriotism, a touching tribute from the young sailors to General La Fayette, and it was most highly appreciated by him. These boys of the sea were heroes worthy of the station and the flag which they bore!!



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