

"Ours are the plans of fair, delightful Peace, "Unwar'd by party rage, to live like Brothers."

From Johnson's Memoirs. PARENTAGE AND EARLY LIFE OF GENERAL GREENE.

Another event not long after occurred, which afforded him a new opportunity of exhibiting his spirit and zeal in the cause he had espoused.

On the 19th of April, 1775, in the memorable affair of Lexington, the soil of America first drank the blood of her sons, shed by the hands of Englishmen. The combat was warmly kept up the whole day, and before night Rhode-Island was alarmed with the intelligence, that the people of Massachusetts were engaged in mortal affray with the English troops.

By this time, the corps began to acknowledge that they were ignorant of the character and just claims of the man whom they had rejected as their lieutenant. His superiority and spirit became obvious to all, and the example he set of zeal and discipline as a private, convinced them, that he who knew so well how to obey, must be qualified to command.

It was now obvious to all, that the struggle between the colonies and the mother country, must end in an appeal to the sword. Great Britain persisted in her odious assertions of power, and the means to which she had resorted to enforce its exercise, plainly avowed, that she considered the colonies as holding their lives, liberties and fortunes at the will of a despotic parliament.

Immediately after the battle of Lexington, the Massachusetts Legislature resolved on collecting an armed force, and confining the British under Gage to the limits of Boston. Deputies were dispatched to Rhode Island and Connecticut, demanding their co-operation. The request was promptly complied with, and Rhode Island proceeded to organize what was called her "army of observation."

the sensitive feelings of military pride to the good of the country; and superior to the dazzling influence of self-love or vanity, could forego their just claims of preference in favor of one in whom they had sense to discover, and magnanimity to acknowledge superior talents for command.

The astonishing rapidity with which the Rhode Island contingent was raised, organized and marched to the scene of action, adds infinite credit to the patriotism of the state.

Indeed, when posterity shall distribute justice with impartial hand among the states, Rhode Island, diminutive as it is in territory, will stand pre-eminent for the spirit and vigour with which she supported the revolutionary war. It was not with her the cause of Massachusetts; there was nothing to be ascribed to contiguity or consanguinity; jealousies and ill will had prevailed between these two states.

It was in May, 1775, that Greene was elected commander of the Rhode Island contingent of the army of observation; and such was the avidity with which the hardy yeomanry of that country enrolled themselves under his standard, that in a very few days his command was complete. Much of this no doubt is attributable to the popularity of the cause, but it cannot be doubted, that his own high standing in the confidence of his fellow citizens, and that of the officers selected to serve under him, contributed greatly to fill up his ranks.

His father was now dead, and the brothers had continued the business of the forges and mills, harmoniously participating of the proceeds as each stood in need, each confiding in each other's integrity and moderation. No jealous distrust, no wrangling settlements ever took place among them: but when the common chest was full to overflowing, some purchase was made by common consent, or some addition to their living or accommodations. It is a very singular fact, and almost unprecedented in these times of commerce and of lost of wealth, that the two brothers, who at present own the Potowome Mills, have toiled together for sixty years, and reared and set out their families, living in common, and having never had a statement of accounts in all that time.

Men whose after-conduct bore ample testimony to their high worth and understanding, cheerfully surrendered

integrity and moderation. No jealous distrust, no wrangling settlements ever took place among them: but when the common chest was full to overflowing, some purchase was made by common consent, or some addition to their living or accommodations. It is a very singular fact, and almost unprecedented in these times of commerce and of lost of wealth, that the two brothers, who at present own the Potowome Mills, have toiled together for sixty years, and reared and set out their families, living in common, and having never had a statement of accounts in all that time. Yet their business has been lucrative and extensive. Such are the benign effects of purity of heart and disinterestedness of conduct. It was in a school like this, that Greene acquired his habits of self-devotion. Accustomed from early life to consider himself only as a member of a little community, to labor for the common interest, and covet no enjoyment but what he was ready and desirous of participating in common with his fellow labourers, selfish feeling, that foul destroyer of all virtue and all happiness, was in him early subdued, or perhaps never felt.

The most honourable proof of this observation is to be found in the fast hold he ever held in the esteem and confidence of the commander in chief. Washington soon distinguished him among the numerous military acquaintance introduced to him before Boston. There is a sympathy between talents and integrity, by which those who possess these qualities intuitively discover them in others. And in addition; there was in our hero a calmness that nothing could ruffle, a firmness that nothing could shake, and a deference of manner and inviting openness of countenance, that ever rendered him a favorite with his officers and soldiers. It will be found in the course of these pages, that he became the object both of admiration and of individual attachment to most of the celebrated men, both natives and foreigners, who figured in the American revolution; and there are living witnesses who have heard the late Gen. Hamilton declare, that he wanted nothing but an education to have made him the first man in the United States. Gen. Hamilton no doubt meant, with the exception of the commander in chief, and uttered himself with his characteristic warmth, not a little heightened by individual feeling; for Greene's quick eye had first marked him out for future celebrity.

