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Biography.

Of the worthies who composed the celebrated Congress of 1776, only three of the members, JOHN ADAMS, THOMAS JEFFERSON, CHARLES CARROLL & their Secretary, CHARLES THOMPSON, are now living. The surviving members have all passed four score years; and the Secretary has passed four score and five; and we are happy in being able to give direct information, to state that they are all in the enjoyment of sound minds in healthy bodies. The venerable Sage of Maryland, does not so often appear before the public eye as his venerable coadjutors; we are informed by a gentleman who dined with him in Carrollton, that although more than 82 years of age, he was in excellent health, and would mount his horse with the agility of most men at fifty. The venerable Secretary Thompson, we select from a late Pennsylvania paper, the following traits.—*Pet. Int.*

CHARLES THOMPSON, Esq.

A gentleman who had the gratification of spending some hours with this irreproachable patriot, venerable saint, and Christian, a few weeks since, gives the following particulars of the man whose name the acts of the Revolutionary Congress, have their credence through the world.

He resides in an ancient and retired, but spacious mansion, on an extensive and well cultivated farm which he has named Harrison, about 10 miles from Philadelphia. He is now nearly six feet high, erect in his gait, neat in his person, dignified in his deportment, and interesting in his conversation. He was born in the parish of Maharaw, Ireland, in November 1729, and of course, has nearly completed his thirty third year. He came to America with his father's family, when he was ten years old. His father died on the passage, and his father's property being unjustly withheld from his children, they found themselves in a strange country, without friends, kindred, or money; but they found Mr. Thompson, the protecting care of the Father of the fatherless. Charles having a great taste for learning, and being patronized by the distinguished scholar, ALLISON, became an eminent proficient in Latin, Greek, and French.

The traveller called at Harrison early in the day.—He paused, after entering the door, being surprized and charmed at the distinct, audible, emphatic, and feeling manner, with which the good old man was pronouncing one of the finest passages in *Young's Night Thoughts*. After introduction, Mr. THOMPSON remarked in reference to what he was reading—"I am a stranger, in a strange land; and am asking about me to see what I am, and what there is for me to do."

The traveller was pleased with his observations, anecdotes, &c. of "olden times," and surprized to hear him speak with so much intelligence, on philosophical, religious, and political topics. He said he was an intimate and warm friend of Dr. BUNKIN, and agreed with him in every thing but religion.—And that it was to contradict the deistical sentiments of the great philosopher, that he had devoted his attention to the bible, and with a keen eye, than he should otherwise have done. It was diligent searching of scriptures, with a view to the conviction of his distinguished compatriot, that led him to contemplate a version of the Septuagint.

In the course of conversation, Mr. T. said, he was strongly impressed that he would live until he attained his 100th year: to a question if he were willing to be long from his father's house, in this arduous pilgrimage, he promptly replied—"I have no will about it—I leave it all to my blessed Saviour. He has been a good Father to me"—and the tears of gratitude glistened in his eyes. He alluded also, with particular tenderness, to his sister Mary and another lady, who had been his bosom companions for life, adding:—"I have always been a happy man. My family all loved me, and I always loved them."

At dinner, he asked a blessing with upturned hands, and in a reverential tone of voice, using nothing more than the words of the Lord's Prayer; and recollecting his version, instead of saying "lead us not into temptation," he said, "bring us not into a trial."

These children were, 1. William, who died aged 80—2. Alexander, who died aged 80—3. Matthew, the Secretary, 4. Matthew, who died aged 92; 5. John, who died aged 79; and 6. Charles, near 84, living with Charles.

This work he completed and published, some years since, and it has been pronounced by those who have examined it, to be a better version than the common use.

The traveller having mentioned Gen. R. A**** now of M. and formerly of the revolutionary army to him, Mr. T. remarked that he recollected him well and "Tell him," he added, "I wish him prosperity and happiness, peace with God, and peace with the world. Tell him to bear lightly upon the world. Money, money, money, is the god of this world."

The last sentence he several times uttered with great emphasis, in the course of the interesting interview, which the traveller will not soon forget.

LA FAYETTE—COL. WILLET.

From the National Advocate.

Gen. La Fayette.—Every thing relating to this patriot, cannot but be interesting to the American reader. We find him, at an advanced age, in the French Legislature, supporting manfully those principles for which he contended during our revolutionary war. He has lately written an affectionate letter to an old fellow soldier, Col. Marinus Willet, in which he quotes those principles for which both have successfully fought, and ends with the assurance that he hopes to visit this country, an event which will afford the highest gratification to the American people. Few men acted more conspicuous parts than Gen. La Fayette and Col. Willet, in the war declared for American Independence.

