

A
TRUE AND AUTHENTIC
HISTORY
OF HIS EXCELLENCY

George Washington,

Commander in Chief of the American Army during the late
War, and present President of the United States.

ALSO,
OF THE BRAVE
Generals MONTGOMERY and GREENE,

AND THE CELEBRATED
MARQUIS DE LA FAYETTE.

TO WHICH IS ADDED,
AND
ON GENERAL WASHINGTON'S BIRTH DAY.

By the Reverend Mr. THOMAS THORNTON.



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His Excellency General WASHINGTON.

NOTWITHSTANDING it has often been asserted with confidence, that General Washington was a native of England, certain it is his ancestors came from thence to this country so long ago as the year 1657. He, in the third descent after their migration, was born on the 11th of February (old style) 1732, at the parish of Washington, in Westmoreland county, in Virginia. His father's family was numerous, and he was the first fruit of a second marriage. His education having been principally conducted by a private tutor, at fifteen years old he was entered a midshipman on board of a British vessel of war stationed on the coast of Virginia, and his baggage prepared for embarkation: but the plan was abandoned on account of the reluctance his mother expressed to his engaging in that profession.

Previous to this transaction, when he was but ten years of age, his father died, and the charge of the family devolved on his eldest brother. His eldest brother, a young man of the most promising talents, had a command in the colonial troops employed against Carthagera, and on his return from the expedition, named his new patrimonial mansion MOUNT VERNON, in honour of the Admiral of that name, from whom he had received many civilities. He was afterwards made Adjutant General of the militia of Virginia, but did not long survive. At his decease (notwithstanding there are heirs of an elder branch who possess a large moiety of the paternal inheritance) the eldest son by the second marriage, inherited this seat and a considerable landed property. In consequence of the extensive limits of the colony, the vacant office of Adjutant General was divided into three districts, and the *future Hero of America*, before he attained his twentieth year, began his military service by a principal appointment in that department, with the rank of major.

When he was little more than twenty one years of age, an event occurred which called his abilities into public notice.

General Washington.

tice. In 1753, while the government of the colony was administered by lieutenant governor Dinwiddie, encroachments were reported to have been made by the French, from Canada, on the territories of the British colonies, at the westward. Young Mr. Washington, who was sent with plenary powers to ascertain the facts, treat with the savages and warn the French to desist from their aggressions, performed the duties of his mission, with singular industry, intelligence and address. His journal, and report to governor Dinwiddie, which were published, announced to the world that correctness of mind, manliness in style and accuracy in the mode of doing business, which have since characterised him in the conduct of more arduous affairs. But it was deemed, by some, an extraordinary circumstance that so juvenile and inexperienced a person should have been employed on a negotiation, with which subjects of the greatest importance were involved: subjects which shortly after became the origin of a war between England and France, that raged for many years throughout every part of the globe.

As the troubles still subsisted on the frontiers, the colony of Virginia raised, the next year, a regiment of troops for their defence. Of this corps, Mr. Fry, one of the professors of the college, was appointed Colonel, and Major Washington received the commission of Lieutenant Colonel. But Colonel Fry died the same summer, without ever having joined; and of course left his regiment and rank to the second in command. Colonel Washington made indefatigable efforts to form the regiment, establish magazines, and open roads so as to pre-occupy the advantageous post at the confluence of the Alleghany and Monongahela rivers, which he had recommended for that purpose in his report the preceding year. He was to have been joined by a detachment of independent regulars from the southern colonies, together with some companies of provincials from North Carolina and Maryland. But he perceived the necessity of expedition, and without waiting for their arrival, commenced his march in the month of May. Notwithstanding his precipitated advance, on his ascending the Laurel hill, fifty miles short of his object. he was advised that a body of French had already taken possession and erected a fortification, which they named fort *duquesne*. He then fell back to a place known by the appellation of the
Great

Great Meadows, for the sake of forage and supplies. Here he built a temporary stockade, merely to cover his stores; it was from its fate called fort *Necessity*. His force when joined by Captain M'Kay's regulars, did not amount to four hundred effectives. Upon receiving information from his scouts that a considerable party was approaching to reconnoitre his post, he sallied and defeated them. But in return he was attacked by an army, computed to have been fifteen hundred strong, and after a gallant defence, in which more than one third of his men were killed and wounded, was forced to capitulate. The garrison marched out with the honours of war, but were plundered by the Indians, in violation of the articles of capitulation. After this disaster, the remains of the Virginia regiment returned to Alexandria to be recruited and furnished with necessary supplies.