AN ACCOUNT

Of the late intended Insurrection among a portion of the Blacks of Charleston, South-Carolina.

[Under letter (A.) in the appendix, the punishment attached to the offence for which the prisoners were tried, appears in the account; it will be found in the Register of August 31.]

Against this witness, the Court had not a tittle of testimony; he consented without hesitation to become a witness, and to give all the information he possessed; a pledge having been previously given him by the Court, that he should not be prosecuted, nor his name revealed.

street, where the following conversation took place—He asked me the news—I replied, none that I know of—He said, by George! we can't live so. I replied, how will we do? He said, we can't do very well, if you can find any one to assist us—will you join? I asked him, how do you mean? He said, why! to break the yoke. I replied, I don't know. He asked me, suppose you were to hear that the whites were going to kill you, would you defend yourself? I replied, I'd try to escape. He asked, have you lately seen Denmark Vesey, and has he spoken to you particularly. I said no. Well, then, said he, that's all now; but call at the shop tomorrow after knocking off work, and I will tell you more! We then parted. I met him the next day, according to appointment, when he said to me, we intend to see, if we can't do something for ourselves, we can't live so. I asked him, where he would get men? He said, we'll find them fast enough, we have got enough, we expect men from country and town. But, how, said I, will you manage it. Why, we will give them notice, said he, and they will march down and camp round the city. But what, said I, will they do for arms. He answered, they will find arms enough, they all bring down their hoes, axes, &c. I said, that won't do to fight with here. He said, stop! let us get candidates from town with arms, and we will then take the Guard-House and Arsenal in town, the Arsenal on the Neck and the Upper Guard-House, and supply the country people with arms.—How, said I, will you approach those Arsenals, &c, for they are guarded? Yes, said he, I know that, but what are these guards, one man here, and one man there, we let a man pass before us. Well, said I, but how will the black people from the country, and those from the islands, know when you are to begin, or how will you get the town people together. Why, said he, we will have prayer meetings at night, and there notify them when to start, and when the clock strikes twelve, all must move. But, said I, the whites in the back country, Virginia, &c.; when they hear the news, will turn to, and kill you all, and besides, you may be betrayed. Well said he, what of that, if one gets hanged, we will rise at that minute. We then left his shop, and walked towards Broad st. when he said, I want you to take notice of all the shops and stores in town with arms in them, take down their numbers and give them to me. I said, I will see to it, and then we parted.

About the 1st of June, I saw in the public papers a statement that the white people were going to build missionary houses for the blacks, which I carried and shewed to Peter, and said, see the good they are going to do for us; when, he said,—What of that?—Have you not heard, that on the 4th of July, the whites are going to create a false alarm of fire, and every black that comes out will be killed, in order to thin them? Do you think they would be so barbarous? (said I) Yes! (said he) I do!—I fear they have a knowledge of an army from San Domingo, and they would be right to do it; to prevent us joining that army, if it should march towards this land! I was then very much alarmed. We then parted, and I saw no more of him till the guards were very strict, (about a fortnight ago.) At that time I saw Peter and Ned Bennett standing and talking together, at the corner of Lambol and Legare-streets. They crossed over and met me by Mrs. Myles', and Ned Bennett said to me—did you hear what those boys were taken up for the other day? I replied, No! but some say it was for stealing. Ned asked me if I was sure I had never said any thing to the whites about what Peter Poyas had spoken to me about? I replied, No! Says Peter—You never did? No! I answered. Says Ned to me—How do you stand? At which I struck the tree box with my knuckles and said, as firm as this box—I'll never say one word against you. Ned then smiled and nodded his head, and said—That will do! when we all separated.—Last Tuesday or Wednesday week, Peter said to me—You see, my lad, how the white people have got the windward of us? You won't, said I, be able to do any thing. O, yes! (he said) we will! By George we are obliged to! He said, all down this way ought to meet and have a collection to purchase powder. What, said I, is the use of powder—the whites can fire three times to our once. He said, but 'twill be such a dead time of the night, they won't know what is the matter, and our horse companies will go about the streets and prevent the whites from assembling. I asked him—where will you get horses? Why, said he, there are many butcher boys with horses; and there are the livery stables, where we have several candidates; and the waiting men belonging to the white people of the horse companies, will be told to take away their master's horses. He asked me if my master was not a horseman? I said, Yes! Has he not got arms in his house? I answered, Yes! Can't they be got at? I said, Yes! Then (said he) it is good to have them. I asked what was the plan? Why, said he, after we have taken the arsenal and Guard-House, then we will set the town on fire, in different places, and as the whites come out we will slay them. If we were to set fire to the town first the man in the

