

Biography

OF THE

SIGNERS

TO THE

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE



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BIOGRAPHY

OF THE SIGNERS TO THE

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

BY ROBERT WALN, Jr.

VOL. V.

EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA, to wit:

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on the first day of January, in the forty-eighth year of the independence of the United States of America, A. D. 1825, R. W. POMEROY, of the said district, hath deposited in this office the title of a book, the right whereof he claims as Proprietor, in the words following, to wit:

“ Biography of the Signers to the Declaration of Independence.—Vol. V.”

In conformity to the act of the congress of the United States, intituled “ An act for the encouragement of learning, by securing the copies of maps, charts, and books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies, during the times therein mentioned.”—And also to the act, entitled, “ An act supplementary to an act entitled, “ An act for the encouragement of learning, by securing the copies of maps, charts and books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies during the times therein mentioned,” and extending the benefits thereof to the arts of designing, engraving, and etching historical and other prints.”

D. CALDWELL,
Clerk of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

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THOMAS LYNCH, JR.

VOL. V. — B



THOMAS LYNCH JUNR

Engraved by J.B. Longacre from an Enamel Painting.

in the Possession of Miss F. Lynch.

CYNIC.

It is with an unavailing regret, that we recur to the early portion of the life of the man whose name is stamped on the age in which he lived, and whose character we have been taught to admire. We recur, with an unwearied but unrequited industry, to fading records and doubtful traditions, for the germs of that character, whose rich maturity we have been taught to admire.



THE GENERAL INVESTIGATION OF THE

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LYNCH.

WE often indulge in an unavailing regret, that few events belonging to the early portion of the lives of distinguished individuals, are snatched from oblivion, to illustrate the progress of their genius and virtues. The interesting period of childhood, so frequently marked by strong developments of character, glides imperceptibly away, and in the fond interchange of the affections that attend it, we cease either to observe, or afterwards to remember, those traits or incidents, by which future usefulness and distinction are unequivocally foretold. In after life, when great talents have been brought to consummate great public events, "and the Man has stamped his name on the age in which he lived," we recur, with an unwearied but unrequited industry, to fading records and doubtful traditions, for the germs of that character, whose rich maturity we have been taught to admire.

To the long list of those, of whose remembrance little now remains, beyond what has been cherished in the very recesses of domestic affection, we are about to add the name of Thomas Lynch, junior, a man distinguished among his contemporaries for valuable qualities uniformly directed to noble ends.

The family of Lynch was originally of Austria; their genealogical table affords the following anecdote, relative to the origin of its name. The town in which they lived being closely beleaguered, the inhabitants resolved to hold out to the last extremity. Having exhausted their provisions, they subsisted for some time on a field of pulse called *Lince*. Their hardy resistance being ultimately crowned with success, in gratitude for their deliverance, which they attributed principally to the subsistence that the pulse had afforded them, they changed the name of their town, or city, as well as that of their chief family, to *Lince* or *Lintz*. During the subsequent troubles in the empire, a branch of the family removed to England, and from Kent emigrated to Ireland, from which latter stock the Lynchs of South Carolina have descended.

Jonack Lynch, the great-grand father of Thomas Lynch, junior, must have left Connaught for South Carolina shortly after the settlement of the colony. His descendants have yet in their possession a do-

cument not devoid of curiosity and interest. It is a summary of the reasons, (written previous to his leaving Ireland,) which induced him to emigrate; in which he weighs with great scrutiny and care, the various arguments for and against the measure, and ultimately gives a preponderance in favour of the former. This paper abundantly illustrates the practical good sense and moderation which influenced the views of the early settlers of our country, and tends to prove, that, if our vast empire was not originally won by the sanguinary glory which awaited the Roman eagles, there was a moral justice in its falling into the possession of a band of virtuous and enlightened pilgrims, who fully felt the force of religious truth, and who, in scenes of difficulty and trial, brought its sublime precepts to aid them both in action and suffering.

Jonack Lynch's youngest son, Thomas, was the grandfather of the subject of this memoir, who, although he derived from his father a slender patrimony, inherited in no inconsiderable degree his vigor and sagacity; both of which he evinced by exploring many portions of the then untrodden wilderness of South Carolina, and in locating grants for several sections, comprehending the finest and most fertile portions of our territory. At this period, the cultivation of rice was confined exclusively to

the inland swamps; the alluvial lands within the flow of the tides, were generally neglected by the settlers as comparatively worthless. Thomas Lynch, however, had the discernment to discover, that this apparent evil of periodical irrigation was not only susceptible of remedy, but might be turned to the most profitable account. He, therefore, took out grants for a large portion of the lands situated on the North and South Santee rivers, as high up as Lynch's causeway, with the islands inclusive, and at his decease, left a princely estate to his son Thomas, the father of Thomas Lynch, junior, who, by way of distinction, we shall call Thomas Lynch the elder.

