

was to be opposed to him, the British commander had exultingly said, "the boy shall not escape me;" but he found himself so often baffled by his young enemy, that it became necessary to use the greatest vigilance to prevent his own army from being surprised.

At the siege of York town, La Fayette was again eminently conspicuous, and materially assisted in the capture of the General he had contended against. The war now assuming a most favourable aspect for the cause of liberty, he obtained permission to return to his own country, where he thought his services were wanted, and he embarked in 1781, loaded with honour, and the gratitude of the American people.

On his arrival in France, he was received, in the most enthusiastic manner. His praises were sung in the streets, busts and pictures of him filled the shops, and universal popularity attended him. He was elected without opposition a deputy to the *States General* by his native province. When these were superseded by the National Assembly, he came forward in that body (1788) with his celebrated declaration of the rights of man. He opposed the measures of the court with such firmness, that he was made President of the Assembly, and Commandant of the National Guard. He accepted the latter post with pleasure, and swore to be faithful to the liberties of his country. It is unnecessary to mention with too much minuteness the numerous affrays and quarrels that took place at this time between the King's body guards and the national troops. It is sufficient to remark, that the whole influence of La Fayette was used to preserve order and regularity in the French Capital, and to alleviate the public distresses.—When he was ordered by the commune of Paris to proceed to Versailles with his army and take possession of the out posts, he restrained the violence of his soldiers—and assured the King and Queen of their safety, and saved the lives of fifteen of the household troops who had been selected as the victims of the infuriated assailants. He also advised the Duke of Orleans to leave the kingdom, as his presence gave countenance to many sanguinary procedures.

The popularity of La Fayette continuing to increase, he was, on the 14th July, 1790, made General in Chief of the National Guards of France. At this time he occupied a most important station—the eyes of the whole world were fixed upon him. A boundless influence and a devoted army might have carried him successfully to the highest grade of power. In a word, on him reposed the destinies of France.—This was the crisis of his reputation, and from his course at that time, his friends and enemies took their opinions of his character.—There was but one course for La Fayette to pursue, and that was the support of liberty, and the maintenance of the public tranquility. He held, as it were, a magnanimous neutrality between the different parties, when their projects went beyond the laws of justice and moderation. He gave his vote for the trial by Jury, and the emancipation of people of colour. But in the spring of 1791, the tide of public feeling began to change. Nothing had been done to settle the affairs of the nation, and the violent re-action of parties commenced, in spite

of the restraint imposed upon them.—Even his army became affected by the intrigues of his enemies, and when Louis XVI. wished to visit St. Cloud, and La Fayette gave orders to let him pass, he was for the first time *disobeyed!* Disgusted with this want of subordination, La Fayette threw up his commission, and did not resume it until the most humble apologies were made to him. When the King afterwards actually fled, he was suspended for being concerned in his flight, and the most violent abuse both in and out of the assembly was heaped upon him. The retaking of Louis at Varennes checked this torrent for a short time, but the royalists now turned on him from one side, and Marat and the friends of the Duke of Orleans accused him of treason on the other.—His life was actually attempted by a ruffian of the name of Fournier, whom he suffered to escape unpunished. When the constitution was adopted, in the spirit of a Washington, he resigned his command, alleging that the emergency which required his services was now over. On this occasion a golden medal, and a bust of Washington, were presented to him by the city of Paris. He was offered, in addition, a full remuneration for his losses by the revolution, and this he magnanimously declined. In 1792 he was given the command of the army of the centre near Ardonnes, but no opportunity offered in which to distinguish himself. Observing, however, the wanton and unnecessary indignities offered the King, he caused remonstrances to be forwarded from the different corps of the army. These producing no effect, he went in person to Paris, to make his complaints. The military once more opened their arms to receive him, and asked to be led against the Jacobin Club, the authors of the injuries of which he complained. This, from a generous desire to prevent the effusion of blood, he refused, while he proposed to the King, at the same time, to throw himself upon the army for protection. The imbecility and distrust of Louis prevented him from acceding to the offer, when no doubt it would have changed the current of affairs.