street would give the alarm too soon. I am the Captain, said he, to take the lower Guard-House and Arsenal. But I replied, when you are coming, the Centinel will give the alarm. He said, he would advance a little distance ahead, and if he could only get a grip at his throat, he was a gone man, for his sword was very sharp; he had sharpened it, and had made it so sharp, it had cut his finger, which he showed me. As to the Arsenal on the Neck, he said, that it was gone as sure as fate, Ned Bennett, would manage that with the people from the country, and the people between Hibbens' Ferry and Santee would land & take the Upper Guard-House. I then said, then this thing seems true. My man, said he, God has a hand in it, we have been meeting for four years and we are not yet betrayed. I told him, I was afraid, after all, of the white people from the back country and Virginia, &c. He said that the blacks would collect so numerous from the country, we need not fear the whites from the other parts, for when we have once got the city we can keep them all out. He asked if I had told my boys, I said no. Then said he, you should do it, for Ned Bennett has his people pretty well ranged. But said he, take care and don't mention it to those waiting men who receive presents of old coats, &c. from their masters, or they'll betray us. I will speak to them. We then parted, and I have not since conversed with him. He said the rising was to take place last Sunday night, (16th June).—That any of the colored people who said a word about this matter would be killed by the others. The little man who can't be killed, shot or taken is named Jack, a Gullah Negro. Peter said there was a French Company in town of three hundred men fully armed—that he was to see Monday Gell, about expediting the rising. I know that Mingo went often to Mr. Paul's to see Edwin, but don't know if he spoke with William. Peter said he had a sword, and I ought to get one. He said he had got a letter from the country; I think from St. Thomas', from a negro man who belonged to the Captain of a militia company, who said he could easily get the key of the house where the company's arms were put after muster, and take them all out, and help in that way. This business originates altogether with the African Congregation, in which Peter is a leader. When Bennet's Ned asked about those taken up, he alluded particularly to Mr. Paul's William, and asked me if I said any thing to him about it.

The voluntary confession of ROLLA, to the Court, made after his trial, but before sentence was passed on him.

I know Denmark Vesey, on one occasion he asked me, what news? I told him, none. He replied, we are free, but the white people here won't let us be so; and the only way is, to raise up and fight the whites. I went to his house one night, to learn where the meetings were held. I never conversed on this subject with Batteau or Ned. Vesey told me he was the leader in this plot. I never conversed either with Peter or Mingo. Vesey induced me to join. When I went to Vesey's house, there was a meeting there, the room was full of people, but none of them white. That night, at Vesey's, we determined to have arms made, and each man to put in twelve and a half cents towards that purpose. Though Vesey's room was full, I did not know one individual there. At this meeting, Vesey said we were to take the Guard-House and Magazines, to get arms; that we ought to rise up against the whites to get our liberties. He was the first to rise up and speak, and he read to us from the Bible, how the children of Israel were delivered out of Egypt from bondage; he said, that the rising would take place last Sunday night week, (the 16th June) and that Peter Poyas was one.

(C.) Examination of SALLY, a negro woman belonging to Alexander Howard.

I know Jesse, and heard him speak several times about it; one day in particular, he was anxious to see his brother, who has my mother for his wife, & waited until he came, when they conversed together. Jesse said he had got a horse to go into the country, to bring down men to fight the white people; that he was allowed to pass by two parties of the patrol on the road, but that a third party had brought him back; and that, if there were but five men like him, they would destroy the city. This was on last Sunday week, (the 16th June) he said, that before 3 o'clock that night, all the white people would be killed. That, if any person informed, or would not join in the fight, such person would be killed or poisoned. He frequently came into the yard to see his brother, and I threatened to inform, if he came there, and spoke in that way, to get us all into trouble. We never had any quarrel.

Examination of Lot, a negro man belonging to Mr. Forrester.

I know Jesse; he met me last Sunday week (16th June) at the corner of Boundary street, as I was coming into town; he said, he was going to get a horse to go into the country. From what my master had told me the Thursday before, I distrusted his errand, and gave him a caution. When, as I was going down the street, (Continued on 4th page.)