Of this gentleman, there are many recollections cherished by those who yet linger on the brink of the grave, and remember the happy union which his character afforded, of a public spirited patriot and enlightened planter, who uniformly dedicated a portion of the income of his fine estate to upholding the hospitality of his country, and in subserving many purposes of private charity and public beneficence.

He was emphatically a public man, and lived and died in the public service. Elected in his youth to a seat in the provincial assembly from the parish of St. James, Santee, he soon reached great eminence in that body, and was long regarded as at

the head of the country party of the province. In all the disputes with the mother country, he espoused the cause of colonial freedom with the most fervid enthusiasm, and as early as 1764, after the passage of the stamp act, was delegated as the associate of John Rutledge and Christopher Gadsden, to represent South Carolina in the first congress convened by the colonies; he uniformly continued to be chosen a member of that assembly until his death.

Without possessing the highly cultivated talents for oratory which characterized the splendid powers of Mr. Rutledge, he nevertheless attained decided success as a powerful debater, and was at once distinguished for the purity and simplicity of his style, the condensation of his thoughts, and the stern and uncompromising honesty of his opinions. With such qualities, so usefully and so honourably directed, he justly acquired great influence in the councils of his native state. So highly were his opinions appreciated on all public concerns, that the commons house of assembly, (previous to the revolution, but during the pendency of those momentous questions which produced it,) on one occasion, in consequence of his having been delayed on the road, on his way from his plantation to the city, adjourned for two days, that time might be allow-

ed him to join them in their deliberations. This compliment, infinitely more significant in its character than the most formal vote of thanks, shows that there are periods, when an anxious devotion to the public weal can produce, at least, a temporary suspension of those personal rivalries which so much distract and influence human conduct.

The life of this patriot is so much interwoven with that of his son, that we shall offer no further apology for having so long detained the reader from the short and imperfect narrative we are about to afford of the latter.

THOMAS LYNCH, jr. was born at his father's plantation on the banks of the North Santee river, Prince George's parish, South Carolina, on the fifth of August, 1749. His mother's maiden name was Elizabeth H. Alston, whose loss it was his misfortune to deplore in early childhood. He was placed, when of a sufficient age to leave his father's roof, at the Indigo Society School, George Town, S.C. This seminary, which at that period was richly endowed, and in a flourishing condition, must have been under the superintendance of able and faithful instructors, as it possesses the reputation of having laid the elementary basis of the education of some of the most distinguished individuals in South Carolina. The pride, however, and discernment of Mr.

Lynch's father, with the ample means of affording every accomplishment to his only son, were not content to limit the advantages of his education to one altogether provincial. Indeed, young Lynch had unfolded such infallible tokens of a capacity for letters, combined with great docility of disposition, and an ardent and ingenuous spirit, that his judicious parent determined to send him to Europe, before he had even completed his thirteenth year. On his arrival in England, he was placed at Eton school, where he remained long enough to acquire the elements of classical learning, and to qualify himself for admission as a gentleman commoner at the University of Cambridge. At this institution he took his degrees; but we regret to add, that of this interesting portion of his life, we have been unable to gather any incidents whatsoever, excepting the fact of his having enjoyed, in an eminent degree, the consideration of his contemporaries, which was firmly fixed by his virtues, acquisitions, and insatiable thirst for knowledge.

The accounts which his father received of his progress, must have been highly flattering; for, in the pride and fondness of his parental affection, he sketched out schemes of usefulness and distinction for his son, somewhat bordering on an extravagant philanthropy. Conscious that it would be in his

power to bequeath him a fortune that would take away all necessity for exertion, he was desirous of supplying the place of this effective stimulus, by more generous principles of action. He desired him to enter his name at the Temple, and to prosecute a regular course of legal studies; not for the single purpose of perfecting his education, or for the subsequent acquirement of that political momentum, which in this country seems almost invariably to be derived from success at the bar, but that he might dedicate his learning and talents, regardless of all views of profit, to those cases of unprotected truth and justice, which occasionally arise at the forum.