On the 10th of August, memorable for the horrid massacres at Versailles, and the flight of the royal family to the National Assembly for safety, La Fayette was deprived of his command. His humanity had once saved the place from destruction, but the Parisian mob now thirsted for blood. The Swiss body guards had no longer a protector to check the cruelty of their assaults. They were all massacred without mercy, though not without a gallant resistance. He lost his command at that time for taking a bold stand against the heated populace, and although the army professed still to love him, he withdrew in the night from the giddy throng of the soldiery, and the madness of party zealots. Immediately his enemies gave loose to their fury, a price was set on his head, and the golden medal before presented to him, was broken to pieces by the common hangman. If his character was now aspersed by the Revolutionists, his person the moment he crossed the frontiers, was endangered by the persecution of the royalists and emigres. The petty Duke of Saxe Teschen arrested the illustrious fugitive,

and the gallows was actually in preparation for his execution. The King of Prussia then interfered and changed the sentence of death, to that of close confinement in the dungeons of Wessel and Magdeburg. After a year's suffering in the latter, the Emperor of Austria next claimed him, and threw him into chains at Olmutz, where death seemed about to close his sufferings. It seemed as if all the despots of Europe wished to contribute to his sufferings. Washington at this time attempted to obtain his release, and two gentlemen, Dr. Bollman and a young American, named Hugar, almost rescued him from prison, by a romantic and extraordinary attempt. He was re-captured, and confined more closely than ever, but was permitted to enjoy the society of his wife and daughter. In 1797, Bonaparte effected his release, and offered to protect him. La Fayette, however, retired to Hamburg, and lived privately until the overthrow of the French Directory. He claimed the offers then made him, and kept closely on his estate until 1815, when he was elected a Deputy from the department of Seine and Marne, was nominated to the Vice Presidency, and had 50 votes for the office of President. After the battle of Waterloo, it is said, he advocated the abdication of Napoleon, and acted with Fouché, in declaring the sittings of the Chambers permanent. The exile of St. Helena gave him credit for his intentions on this occasion, but according to Las Casas, "pronounced him to be the dupe of men and things." It is remarkable that Madame Campan expresses nearly the same opinion of him. One thing is certain, however, that La Fayette has ever acted with a single eye for the good of France. On the final restoration of the Bourbons he again retired to private life, when he was once more elected a Deputy, from La Sarthe, though opposed by the whole weight of ministerial influence. At the late election, however, he was unsuccessful, because the most unjustifiable means were taken to prevent his success.

The leisure afforded him happily occurs at a time when the whole American people are desirous to see him—and he will be received by them with universal joy. When we consider the services of this illustrious man, during the revolution, our hearts glow with love and admiration. And if his career since has not always been equally fortunate, it was the fault of the people with whom he was engaged, the fickleness of the nation which he endeavoured to serve, and the bloody rapacity of the times in which he has lived. He is now sixty seven years of age.

FOR THE FREE PRESS.

"Look before you leap"—and taste before you drink.

Mr. Editor:

I am induced to offer the above advice to your readers, in consequence of a mistake I made the other day. I went to my sideboard to make a dram, opened the drawer where loaf sugar was commonly kept, and by some mismanagement in the girl about the house, there had been a piece of basket salt laid in the drawer, with the sugar of which I sweetened my brandy, drank it off without tasting it until it was too late, when to my great astonishment I discovered

I had taken salt for sugar. I consider it but just, however, to remark, that the mistake had rather a desirable effect than otherwise. W.



HALL JFA:

FRIDAY, SEPT. 17, 1824.

ELECTION RETURNS.

*Sampson*—Thos. Boykin, Senate. John Crumpler and David Underwood, Commons.

*Bladen*—D. Shipman, S. — Singleton and — M' Millan, C.

*Hyde*—David Gibbs, S. Wm. Watson and — Jarvis, C.

*Ashe*—Elijah Calloway, S. Alexander B. M' Millan and Joshua Weaver, C.

¶ We have several selected communications on hand, some of which will be inserted in our next paper.