In the year 1755, the British government sent to this country General Braddock, who, by the junction of two veteran regiments from Ireland, with the independent and provincial corps in America, was to repel the French from the confines of the English settlements. Upon a royal arrangement of rank, by which "no officer who did not *immediately* derive his commission from the king, could command one who did," Colonel Washington relinquished his regiment and went as an extra aid-de-camp into the family of General Braddock. In this capacity, at the battle of Monongahela, he attended that General, whose life was gallantly sacrificed in attempting to extricate his troops from the fatal ambuscade into which his over-weening confidence had conducted them. Braddock had several horses shot under him, before he fell himself; and there was not an officer, whose duty obliged him to be on horseback that day, excepting Colonel Washington, who was not either killed or wounded. This circumstance enabled him to display greater abilities in covering the retreat and saving the wreck of the army, than he could otherwise have done. As soon as he had secured their passage over the ford of the Monongahela, and found they were not pursued, he hastened to concert measures for their further security with Colonel Dunbar, who had remained with the second division and heavy baggage at some distance in the rear. To effect this, he travelled with two guides, all night, through an almost impervious wilderness, notwithstanding the fatigues he had undergone in the day,

day, and notwithstanding he had so imperfectly recovered from sickness that he was obliged in the morning to be supported with cushions on his horse. The public accounts in England and America were not parsimonious of applause for the essential service he had rendered on so trying an occasion.

Not long after this time, the regulation of rank, which had been so injurious to the Colonial officers, was changed to their satisfaction, in consequence of the discontent of the officers and the remonstrance of Colonel Washington; and the supreme authority of Virginia, impressed with a due sense of his merits, gave him, in a new and extensive commission, the command of all the troops raised and to be raised in that colony.

It would not comport with the intended brevity of this sketch, to mention in detail the plans he suggested or the system he pursued for defending the frontiers, until the year 1758, when he commanded the van brigade of General Forbes's army in the capture of Fort Du Quesne. A similar reason will preclude the recital of the personal hazards and achievements which happened in the course of his service. The tranquillity on the frontiers of the middle colonies having been restored by the success of this campaign, and the health of Colonel Washington having become extremely debilitated by an inveterate pulmonary complaint, in 1759 he resigned his military appointment. Authentic documents are not wanting to shew the tender regret which the Virginia line expressed at parting with their commander, and the affectionate regard which he entertained for them.

His health was gradually re-established. He married Mrs. Custis,* a handsome and amiable young widow, possessed of an ample jointure; and settled as a planter and farmer on the estate where he now resides in Fairfax county. After some years he gave up planting tobacco, and went altogether into the farming business. He has raised seven thousand bushels of wheat, and ten thousand of Indian corn in one year. Altho' he has confined his own cultivation to this domestic tract of about nine thousand acres, yet he possesses excellent lands, in large quantities, in several other counties. His judgment

* General and Mrs. Washington were both born in the same year.

The History of his Excellency

in the quality of soils, his command of money to avail himself of purchases, and his occasional employment in early life as a surveyor, gave him opportunities of making advantageous locations; many of which are much improved.

After he left the army, until the year 1775, he thus cultivated the arts of peace. He was constantly a member of Assembly, a magistrate of his county, and a judge of the court. He was elected a delegate to the first Congress in 1774; as well as to that which assembled in the year following. Soon after the war broke out, he was appointed by Congress commander in chief of the forces of the United Colonies.

It is the less necessary to particularize, in this place, his transactions in the course of the late war, because the impression which they made is yet fresh in every mind. But it is hoped posterity will be taught, in what manner he transformed an undisciplined body of peasantry into a regular army of soldiers. Commentaries on his campaigns would undoubtedly be highly interesting and instructive to future generations. The conduct of the first campaign, in compelling the British troops to abandon Boston by a bloodless victory, will merit a minute narration. But a volume would scarcely contain the mortifications he experienced and the hazards to which he was exposed in 1776 and 1777, in contending against the prowess of Britain, with an inadequate force. His good destiny and consummate prudence prevented want of success from producing want of confidence on the part of the public; for want of success is apt to lead to the adoption of pernicious counsels through the levity of the people or the ambition of their demagogues. Shortly after this period sprang up the only cabal that ever existed during his public life, to rob him of his reputation and command. It proved as impotent in effect, as it was audacious in design. In the three succeeding years the germ of discipline unfolded; and the resources of America having been called into co-operation with the land and naval armies of France, produced the glorious conclusion of the campaign in 1781. From this time the gloom began to disappear from our political horizon, and the affairs of the union proceeded in a meliorating train, until a peace was most ably negotiated by our ambassadors in Europe, in 1783.