The affections of the parent, could be content with nothing less than that the object, with whom he had associated a large portion of the interest of his existence, should return to his native home, accomplished in all the qualities of a "finished man;" and that by a gratuitous exercise of the duties of a profession which has a most intimate connexion with the varied concerns of life, he might become the champion of innocence and misfortune.

With these agreeable reveries, none but a cynic will quarrel. They belong to the freshness and simplicity of those affections, and the virtuous illusions growing out of them, in which we are all

sometimes prone to indulge, in spite of the sad experience of life.—To speculate, however, even in impossible schemes of benevolence, is not devoid of utility. Although disappointed in their attainment, yet by the very effort we are brought nearer both to practical good and to elevated excellence.

Whatever opinion young Lynch may have secretly entertained of these views of his father, in their utmost extent, his filial obedience was too habitual not to insure his cheerful acquiescence. He consequently commenced his terms at the Temple.

At this period, however, the momentous question between the colonies and mother country was daily acquiring additional interest; and it needed no extraordinary sagacity in Mr. Lynch to discover, that an extensive field was in preparation at home, for the display of higher endowments, than could be exclusively fashioned by an acquaintance, however exact, with Bracton and Fleta.

Great Britain may be said, at this time, to have been unconsciously nourishing, as well in arms as in philosophy and letters, many of those daring spirits who subsequently contributed to the downfall of her colonial dominion. Who rolled back upon her those impetuous energies of mind and action, which her admirable institutions of education are so well calculated to nourish and perfect.

A large portion of the young men of fortune of South Carolina were scattered amidst her various seminaries, inhaling at these invigorating fountains of knowledge, the invincible spirit, which enabled them, both in the council and the field, to combat, with success, her tyranny and oppression. It was, moreover, a circumstance of peculiar good fortune, that most of these youths, when they left their homes, were recommended to the patronage and kindness of the high whig families of England; and many of them to the most distinguished peers in the British parliament, who were at that time conspicuous for their opposition to the ministry, and for their devotion to the cause of the colonies. It was in this manner that the attachment of our young countrymen, to their native soil, and a keen sympathy and indignation in the wrongs which oppressed it, were kept in a state of unimpaired vigor. These feelings occasionally broke forth into the most enthusiastic demonstrations of patriotism.

It may well be supposed that a youth like Mr. Lynch, in the one-and-twentieth year of his age, feeling the full-possession of his highly cultivated powers, devoted to his country, aware that the crisis was rapidly approaching which must determine her servitude or freedom, and that the political connexions of his father would, in all probability,

enable him to take a distinguished part in the concerns of such a crisis, should have panted for the promised opportunities of distinction. The black letter of the law had never many charms for him. Although he had made himself master of the philosophy of jurisprudence, and was admirably versed in the principles of the British constitution, yet his high relish for the more fascinating portions of literature rendered the technical branches of the science exceedingly irksome to him; few, indeed, can be reconciled to them, except under the gripe of a hard and invincible necessity.

Mr. Lynch's father ultimately yielded to his wishes, and he returned to South Carolina about the year 1772, after an absence of eight or nine years. The delight which his affectionate and judicious parent must have experienced, from witnessing the consummation of all those sanguine expectations which he had ventured to entertain in relation to his son, may be well imagined by those who have felt the mingled anxieties and pleasures of paternity. We have the authority of more than one of his contemporaries for believing, that it did not require the partial fondness of a parent to form a favourable estimate of the qualifications of such a son. Few men had ever returned to America more accomplished, in the most valuable sense of the

term. With ample stores of knowledge, won from the solid parts of human learning, embellished by the graces of polite literature, possessing easy and insinuating manners, combined with a powerful and fascinating elocution, he was enabled at once to impress that community, in which he was destined to spend his short life, with a decided conviction of his great fitness for public confidence and distinction.—The men of the revolution, who were educated and travelled in foreign countries, seem to have been fully sensible of the purposes for which they went abroad, and the duties which they would have to discharge at home. They consequently corrected and amplified a knowledge derived from books, by observation and travel, and, fixing a right value on valuable things, returned untainted by the follies and fopperies of a refined but licentious society.

On his arrival in South Carolina, one of the first steps which Mr. Lynch accomplished, was to induce his father to relinquish his wishes in reference to his practising the law. This acquiescence in the inclinations of his son, was probably influenced by a strong desire to introduce him at once in public life; to promote this object, he presented him with one of his most valuable plantations on the North Santee river, that he might really, as well as ostensibly,

possess a great stake in the interests of the country. It was about this period that Thomas Lynch, jr. was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Shubrick. In the possession of this amiable and beautiful woman, one of the early and romantic attachments of his childhood was gratified.