Revolutions have sometimes been effected by the most trivial event, and by a mere act of boldness and enthusiasm, have the liberties of a great country been achieved. The patriots of the revolution never bestowed a thought on the form of government which they were in future to adopt. The great question was Independence.—Neither in the first instance did they contemplate opposing the king; they were only against Lord North, and the principle of taxation, without their consent; and thus, by degrees, did providence lead them on, step by step, until the entire dissolution of all ties with the mother country, was the result.

Among the most early and undaunted partisans, we may reckon Col. Willet.—He labored under great disadvantage, being the only one of his family on the whig side. When the news reached this city of the battle of Lexington, in which the first blood for independence was spilt, it was on a Sunday; and the churches were open and most of the inhabitants at prayer. There is something in a first blow for a great cause, which is calculated to arouse and animate a people who had long complained of grievances, and remonstrated without effect. The blow was struck; blood had been shed; a mercenary soldiery had attacked and killed their fellow citizens; the tocsin must be sounded, yet who was to do it, and how was it to be done? Whilst thus hesitating and pausing, Willet stated that there were 500 stand of arms in the garret of the City Hall, at the head of Broad street, and proposed taking possession of them and arming the people, which was assented to.—They called on the master, and demanded the arms; he referred them to the armourer, who lived in Liberty street, which was the called Crown street. The armourer hesitated, not knowing how to act, and finally said the keys were mislaid. Thus foiled, they were about giving up the project, when Willet told them that the keys were unnecessary; and supplying himself with a broad axe, he broke open the door, took out the muskets and cartouch boxes, and gave one to each man, and finding a fifer, they formed themselves in line and marched through the streets on Sunday, and went up Broadway as high as John street, where a five ball court was kept, which they entered and stacked their arms. It was then apparent that some definite line of conduct must be pursued, and something like organization take place. Accordingly the name of each person was taken down, to whom a musket was given, and the whole corps was properly officered, Willet being appointed a corporal. Although the city was perfectly tranquil, and no prospect of a contest was near, yet a step had been taken which was to be followed up, and it was agreed to divide the forces into a patrol, which was nightly to go the rounds; and the countersign, probably the first American one, was Boston.—They also formed a committee of safety and superintendance, which, in fact, took every thing in their hands, and met daily. At this period there was part of an Irish regiment stationed at New-York, about 300 strong, which observed these revolutionary movements with anxiety, and were not without fears for their safety, and therefore kept in their barracks. An order arrived for these troops to sail for Boston, and the committee, which met near Counties slip, deliberated whether they would permit them to depart armed. After much discussion, and urged by the timid inhabitants, they agreed that the soldiers might depart with their arms and accoutrements. Arrangements were made for their departure, and after they had left their barracks for the water side, to embark, some person told Willet that they were carrying off all the spare arms and accoutrements, which they were

not permitted to do by the committee. He immediately ran to the foot of Broad street, and saw the battalions turning down from Wall street, in good order. In front were seven carts, containing boxes of arms and ammunition, each having a corporal's guard. The troops, with their baggage waggons, were in the rear.—When they reached the Exchange, which was at the foot of Broad street, Willet marched up alone, and seized the bridle of the first cart horse, and stopped him; this movement stopped the rest of the carts, and finally the troops.—The pause induced the Major, who was a short red haired man, and who from the beginning was fearful that something would happen, to ride up and demand of Willet why he stopped the cart. Willet replied that they had no permission to carry away the spare arms, that they might freely depart with their own arms and accoutrements, but should take no more; murmurs and disapprobation prevailed. The mayor, who was present, remonstrated with Mr. Willet on the impropriety of his conduct, and treated him with severity, for thus attempting to promote riot and bloodshed. Gouverneur Morris, who belonged to the committee, and was decidedly of the Whig party, also took part against Willet, and entreated him to permit the troops and arms to embark peaceably. Thus situated, pausing between duty and remonstrance, one of the most active of the committee came up, and hearing the merits of the dispute, told Willet he was right, and the spare arms should be retained. Thus supported, he seized the bridle of the first horse and turned the cart out of the ranks, the rest following him.

Col. Willet, though a plain man, was excellent at haranguing; he could say more in a few words to arouse and animate, than any partizan officer of the day. Mounting on one of the carts, he made a speech to the people and soldiers, and he told the latter that they were about being sent away to shed the blood of their brethren, and if any of them were unwilling to go, that they could leave their ranks and they would be protected. Some actually did join him, and the rest embarked peaceably.

With the arms and accoutrements thus seized, did Col. Willet, raise and equip the first regiment in New-York, in the cause of Independence.