No person, who had not the advantage of being present when General Washington received the intelligence of peace,
and

and who did not accompany him to his domestic retirement, can describe the relief which that joyful event brought to his labouring mind, or the supreme satisfaction with which he withdrew to private life. From his triumphal entry into New York, upon the evacuation of that city by the British army, to his arrival at Mount Vernon, after the resignation of his commission to Congress, festive crowds impeded his passage thro' all the populous towns, the devotion of a whole people pursued him with prayers to Heaven for blessings on his head, while their gratitude sought the most expressive language of manifesting itself to him, as their common father and benefactor. When he became a private citizen he had the unusual felicity to find that his native state was among the most zealous in doing justice to his merits; and that stronger demonstrations of affectionate esteem (if possible) were given by the citizens of his neighbourhood, than by any other description of men on the continent. But he has constantly declined accepting any compensation for his services, or provision for the augmented expences which have been incurred by him in consequence of his public employment, altho' proposals have been made in the most delicate manner, particularly by the states of Virginia and Pennsylvania.

The virtuous simplicity which distinguishes the private life of General Washington, though less known than the dazzling splendour of his military achievements, is not less edifying in example, or worthy the attention of his countrymen. The conspicuous character he has acted on the theatre of human affairs, the uniform dignity with which he sustained his part amidst difficulties of the most discouraging nature, and the glory of having arrived through them at the hour of triumph, have made many official and literary persons, on both sides of the ocean, ambitious of a correspondence with him. These correspondencies unavoidably engross a great portion of his time; and the communications contained in them, combined with the numerous periodical publications and news-papers which he peruses, render him, as it were, the *focus of political intelligence for the new world*. Nor are his conversations with well informed men less conducive to bring him acquainted with the various events which happen in different countries of the globe. Every foreigner of distinction, who travels in America, makes it a point to visit him. Mem-
bers

bers of Congress and other dignified personages do not pass his house without calling to pay their respects. As another source of information it may be mentioned, that many literary productions are sent to him annually by their authors in Europe; and that there is scarcely one work written in America, on any art, science, or subject, which does not seek his protection, or which is not offered to him as a token of gratitude. Mechanical inventions are frequently submitted to him for his approbation, and natural curiosities presented for his investigation. But the multiplicity of epistolary applications, often on the remains of some business which happened when he was commander in chief, sometimes on subjects foreign to his situation, frivolous in their nature, and intended merely to gratify the vanity of the writers by drawing answers from him, is truly distressing and almost incredible: His benignity in answering, perhaps, encreases the number. Did he not husband every moment to the best advantage, it would not be in his power to notice the vast variety of subjects that claim his attention. Here a minuter description of his domestic life may be expected.

To apply a life, at best but short, to the most useful purposes; he lives as he ever has done, in the unvarying habits of regularity, temperance and industry. He rises, in winter as well as in summer at the dawn of day; and generally reads or writes some time before breakfast. He breakfasts about seven o'clock, on three small Indian hoe-cakes and as many dishes of tea. He rides immediately to his different farms, and remains with his labourers until a little past two o'clock, when he returns and dresses. At three he dines, commonly on a single dish, and drinks from half a pint to a pint of Madeira wine. This, with one small glass of punch, a draught of beer, and two dishes of tea (which he takes half an hour before sun-setting) constitutes his whole sustenance until the next day. Whether there be company or not, the table is always prepared by its elegance and exuberance for their reception; and the General remains at it for an hour after dinner, in familiar conversation and convivial hilarity. It is then that every one present is called upon to give some absent friend as a toast; the name not unfrequently awakens a pleasing remembrance of past events, and gives a new turn to the animated colloquy. General Washington is more chearful than he

was in the army. Although his temper is rather of a serious cast, and his countenance commonly carries the impression of thoughtfulness, yet he perfectly relishes a pleasant story, an unaffected sally of wit, or a burlesque description which surprises by its suddenness and incongruity with the ordinary appearance of the object described. After this sociable and innocent relaxation, he applies himself to business; and about nine o'clock retires to rest. This is the *rotine*, and this the hour he observes, when no one but his family is present; at other times he attends politely upon his company until they wish to withdraw. Notwithstanding he has no offspring, his actual family consists of eight persons.* It is seldom alone. He keeps a pack of hounds, and in the season indulges himself with hunting once in a week; at which diversion the gentlemen of Alexandria often assist.