Every circumstance now contributed to his domestic happiness, and personal popularity, for we find Mr. Lynch associated with his father in the provincial assemblies, and in most of the political events of the day. His *debut* as a public speaker had been made at a town-meeting at Charleston, shortly after his arrival. It was at this meeting, crowded for the purpose of taking into consideration some of the accumulated injuries inflicted by Great Britain, that he delighted his hearers by an impressive display of vigorous and enthusiastic feeling, enlightened views, and a rhetoric which partook largely of the treasures of the classics. The interest of this scene was very much enhanced, by his having followed in debate his venerable father, whose antagonists he combatted with great force and success. This alliance, subsisting between two individuals, sustained by congeniality of views, and the most devoted attachment to the same cause, and cemented by the warmest and truest affections, presented a spectacle formed to attract universal notice

and admiration. There are few situations in life, presenting a picture of more moral beauty and interest, than a parent and son mutually sustaining each other in such a cause.

It was not in a display, however successful, of mere rhetoric and elocution, that Mr. Lynch endeavoured to be useful to his country. On the raising of the first South Carolina regiment of provincial regulars, in 1775, he was appointed to the command of a company. This commission he accepted somewhat in opposition to the wishes of his father, who was then in the congress of the United States, and who urged him to proceed to Philadelphia, that he might obtain for him an appointment in the army, of a higher rank. But Mr. Lynch, with a modesty as judicious as it was remarkable, resisted his father's partial designs, by observing, that "his present commission was fully equal to his experience;" no doubt reflecting, that in the military profession, a man's subsequent enthusiasm and exertions are vastly more important than the precise point at which he commences his career.

Early in July, 1775, Mr. Lynch left Charleston, in company with the present Gen. Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, then a captain in the first regiment. They commenced the recruiting service in North Carolina, and unfurled the American co-

lors in the counties of Newbern, Dauphin, and Dobbs, where they speedily met with the greatest success; raising, in a few weeks, their respective quotas. The refinements of their European education did not disqualify them for the rough insinuation, and peculiar address, necessary for this service. Their success was, however, very much promoted by the friendly exertions of captain Miller, at that time an eminent merchant in Dobbs county, who, although engaged in raising a volunteer company of riflemen himself, did not deny them his assistance. Of this warm hearted veteran, Mr. Lynch often spoke in terms of gratitude, for his hospitality and kindness.

An incident in the life of captain Miller tends to prove that there were many good men, and unquestionable patriots, at the commencement of the revolution, who, whilst they were in favour of the utmost freedom of the colonies, as colonies, were yet opposed to an absolute disruption of our political ties with the mother country. With these sentiments, captain Miller uniformly opposed the sanguinary intolerance of the tories in North Carolina, and when the Highlanders rose at Cross Creek, he joined, with his volunteer riflemen, the American standard, and was very instrumental in quelling them at Moore's Creek bridge. He remained firm-

ly with the whigs until the declaration of independence; after which event, he retired to Scotland, declaring "that he was by no means ripe for so strong and questionable a measure." He, nevertheless, carried with him the esteem and regrets of all who had witnessed the gallantry and noble disinterestedness of his conduct on various occasions.

After completing his company, Mr. Lynch commenced his march for Charleston, during which, he was attacked with the violent bilious fever of the country. His health had, previous to this attack, been seriously impaired by the exposures incident to the service in which he had been engaged; hence they were sufficient to destroy his constitution, and to make him, for the remnant of his life, habitually and constantly an invalid.

A sky, which had been unobscured by a single cloud, began now to exhibit the most gloomy portents. Towards the close of the year 1775, Mr. Lynch joined his regiment, feeble and emaciated, where he soon after received the melancholy tidings of the extreme illness of his father at Philadelphia. This intelligence was accompanied by the resignation of the seat of this inflexible patriot in congress, which he could conscientiously hold no longer than he felt himself able to discharge its duties. Although a paralytic affection was the dis-

ease by which his life was menaced, yet those who had the best opportunities of observing the progress and character of his infirmities, attributed them, in no small degree, to the anxieties for his country, which unceasingly oppressed him.

Urged by the dictates of filial piety, Mr. Lynch, notwithstanding the delicacy of his own health, lost not a moment in making the necessary arrangements to join his father, that he might exercise, in his dying moments, that love and veneration which he had always borne towards him.