The northern campaigns were unquestionably the most severe and trying. Compelled to be constantly on guard against the enemy and the Indians, with scanty clothing and provisions, exposed to the vicissitudes of an iron climate, the sufferings of the continental troops were extremely oppressive. Col. Willet was constantly on the frontiers engaged in almost every skirmish and action, and during the whole war, he had the good fortune never to retreat, and never to have been defeated.—When our troops left Ticonderoga, he was engaged in fortifying fort Stanwix cutting ditches and making redoubts. He knew very little of fortifications, but was compelled to dismiss an ignorant engineer, and undertake the work himself. The men refused to labor; they contended that it was unnecessary, because when the fortifications were finished, they would be abandoned like Ticonderoga, and Gen. Burgoyne's army, which was powerful and advantageously posted, would soon occupy the fort. Col. Willet, who always considered the war a holy one, and never despaired, continued to assure his men that Providence was with him, and drawing from his pocket a small bible, he declared to them that the destruction of Burgoyne's army was prophesied in sacred writ, and turning to the 2d chapter of Joel, he read the 20th verse, as follows:

"But I will remove far off from you the northern army, and will drive them into a land barren and desolate: with his face towards the east sea, and his hinder parts towards the utmost sea, &c." The men went to work cheerfully.

In the various skirmishes with the Indians and British, Col. Willet was always aware of the powerful effect of example, and was always in front of his men waving his hat; they followed promptly.

When the sortie from Fort Stanwix was determined upon, one of the most brilliant events of the war, Col. Willet, always fond of haranguing his men, and always to great effect, called them together, developed his plans, and recapitulated the cruel conduct of the British and Indians. Now my boys, said he, look the enemy right in the eye, he'll be afraid to look at you in return; reserve your fire till you come close, then give it to him; keep steady, none of you will be hurt; I'll bring you all back safe. The sortie was made in the day time, and was attended with wonderful success. The British, not dreaming of such a measure, were woefully beaten; and on their retreat across the river, they looked at the Continentals with wonder, not firing a shot at them for two hours.

But to return to La Fayette. At the battle of Monmouth, Col. Willet was there by accident, and volunteered as an aid to General Scott, who commanded the infantry. In the hottest of the fight he saw La Fayette (then a very young man although

a Major General) ride up, and in a voice cool, steady and slow, and with as much deliberation as if nothing exciting prevailed, said, "General, the enemy is making an attempt to cut off our right wing; march to its assistance with all your force." So saying, he galloped off; being exceedingly well mounted, though always plainly dressed, and very sedate for a Frenchman. A subsequent intimacy between them took place, which at this day is not impaired; and if La Fayette carries his determination of visiting this country into effect, no citizen will meet with a reception equal to his.

Col. Willet was the first sheriff of New-York, and held the office at several distinct periods, after serving at each of his four years; he was also a member of the legislature, and then mayor of the city, and in every situation exhibiting firmness, integrity and good sense. At the advanced age of 83 years, he enjoys good bodily health, a sound memory, and has no small gratification in witnessing the rising glory and eminence of our country.

But to the letter of the Marquis La Fayette; we had to press Colonel Willet for permission to publish it, he indulging in delicate scruples which would be in order for a young man; but every thing relating to the revolutionary war is of deep interest to the present generation, and the surviving patriots, together with every documentary evidence of their principles & services, are the property of the country.

PARIS, July 15, 1822.

MY DEAR SIR—I avail myself of a good opportunity to remind you of your old friend and fellow soldier, in whose heart, no time or distance can abate the patriotic remembrances and personal affections of our revolutionary times. We remain but too few survivors of that glorious epoch, in which the fate of two hemispheres has been decided. It is an additional monitor to think more of the ties of brotherly friendship which united us. May it be in my power before I join our departed companions, to visit such of them as are still inhabitants of the United States, and to tell you personally, my dear Willet, how affectionately,

I am your sincere friend,
LA FAYETTE.

From the National Intelligencer.

EDITORS' CORRESPONDENCE.

U. S. Ship Cyane, Harbor St. John's, Porto Rico, Aug. 31, 1822.

"A recollection of my promise to make you acquainted, during my absence from the United States, with any events that I thought would be interesting to you, induces me to offer you some account of circumstances that have lately transpired here, and the impression they have made on the Spaniards. The Cyane arrived after a safe and pleasant voyage (all well) of 24 days from Hampton Roads, at Porto Rico, where it seems our arrival was as well timed as it was ever possible for any vessel to be in any port. The very day previous to our arrival, intelligence had reached Porto Rico of the capture of one of their favorite privateers, the Panchita, by the Grampus, Capt. Gregory; some wounded men also were brought to the Island who suffered in the action; the circumstance of the capture of their vessel, and the appearance of their mutilated countrymen, had so aggravating an effect on the feelings of the populace, or lower order of people, that they rose almost en masse, and threatened vengeance on all Americans in the Island, in retaliation for what they deemed an outrage on their flag and country. Three American vessels at the time were lying in port, and there were several Americans also settled on shore as commercial agents. Our countrymen were much alarmed, as well as in real danger; two were assailed by some ruffians, but fortunately escaped unhurt, by prudently retreating. The Englishmen in the place were also in no less danger than the Americans, for they were abused and threatened likewise. Our appearance during this popular commotion seemed to quell it. Capt. Spence immediately had communication with the military and civil Governors of the place, both of whom appear to be dignified, polished and courteous officers. What were the official communications I do not know; but judging from the result and the circumstances attending the negotiation, there must have been much courtesy and good understanding between our Captain and the Governors, civil and military of the Island. A temperate, though firm policy appears always the wisest, which I should judge from the negotiation above mentioned. A few days seemed sufficient to place us on the most amicable footing; and the proud Spaniards appear now to strain points of courtesy with us, as they are made to understand our feelings towards them. We