AGRICULTURE is the favourite employment of General Washington, in which he wishes to pass the remainder of his days. To acquire and communicate practical knowledge, he corresponds with Mr. Arthur Young, who has written so sensibly on the subject, and also with many agricultural gentlemen in this country. As improvement is known to be his passion, he receives envoys with rare seeds and results of new projects from every quarter. He likewise makes copious notes, relative to his own experiments, the state of the seasons, the nature of soils, the effects of different kinds of manure, and such other topics as may throw light on the farming business.

On Saturday in the afternoon, every week reports are made by all his overseers, and registered in books kept for the purpose: so that at the end of the year, the quantity of labour and produce may be accurately known. Order and œconomy are established in all the departments within and without doors. His lands are inclosed in lots of equal dimensions, and

* *The family of General Washington, in addition to the General and his Lady, consists of Major George Washington, (Nephew to the General and late Aid de Camp to the Marquis de la Fayette) with his wife, who is niece to the General's Lady—Col. Humphreys, formerly Aid de Camp to the General—Mr. Lear, a gentleman of liberal education, private secretary to the General—and two Grand Children of Mrs. Washington.*

crops are assigned to each for many years. Every thing is undertaken on a great scale : but with a view to introduce or augment the culture of such articles as he conceives will become most beneficial in their consequences to the country. He has, last year, raised two hundred lambs, sowed twenty seven bushels of flax-seed, and planted more than seven hundred bushels of potatoes. In the mean time, the public may rest persuaded that there is manufactured, under his roof, linen and woollen cloth, nearly or quite sufficient for the use of his numerous household.



H I S T O R Y

O F

General MONTGOMERY.

GENERAL Montgomery descended from a respectable family in the North of Ireland, and was born in the year 1737. His attachment to liberty was innate, and matured by a fine education and an excellent understanding. Having married a wife, and purchased an estate in New-York, he was, from these circumstances, as well as from his natural love of freedom, and from a conviction of the justness of her cause, induced to consider himself as an American. From principle, he early embarked in her cause, and quitted the sweets of easy fortune, the enjoyment of a loved and philosophical rural life, with the highest domestic felicity, to take an active share in all the hardships and dangers that attend the soldiers life.

Before he came over to America, he had been an officer in the service of England, and had successfully fought her battles with the immortal Wolfe at Quebec, in the war of 1756, on the very spot, where, when fighting under the standard of freedom, he was doomed to fall in arms against her. No one who fell a martyr to freedom in this unnatural contest, was more sincerely, or more universally lamented. And what is extraordinary, the most eminent speakers in the
British

British parliament, forgetting for the moment, that he had died in opposing their cruel and oppressive measures, displayed all their eloquence in praising his virtues and lamenting his fate. A great orator, and a veteran fellow soldier of his in the French war of 1756, shed abundance of tears, while he expatiated on their salt friendship and mutual exchange of tender services in that season of enterprize and glory.

All enmity to this veteran soldier expired with his life; and respect to his private character prevailed over all other considerations. By the orders of General Carleton, his dead body received every possible mark of distinction from the victors, and was interred in Quebec, on the first day of January, 1776, with all the honors due to a brave soldier.

Congress were not unmindful of the merit of this amiable and brave officer, nor remiss in manifesting the esteem and respect they entertained for his memory. Considering it not only as a tribute of gratitude justly due to the memory of those who have peculiarly distinguished themselves in the glorious cause of liberty, to perpetuate their names by the most durable monuments erected to their honor, but greatly conducive to inspire posterity with emulation of their illustrious actions, that honorable body

“*Resolved*, That to express the veneration of the United Colonies for their late General, RICHARD MONTGOMERY, and the deep sense they entertain of the many signal and important services of that gallant officer, who, after a series of successes, amidst the most discouraging difficulties, fell at length in a gallant attack upon Quebec, the capital of Canada; and to transmit to future ages, as examples truly worthy of imitation, his patriotism, conduct, boldness of enterprise, insuperable perseverance, and contempt of danger and death; a monument be procured from Paris, or other part of France, with an inscription sacred to his memory, and expressive of his amiable character, and heroic achievements, and that the continental treasurers be directed to advance a sum not exceeding 3000. sterling, to Dr. Benjamin Franklin, who is desired to see this resolution properly executed, for defraying the expence thereof.”