*Sickness*.—We regret to state that bilious complaints, to an alarming extent, prevail generally throughout this and the adjoining counties; the black population appear to suffer most, among whom several deaths have recently occurred. Our town, happily, continues unusually healthy.

*Cotton*.—Notwithstanding the favorable appearance of the Cotton crops, noticed a few weeks past, we are informed that the rot has made great ravages, and that the planters in this vicinity will not realize more than half a crop. The succession of rains which we have had for ten or twelve days past has added considerably to the disheartening prospect.

*Tribute of respect*.—In consequence of intelligence reaching Tarborough, on Monday, the 13th Sept. 1824, the first day of the Fall Term of the Superior Court of Edgecombe, that MOSES MORDECAI, Esq. had recently departed this life, his honor Judge Daniel and the gentlemen of the Bar attending the Court, assembled at the Judge's chamber in the evening, and unanimously adopted the following resolutions:

*Resolved*, That we deeply lament the melancholy event which has deprived us of the society and the community of the talents of our late distinguished brother.

*Resolved*, That as a token of respect and affection for the memory of the deceased, we will wear crape on the left arm during the term.

*Resolved*, That these proceedings be published.

J. J. DANIEL, Ch'n.  
WM. DREW, Esq. Sec'y.

Williamston, Sept. 1, 1824.

—The death of Gen. SLADE, which happened this morning, being communicated to the Court, an adjournment was ordered till Thursday, 12 o'clock, for the purpose of attending his funeral. After the adjournment, the members of the bar convened at Capt. Yellowly's tavern, and his honor Judge Daniel being called to the chair,

and Abraham Maers being appointed Secretary, it was

*Unanimously resolved*, That in testimony of their sincere regret at the death of the deceased, who has long been a distinguished Member of this Bar, they wear crape upon their left arm during this term.

*Resolved further*, That the Secretary of this meeting cause the above resolutions to be published in the public papers of this state.

(Signed) A. MAERS, Sec'y.

*Gen. La Fayette* has returned to New-York. His triumphal progress continues to absorb all attention in the north, and to fill every newspaper with its details.

From Salem the General proceeded to Portsmouth, in New-Hampshire, where he received a splendid dinner and ball; after which he sat out on his return on Wednesday night, reached Newburyport at 1 o'clock in the morning, and Boston at 8 o'clock. At 2 o'clock he left Boston on his way to New-York. He was accompanied by a large number of the members of the city government, and proceeded by way of Lexington and Concord to Boston.

On reaching Lexington he was cordially received by the inhabitants of that town. A company of artillery and one of riflemen, appeared to compliment him. Among the persons presented to him were *fourteen men who were engaged in the battle of Lexington*, almost fifty years ago. After visiting the field of the battle of Lexington, he proceeded on his journey, and reached New-York on Saturday about noon, in the steamboat, by way of Long-Island Sound. The wharves and shores of the East river, for two or three miles in extent were lined with people, who kept up a continual huzzing as the boat passed the whole distance. On passing the Navy Yard a national salute was fired by the Franklin 74. The General landed at Fulton market wharf, where he was met by the Committee of the Corporation. Thousands of citizens had assembled at this point to greet his return to that city, and expressed their satisfaction by loud cheers.

*New-Jersey*.—A Convention of delegates from the several counties in the state of New-Jersey, was held in Trenton, on the 1st inst. when an Electoral Ticket was formed friendly to the election of Gen. Jackson.

*Non-consumption*.—Associations have been formed in Georgia, by which the associates pledge themselves not to consume any article of *American Manufacture* for the encouragement of which new duties were imposed by the Tariff, on similar articles imported. This was one of the measures adopted in 1774 to compel the British Parliament to repeal oppressive acts.

*Corn*.—A letter, dated at Cincinnati, (Ohio) Aug. 25, says: "any quantity of Corn may be had at eight cents per bushel, deliverable in town so soon as it is fit to pull, say in two or three weeks, as it is very forward, and the crop more abundant than was ever known."

A letter from Paris, of a late date, mentions the arrival of Mr. John Randolph, of Roanoke, in that capital, and that his strange costume attracted much attention.