He, however, encountered serious difficulties in obtaining a furlough for this purpose. His application was refused by his commanding officer, colonel Gadsden, who, with the spirit of the Roman, would have devoted his own son to the cause of his country, and who never permitted the private relations of life to interfere, even remotely, with those of a public nature. This controversy was, however, speedily terminated by the election of Mr. Lynch to the congress then convened at Philadelphia, as the successor of his father, by the unanimous vote of the provincial assembly. This compliment to a young man of twenty-seven, under all the circumstances which accompanied it, portrayed in the most vivid colours, the high and general consideration entertained for his talents and worth.

On his arrival at Philadelphia, he took his seat in the congress of 1776,—an assembly which has been justly stiled, by one of the greatest and proudest spirits of modern times, “one of the most august the world has ever witnessed.” As the proceedings of this body were conducted with closed doors, we are unable, at this time, to establish the precise agency of the different members in the various events of the day. But we are justified, by the contemporary testimony of his associates, in affirming, that although Mr. Lynch’s health was too feeble to allow his participating with unremitting activity in the public concerns, he nevertheless succeeded in fixing a just impression of his exalted character, superior intellect, and persuasive eloquence.

Whether the fatigues of his journey had aggravated his malady, or the change of climate had been unpropitious, it is impossible to determine, but he had not been long in congress before his health began to decline with the most alarming rapidity. He was, however, enabled to give his full sanction to those measures which were tending, with irresistible efficacy, to the declaration of independence. One of the last acts of his political life was to affix his signature to this important manifesto.

During the early part of the services of Mr. Lynch in congress, his father remained in Philadelphia. He had experienced a temporary alleviation from his bodily sufferings; and his physicians flattered themselves with the hope that he might live to reach Carolina. On this journey, which they recommended, his valuable life was terminated by a second paralytic attack at Annapolis, in the autumn of 1776, where he expired in the arms of his son.

It was not long after this distressing event, that Mr. Lynch returned home, but in a situation which did not promise a long continuance of his own life. Such were the infirmities under which he laboured, that he was frequently deprived, during several weeks, of the use of his limbs, by severe and continued rheumatic fevers, the consequences of his privations and exposures in the service of his country.

Being thus compelled to abandon all his public employments, he could not avoid realizing the painful truth, that the cause of his country, whether destined to be fortunate or otherwise, would, in all probability, be unaided by his future exertions.— This belief was forced upon him at the very period when the anxieties of his patriotism were most sensibly excited by those events which were daily

conferring fresh interest on that contest, in the fate of which he had been willing to stake both his life and fortunes.

His friends, witnessing his rapid decline with the most painful emotions, embraced, with avidity, any alternative promising even an imperfect hope of the ultimate preservation of his life. A change of climate was regarded as the only resource, as his case seemed beyond the reach of medical skill. Notwithstanding the difficulties of a voyage to Europe, rendered perilous by the hazards of capture, in which event the fate of Mr. Lynch would have been at least the tower, if not the scaffold, he was prevailed upon to embark for St. Eustatia, where, it was believed, he might find a neutral vessel bound for the south of France. He accordingly sailed about the close of the year 1779, in a ship commanded by captain Morgan, accompanied by his amiable lady, whose conjugal devotion increased with the declining health of her husband.

In this voyage, they unfortunately terminated their mortal career. The circumstances of their fate are veiled in impenetrable obscurity. As it has been said, on a similar occasion, "we know that they are dead, and that is all we know." That the ship foundered at sea, there can be little doubt. Independently of her having been injudiciously

lengthened, previous to the voyage, there was a Frenchman among the passengers, who, for some reason unknown, after the ship had been a few days at sea, was induced to remove on board a vessel which sailed in company. The account he afforded was, that the night after he left the ship, in which Mr. Lynch and his family had embarked, a violent tempest arose, in which every soul on board must have perished. A considerable time elapsed before the suspense of Mr. Lynch's relatives was removed by this distressing intelligence. Many rumours were, from time to time, in circulation, calculated to keep their hopes and fears in a state of excitement. Every ship that approached the coast, they watched with painful anxiety, in the vain hope of its being the harbinger of glad tidings—but such a harbinger never came.

Mr. Lynch's marriage was unfruitful. The immediate relatives who survived him, were three sisters—Sabina, Esther, and Elizabeth; the two first were his full sisters, and the last his half sister, by a subsequent intermarriage of his father with Hannah Motte, the daughter of Jacob Motte, a highly estimable citizen of the province, who reared a numerous family in great comfort and respectability. Of these sisters, one only is now living, who resides in Charleston. Sabina and Elizabeth are

both dead. At the period of her decease, the former was the widow of the late John Bowman, Esq. a gentleman advantageously distinguished during his life, by the exercise of an active philanthropy, and by the possession of various and highly cultivated powers of intellect;—the latter (Elizabeth,) was married to major James Hamilton, sen. an officer of the revolution, who served in the second regiment of the Pennsylvania line, and who came into Carolina during the war, in general Wayne's brigade.