This resolve was carried into execution at Paris, by that ingenious artist, Mr. Cassiers, sculptor to the king of France, under

under the direction of Dr. Franklin. The monument is of white marble, of the most beautiful simplicity, and inexpressible elegance, with emblematical devices, and the following truly classical inscription, worthy of the modest, but great mind of a Franklin.

TO THE GLORY OF
 RICHARD MONTGOMERY Major General
 of the armies of the United States of America,
 Slain at the siege of Quebec,
 the 31st of December, 1775, aged 38 years.

This elegant monument has lately been erected in front of St. Paul's church in New York.

There is a remarkable circumstance connected with the fall of this brave officer, that merits to be recorded, because the fact is of a very interesting nature, and will serve to perpetuate the memory of a very amiable and deserving character, who was also a martyr in the cause of his country. The circumstance is this :

One of General Montgomery's Aides de Camp, was Mr. Macpherson, a most promising young man, whose father resided at Philadelphia, and was greatly distinguished in privateering in the war of 1756. This gentleman had a brother in the 16th regiment, in the British service, at the time of Montgomery's expedition into Canada, and who was as violent in favour of the English government, as this General's Aide de Camp was enthusiastic in the cause of America ; the latter had accompanied his General a day or two previous to the attack in which they both lost their lives, to view and meditate on the spot where Wolfe had fallen ; on his return he found a letter from his brother, the English officer, full of the bitterest reproaches against him, for having entered into the American service, and containing a pretty direct wish, that if he would not abandon it, he might meet with the deserved fate of a rebel. The Aide de Camp immediately returned him an answer, full of strong reasoning in defence of his conduct, but by no means attempting to shake the opposite principles of his brother, and not only free from acrimony, but full of expressions of tenderness and affection ; this letter he dated, " from the spot where Wolfe lost his life, in fighting the cause of England, *in friendship with America.*"

This

This letter had scarcely reached the officer at New York, before it was followed by the news of his brother's death. The effect was instantaneous, nature, and perhaps reason prevailed; a thousand, not unworthy sentiments rushed upon his distressed mind; he quitted the English service, entered into that of America, and sought every occasion of distinguishing himself in her service!



H I S T O R Y

O F

General G R E E N E.

GENERAL GREENE was born at Warwick in the State of Rhode Island, about the year 1741, of reputable parents, belonging to the society of *Friends*. He was endowed with an uncommon degree of judgment and penetration, his disposition was benevolent and his manners affable. At an early period of life, he was chosen a member of the assembly, and he discharged his trust to the entire satisfaction of his constituents.

After the battle of Lexington three regiments of troops were raised in Rhode Island, and the command of them given to Mr. Greene, who was nominated a Brigadier General. His merit and abilities both in council and in the field, were soon noticed by General Washington, and in August 1776, he was appointed Major General. In the surprise at Trenton, and the battle of Princeton, General Greene distinguished himself; and in the action of Germantown, in 1777, he commanded the left wing of the American army, where he exerted himself to retrieve the fortune of the day.

At the battle of Brandywine, General Greene, distinguished himself by supporting the right wing of the American army,

my, when it gave way, and judiciously covering the whole, when routed and retreating in confusion; and their safety from utter ruin, was generally ascribed to his skill and exertions, which were seconded by the troops under his command.

In March 1778, he was appointed Quarter master General, an office he accepted on condition of not losing his rank in the line, and his right to command in action according to his seniority. In the execution of this office, he fully answered the expectations formed of his abilities; and enabled the army to move with additional celerity and vigor.

At the battle of Monmouth, the commander in chief, disgusted with the behaviour of General Lee, deposed him in the field of battle, and appointed General Greene to command the right wing, where he greatly contributed to relieve the errors of his predecessor, and to the subsequent event of the day.

He served under General Sullivan in the attack on the British Garrison at Rhode Island, where his prudence and abilities were displayed in securing the retreating army.

In 1780 he was appointed to the command of the southern army, which was much reduced by a series of misfortune. By his amazing diligence, address and fortitude, he soon collected a respectable force and revived the hopes of our southern brethren.

Under his management, General Morgan gained a complete victory over Colonel Tarleton. He attacked Lord Cornwallis at Guilford, in North Carolina, and although defeated, he checked the progress and disabled the army of the British General. A similar fate attended Lord Rawdon, who gained an advantage over him at Camden.