have shown them temperately, and by the strongest and most undeniable evidence, that they have wronged us; that their privateers, without authority have captured and pillaged our merchant vessels, and maltreated our countrymen, and have had the temerity to insult and fire on our government vessels; the consequence of which was, as it always will be, their immediate capture. The justice of our expostulations, as well as determination, therefore, they cannot dissent from—we can prove the one and enforce the other. The good understanding between Capt. Spence and the Spanish Governors, (who show us every civility;) has paved the way to an apparent, and I believe real, reconciliation of the populace to us again; we walk the streets now daily, and meet every civility from the populace we desire; the military particularly are more civil to us than I have ever known them to be in any other Spanish port, of which I have been in several. Yesterday Mr. Simmons, an American gentleman settled in Porto Rico, invited Captain Spence and his officers to an entertainment at his house, where both the civil and military Governors of the Island met Capt. S. as a mark of respect—which, the Spaniards say, was the greatest condescension ever shown to any public officer who has visited the Island. I was present at the entertainment, and was much pleased with the dignified and courteous deportment of the respective Governors, which I have before remarked. Toasts of a patriotic kind, complimentary to our respective government and rulers, were drunk on the occasion.

"The harbor and town of St. John's the capital of the Island, are both fortified with prodigious strength, and are, perhaps, the strongest fortified of any place in the West Indies, Havana excepted. The Island of Porto Rico is beautiful and fertile; its chief productions are rum, sugar, and coffee, for which the American merchants are the principal traders. It is one of the most healthy in the West Indies; since we have been here we have heard of no sickness, either amongst the natives or foreigners, in the Island."

NEW-YORK, SEPT. 28.

LATE AND IMPORTANT FROM THE SPANISH MAIN.

The brig Mattewan, Capt. Coffin, arrived here last evening, in 14 days from Curacao, via Porto Rico, and 8 days from the latter; having lost her fore topmast, &c. in a white squall, on the night of the 17th of September, in the Mona Passage.

The Editors of the Commercial Advertiser are indebted to their friends Capt. Coffin and R. W. Folger, for the following important intelligence. It will be seen that the U. S. schooner Alligator, Lieut. W. H. Allen, which lately sailed from this port, has captured the Spanish privateer brig Polomo, of 16 guns and 120 men.

On the 26th August, Gen. Morales passed the harbor of Curacao, with fifteen sail of vessels; his flag ship being the Morion of 18 guns. The fleet had on board 1100 troops, destined against Maracaibo. The next day, they landed at Los Taques, to make up a band of Guerrillas. [Taques lies ten miles to the eastward of Coro.—They were so warmly received by the troops composing the legion of Carabobo, under command of Gen. Davie, that they were obliged to make a precipitate retreat, with the loss of eighty-five men; then they steered to the eastward.

On the 10th September, at one o'clock p. m. part of the expedition disembarked their troops at Biabunda, on the Indian coast and commenced a general pillage.—From the reception they met with from the aborigines of the country, they thought proper to re-embark and try the strength of Bassora, which lies between Tocacas and Maracaibo: this insignificant post, they made themselves masters of.

On the 29th August the Colombian forces marched from Coro, for the protection of Maracaibo. Accounts from Maracaibo to the 10th Sept. state, that the place is prepared at every point for an attack from the enemy.

The fleet of General Morales pursues a system of piracy. A Dutch brig, and a schooner belonging to Curacao, were captured by the Morion, and robbed of every moveable article; and from the schooner they plundered \$1000 in cash, and then released them both. This occurred on the 30th August off Aruba.

On the 11th Sept. the Spanish schooner Tasso, arrived at Curacao from Porto Rico. She informed that General Latorre had arrived safely. She also gives the following pleasing intelligence:

That on the 6th Sept. in the Mona passage, the U. S. schr. Alligator, fell in with and after an action captured, the Spanish privateer brig Polomo, of 16 guns and 180 men. She reports the loss on both sides to be severe.

FROM THE BRAZILS.

BALTIMORE, SEPT. 30.

By the brig Doris, Capt. James Beard, arrived at this port on Saturday, in the re-