Before Mr. Lynch embarked for Europe, he executed a will, by which he bequeathed, in the event of his wife's not surviving him, his ample fortune in equal proportions to his three sisters.

The views which we have occasionally presented of Mr. Lynch's character, in the course of this narrative, will supersede the necessity of our indulging in a detailed analysis of its features. If vigorous health, and a long life, had not been denied him, he would have reached and merited the highest honours of his country; at least, he enjoyed the necessary qualifications for their attainment, in an eminent degree. He not only possessed that strict moral worth which is the only sure foundation of success in life, but he exalted it by maxims and principles of the most refined delicacy and honour. His

selfdenial, evinced in a commendable control over his own passions, was as remarkable as the tenderness and ardour of his affection for his friends. Perhaps the most severe test that can be applied to the character of any man, is to place him in the situation of a slave-holder. If, with the possession of unlimited and irresponsible dominion, he is yet undebauched by the excesses of authority,—if, with the unchecked power to do wrong, he uniformly endeavours to do right, and blends the exercise of the most benignant feelings of our nature with the prerogatives of an absolute ruler, we may be satisfied that such an individual is a just man, in the most perfect acceptation of the term. To the numerous slaves, which the opulence of his father had bequeathed him, Mr. Lynch was not only a judicious master, but a kind friend, abundantly fulfilling all the duties of one of the most difficult relations in human society.

His domestic occupations were all of the most amiable cast. Habitually under the control of a fund of good sense, he yet retained enough of the passions to give a warmth and glow to his affections. No man was ever loved more ardently by his friends, or more richly deserved it. Tender to those under his protection, urbane in his intercourse with the world, embellishing the society in which he

lived by the vivacity and variety of his colloquial powers, he was universally beloved and admired.

He bore his severe illness with the resignation of a Christian, and with that philosophy in which protracted suffering is apt to instruct its unfortunate victims.

Among his faults, (and who is without them?) it might be said that he was too much addicted to the indulgence of that literary lounging, which, when urged to an extreme, degenerates into absolute indolence. His friends, therefore, sometimes found it difficult to excite him to exertion in public, more especially as this habit, co-operating with his great modesty, frequently produced an almost invincible reluctance to display himself. His fine natural powers, as we have already shown, had been most successfully cultivated by the advantages of a finished education. His devotion to letters partook largely of the enthusiasm of a peculiar passion. It has been frequently observed, that men of genius, independently of their general relish for the beauties of philosophy and letters, cherish an almost exclusive fondness for a particular author, whose work "they wear in their bosoms for secret looks and solitary enjoyment." Shakspeare was the volume that Mr. Lynch loved most:—to this immortal bard he paid

the homage of a spirit deeply impressed by the wonders of his vast and inimitable genius.

It was by an indulgence in these elegant pursuits, that he was enabled to adorn his discourse, both written and oral, with the treasures of a rich fancy and exquisite taste: and the effect of these qualifications was not lessened by a frivolous love of exhibiting them. In the various public assemblies in which he served, he seldom spoke, and never but on the most important occasions. When he did rise, he commanded profound attention, and gave the most unequivocal tokens of the adaptation of his powers to the higher excellencies of oratory.

Although this narrative is enriched by few facts of a permanent, or general interest, yet enough has been said to justify the confidence reposed in his abilities and integrity, by his fellow citizens. With unshaken firmness, he promoted the success of the cause which he had adopted, until the premature prostration of his bodily powers compelled him, with sorrowful hesitation, to retire from the path of his public duties, and circumscribed that range of usefulness, which, from the vigour of his mind, appeared to be almost unlimited. The catastrophe which terminated his life, is one of those afflicting dispensations which carries with it a peculiar sorrow. Death, in its mildest form, is shroud-

ed in terror;—but to be plunged, perhaps without one moment of preparation, into eternity, is an event peculiarly awful, and calculated to arouse the deepest emotions in the hearts of the survivors.

Such were the services, the abilities, the virtues, and the fate, of Mr. Lynch. His public character is perpetuated in the proudest record of his country; and his virtues are now bequeathed as a pure and instructive model to posterity.