His action with the British troops at Muddy Springs was one of the best conducted, and most successful engagements that took place during the war. For this General Greene was honored by Congress with a British standard and a gold medal. As a reward for his particular services in the southern department, the state of Georgia presented him with a large and valuable tract of land on an island near Savannah.

After the war, he returned to his native state; the contentions and bad policy of that state, induced him to leave it and retire to his estate in Georgia.

He removed his family in October, 1785 ; but in June the next summer, the extreme heat, and the fatigue of a walk brought on a disorder that put a period to his life, on the 19th of the same month. He lived universally loved and respected and his death was as universally lamented. His body was interred in Savannah, and the funeral procession attended by the Cincinnati.

Immediately after the interment of the corpse, the members of the Cincinnati, held a meeting in Savannah, and resolved, ' That in token of the high respect and veneration in which the society hold the memory of their late illustrious brother, Major Gen. Greene, deceased, George Washington Greene, his eldest son, be admitted a member of this society, to take his seat on his arriving at the age of eighteen years.' This son of the General's lately embarked for France, to receive his education with George Washington, son of the Marquis de la Fayette, that active and illustrious friend of America.

General Greene left behind him a wife and five children, the eldest of whom, who has been just mentioned, is about fourteen years old.

On Tuesday, the 12th of August, the United States in Congress assembled came to the following resolution: ' That a monument be erected to the memory of Nathaniel Greene, Esq. at the seat of federal government, with the following inscription :'

Sacred to the Memory of
NATHANIEL GREENE, Esquire,
who departed this Life.
on the nineteenth of June, MDCLXXXVI;
late MAJOR GENERAL
in the Service of the United States,
and
Commander of their Army
in the
Southern Department :
The United States in Congress assembled,
in Honour of his
Patriotism, Valour, and Ability,
have erected this monument.

The Marquis de la FAYETTE.

THE enthusiastic zeal and great services of the Marquis de la Fayette, merit a particular detail. At the age of nineteen he espoused the cause of America, with all the ardor which the most generous philanthropy could inspire. At a very early period of the war, he determined to embark from his native country, for the United States. Before he could complete his intention, intelligence arrived in Europe, that the American insurgents, reduced to two thousand men, were flying through Jersey before a British force of thirty thousand regulars. This news so effectually extinguished the little credit which America had in Europe, in the beginning of the year 1777, that the commissioners of Congress at Paris, though they had previously encouraged his project, could not procure a vessel to forward his intentions. Under these circumstances they thought it but honest to dissuade him from the present prosecution of his perilous enterprise. It was in vain they acted so candid a part. The flame which America had kindled in his breast, could not be extinguished by her misfortunes. "Hitherto," said he, in the true spirit of patriotism, "I have only cherished your cause--now I am going to serve it. The lower it is in the opinion of the people, the greater will be the effect of my departure; and since you cannot get a vessel, I shall purchase and fit out one to carry your dispatches to Congress and myself to America." He accordingly embarked and arrived in Charleston early in the year 1777. Congress soon conferred on him the rank of major-general. He accepted the appointment, but not without exacting two conditions, which displayed the elevation of his spirit: the one, that he should serve on his own expence; the other, that he should begin his services as a volunteer.

He

He was soon appointed to command an expedition to Canada. The plan was to cross the lakes on the ice; the object, to seize Montreal and St. Johns. He was now at the age of twenty, and must have keenly experienced the allurements of independent command; but his cool judgment, and honest heart, restrained him from indulging a passion for military fame, under circumstances that might have injured the cause which he had so zealously espoused. He found that, in case of his proceeding, the army under his command would be in danger of experiencing a fate similar to that of the unfortunate Burgoyne. With a boldness of judgment that would have done honor to the most experienced general, and without advancing beyond Albany, he relinquished the expedition. Soon after he received the thanks of Congress for his prudence.

In the four campaigns which succeeded the arrival of the marquis de la Fayette in America, he gave repeated proofs of his military talents in the middle and eastern states; but the events that took place under his command in Virginia, deserve particular notice.

Early in the year 1781, while the war raged to the southward of Virginia, the marquis de la Fayette was detached on an expedition against Portsmouth; but here his active zeal received a check, no less fatal to his hopes than when he was obliged to relinquish the expedition to Canada. The engagement near the capes of the Chesapeake, between the French chief d'elade d'Estouches, and the British admiral Arbuthnot, which took place on the fifth of March, 1781, defeated the enterprise. Upon this event he marched back to the Head of Elk, where he received an order from General Washington to return to Virginia, to oppose general Philips, who had joined general Arnold at Portsmouth. Although the troops under his command were in want of almost every thing, he nevertheless proceeded with them to Baltimore. Here he learned that general Philips was urging preparations to embark at Portsmouth, with upwards of three thousand men. With the marquis de la Fayette it was a moment of extreme distress and embarrassment. In his whole command there was not one pair of shoes; but the love and confidence he had universally excited, enabled him to obtain a loan of money which procured him some necessaries for his troops, and

gave renewed vigor to his march. He supposed Richmond to be the object of general Philips, and therefore marched thither with so great expedition, that he arrived at that place the evening before general Philips. He was joined the first night after his arrival by major-general baron Steuben, with a corps of militia. In this manner was the capital of Virginia, at this time filled with almost all the military stores of the state, saved from the most imminent danger. The British appeared the next morning at Manchester, just opposite to Richmond. The two armies surveyed each other for some time, and then general Philips, apprehending it to be too hazardous to attack the marquis de la Fayette in his strong position, very prudently retired.

Such was the great superiority of numbers by the combination of the forces under general Arnold, general Philips and lord Cornwallis---so fatal to all the southern states would have been the conquest of Virginia-- that the marquis de la Fayette had before him a labour of the last consequence, and was pressed on all sides by innumerable difficulties.

In the first moments of the rising tempest, and until he could provide against its utmost rage, he began to retire with his little army, which consisted of about a thousand regulars, two thousand militia, and sixty dragoons. Lord Cornwallis, exulting in the prospect of success, which he thought to be heightened by the youth of his opponent, incautiously wrote to Great Britain, "that the Boy could not escape him." The engagement, however, which was to confirm his promise, was sedulously avoided. Finding it impossible to force an action he next endeavoured to cut off the communication of the Marquis de la Fayette with general Wayne, who, with eight hundred Pennsylvanians, were advancing from the northward. The junction however, was effected at Racoon Ford without loss. The next object of lord Cornwallis, was to get possession of the American stores, which, for their greater security, had been removed from Richmond to Albermarle old court-house above the Point of Fork. While the troops commanded by the marquis de la Fayette and general Wayne were forming a junction, lord Cornwallis had gotten between them and their public stores. The possession of these was a principal object to both armies. The marquis de la Fayette, by forced marches, got within a few miles of the British
army,

army, when they were yet distant two days march from Albermarle old court-house. Once more the British general considered himself sure of his adversary. To save the stores he knew was his design, but to accomplish that object, his lordship saw no practical way but by a road, in passing which, the American army might be attacked to great advantage. It was a critical moment, but the marquis de la Fayette had the good fortune to extricate himself. He opened in the night, by part of his army, a nearer road to Albermarle, which having been many years disused, was much embarrassed, and, to the astonishment of lord Cornwallis, posted himself in a strong position the next day between the British army and the American stores.

His lordship, finding all his schemes frustrated, fell back to Richmond, whither he was followed by the marquis de la Fayette. The main American army in Virginia was now reinforced by the troops under major-general Baron Steuben, and by volunteer corps of Virginia and Maryland gentlemen. And the marquis de la Fayette had the address to impress lord Cornwallis with an idea, that his force was much greater than he actually commanded. His lordship, therefore, retreated to Williamsburg.

After a series of manœuvres, which it is not necessary to relate, and in which the British general displayed the boldness of enterprize, and the young marquis the sound judgment of age, blended with the ardour of youth, the former fixed himself and his army in York-town. The latter, under various pretences, sent the Pennsylvania troops to the south side of James River; collected a force in Gloucester county, and made sundry arrangements subservient to the grand design of the whole campaign, which was the capture of lord Cornwallis, and the British army under his command.

Sometime after the capture of Cornwallis, the marquis de la Fayette went to France, where he successfully used his endeavours to promote the commercial and political interest of these states.

Pennsylvania, in order to show her esteem for this gallant nobleman, has lately erected part of her western territory into a separate county, and named it *FAYETTE*.

O D E

O N

General WASHINGTON'S BIRTH-DAY.

By the Reverend Mr. Thomas Thornton.

HAIL to the sun, whose circling ray
Once more revolves the happy day
That gave our HERO birth:
Prepare the feast, in pairs advance
To raise the song or lead the dance
To jollity and mirth.

Chorus—Blow the trumpet, sound the flute,
Tune the viol, strike the lute,
And let ev'ry free born soul
Chant his name from pole to pole.

Ambition fir'd the Chiefs of old
To fight for empire or for gold,
How few for liberty:
But he was born by heav'n design'd
To scourge th' oppressors of mankind,
And set th' oppressed free.

Cæsar and Phillip's frantic son
With arms and chains the world o'er run
To gratify their pride:
Benevolence and valour join'd
Display the greatness of his mind,
And all his actions guide.

Nassau forsook his native land,
Great Brita'n's ruin to withstand,
And he the nation sav'd;
Great Marlbro' led her conquering force
Where nothing could retard his course,
And ev'ry danger brav'd.

William's high deeds a crown obtain'd,
 A prince's title Marlbro' gain'd :
 But greater is his claim ;
 Thirteen United people's prayers,
 Their soldier's hearts, their senate's cares,
 Are offer'd all for him.

Propitious Victory has spread
 A grove of laurels round his head,
 And Peace his conquest crown'd :
 May no malignant spirit dare,
 With baneful breath—God grant my prayer—
 His fame or peace to wound.

But may good angels near him wait,
 To bear him late, O very late,
 From hence to realms above ;
 And may he be permitted there,
 As with his arm he freed us here,
 To speed us with his love.

Chorus.—Blow the trumpet, &c.

RECITATIVE.

Had I my favourite Prior's happy vein,
 I'd sing his triumphs in a noble strain ;
 Nassau or Marlbro' should not brighter shine,
 In bolder figures or a smoother line ;
 Ensigns and trophies should adorn his bowers,
 And Vernon's Mount rise high as Blenheim's towers.

Chorus.—Blow the trumpet, &c. &c.

S O N G,

O N

General WASHINGTON's Birth-Day.

IN Olympian state, old Jupiter fate
Discoursing of things here below,
Bring in said he straight, the volume of fate,
Let's see what to mortals we owe.

As soon as 'twas heard, the dire book appear'd
Before him was plac'd on the board,
The Gods all around, in rev'rence profound,
Awaited the nod of their Lord.

Apollo who's wise, this no God denies,
At heart with the cause was o'erjoy'd,
My wisdom says he, for ever shall be,
In service of mortals employ'd.

Apollo's desire, then pardon dread Sire,
To him your high orders be giv'n,
He ever was true to man and to you,
Upon earth, as well as in Heav'n.

Forward youth replies, the God of the skies,
Too weighty this matter for thee,
All the pow'rs above, unaided by Jove,
Would feebly oppose fate's decree.

Behold here we find, impos'd on mankind,
The keen feelings of various woe,
But freedom's dread call, the worst of them all,
Doth make the four cup overflow.

This sentence severe, by Styx I do swear,
(At the terrible sound Heav'n shook)
Shall ne'er more take place, on th' ill-fated race,
What e'er be denounc'd by the book.

Lucina attend, to mankind a friend,
Away, haste away to the earth,
Our mandate obey, without more delay,
Your presence we need at a birth.

Away then she goes, to Columbia's coasts,
And quick to the skies doth return,
To Heaven's high court, she makes her report,
A HERO, a HERO is born.

Then Jove with a nod, each Goddess, and God
To order commanded, and said,
To America's son, the great WASHINGTON,
This day shall most sacred be made.

Ye mortals on earth, rejoice at the birth,
A birth to fair freedom so dear,
The Hero I send, her cause to defend,
T' establish her rights far and near.

For liberty's flame, shall rouse at his name,
And nations that ne'er felt before,
Inspir'd by that word, shall gird on the sword
And tyrants be dreaded no more.

YOUTHFUL HOPES.

IN life's gay morn, what vivid hues
Adorn the animating views,
By flattering fancy drawn!
No storms with gloomy aspects rise,
To cloud the azure of the skies,
No mists obscure the dawn.

With looks invariably gay,
Young expectation points the way
To ever blissful shades,
Where odors scent the breath of morn,
Where roses bloom without a thorn,
And music fills the glades.

Enraptur'd with the distant view,
Youth thinks its fictitious beauties true,
And springs the prize to gain;
His grasp the gay illusion flies:
Experience thus the cheat descries,
And proves his hopes were vain.

The path of life tho' flowers adorn,
Yet often will the rugged thorn
Amidst the flowers arise;
Expect not then on earth to share
Enjoyments unallay'd by care,
But seek it in the skies.