



GILBERT MOTTIER LAFAYETTE.

MAJOR-GENERAL OF THE AMERICAN ARMY.

MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE was born on the 6th of September, 1757, at the chateau de Chavagnac, in the department of Haute Loire, and was the inheritor of a princely fortune, and descended from distinguished ancestors. At seven years of age, he entered the college of Louis le Grande, at Paris, and commenced his literary education. Here the lovely but ill-fated Antoinette, the late queen of France, took him under her immediate patronage, and at a very early age, he rose to the rank of a commissioned officer in the king's guards. In 1774, he married the Countess de Noilles. At nineteen years of age, he sailed for America, and landed on the shores of South Carolina. This illustrious friend had become an advocate of the colonies, and felt all that ardor in the cause of liberty which did not desert him in maturer years. Lafayette had watched attentively the momentous controversy between Great Britain and her oppressed subjects, and resolved to make any sacrifice in their cause.

He made known his intention to Dr. Franklin, then our commissioner in France, who laid before him the disastrous state of the country. "The more hopeless your cause," said he, "the more occasion is there for my assistance, the more honor shall I acquire by bestowing it." He immediately equipped a vessel for this enterprise at his own expense, and severing the ties which would have detained him in his native country, he sailed for the United States. Arrived at Philadelphia, he presented himself before Congress. "I am come," said he, "to request two favors of this assemblage of patriots. One is, that I may serve in your army; the other, that I receive no pay." He was immediately received into the family of Washington, and congress, in July following, tendered him a commission of major-general. Soon after, learning the embarrassments of the army, he gave Washington 60,000 francs, (about 11,000 dollars,) to procure supplies; by which generous act, Washington was so affected, that he embraced Lafayette with tears of joy and affection. At the battle of Brandywine, the marquis exhibited full evidence of his bravery and military character, and in this bloody contest was wounded. After his recovery, he

joined General Green, in New Jersey, and was at the head of 2000 men, whom he had formed, clothed, armed, equipped and disciplined himself. He was afterwards actively employed in different parts of the country, till 1779, when he returned to France, his object to obtain assistance for his adopted country. In this he succeeded, and in May, 1780, he returned with the joyful intelligence that a French fleet and army would soon arrive on our coast. He immediately resumed his command, and in the campaigns of 1780 and 1781, he displayed the most consummate generalship in preserving his little army, then opposed to Lord Cornwallis, till the siege of that general at Yorktown, where, collected and undismayed, he shared largely in the honors of the day. In November, 1781, the contest, in which he had been so nobly engaged, drawing near a completion, Lafayette signified his intention of returning to his country. After the conclusion of peace, in August, 1784, General Lafayette again visited the United States, and several of the larger cities, in some of which the freedom of the city was presented him; he returned to France in December following.

General Lafayette was a member of the As-

sembly of Notables at Versailles, in 1787, and in 1789 he was elected a member of the States General, made president of that assembly, and commandant of the National Guards. In this capacity his influence was exerted in favor of lenient measures; and he did much to prevent the mob of Paris from running into those horrid excesses which were afterwards committed. He acted a conspicuous part on the day the constitution was adopted, and soon after resigned his command. In 1792, he was called again into service; but on that memorable day, the 10th of August, when the royal family fled to the National Assembly for safety, he opposed the fury of the mob, was deprived of command, a price was set on his head, and he was obliged to fly his country for safety. He was thrown into prison by the king of Prussia, and afterwards chained and imprisoned by the emperor of Austria in the citadel at Olmutz. His estate was confiscated. In prison, he was subjected to the most barbarous treatment, and frequently threatened with an ignominious death. Great exertions were made to obtain his liberation without effect, until, in 1797, in settling terms of peace with Austria, Bonaparte expressly stipulated that Lafayette

should be set at liberty, and in 1799, after the overthrow of the French Directory, he returned to France, and settled at La Grange, about forty miles from Paris. Previous to Bonaparte's first abdication, he was elected to the chamber of deputies, and there proposed a vote of permanent session, which was passed, and in consequence, the emperor found himself under the necessity of abdicating the throne. From that period to the time of his embarkation for the United States, with the exception of his having been once again elected to the chamber of deputies, General Lafayette spent most of his time in the pursuits of agriculture at La Grange.

As soon as it was known in the United States that the Marquis Lafayette had once more embarked for the shores of his adopted country, a general joy pervaded the nation, and all classes of citizens were prepared to take a lively interest in his arrival. The cities of New York and Boston particularly, anticipated the event with some degree of impatience, and entered into such general arrangements for his reception as were best calculated to do honor to themselves and their illustrious guest.

General Lafayette, accompanied by his son, George Washington Lafayette, Mr. Auguste Le

Vasseur, and one servant, arrived in the harbor of New York, on the morning of the 15th of August, in the ship *Cadmus*, Captain Allyn, after a pleasant passage of thirty-one days from Havre. His arrival was made known by the telegraph at an early hour, and spread through the city with electrical rapidity. Broadway was soon thronged, and the Battery crowded with people, who sallied forth with the expectation that the hero and veteran of two revolutions would come directly to the city. The arrangements of the city authorities, however, for his reception, having been seasonably communicated to him, he landed at Staten Island, and was conducted to the seat of the Vice-President, where he remained through the day, and passed the night. Fort Lafayette fired a salute as the ship passed, and a salute was fired as the general landed.

In the city the national flag was immediately hoisted and displayed at all the public places during the day.

PROCEEDINGS, UPON RECEPTION OF THE MARQUIS LAFAYETTE INTO THE CITY OF NEW YORK, ON MONDAY THE 16TH OF AUGUST.

Arrangements of the Corporation.

The committee of arrangements of the corporation have the pleasure to announce to their

fellow-citizens the arrival of the distinguished guest of their country, the Marquis de Lafayette.

The following are the arrangements made for his reception in the city.

The committee of arrangements of the Corporation, the generals and other officers of the United States Army, the officers of the Navy, the major-generals and the brigadier-generals of the Militia, the president of the Chamber of Commerce, the committee from the Society of Cincinnati, will proceed at 9 o'clock this day to Staten Island, where the marquis is lodged, and escort him to the city. They will be accompanied by the steam-boats, all with decorations except that in which the marquis is embarked, which will only have the flag of the United States and the flag of New York; bands of music being in each.

The marquis' embarkation will be announced by a salute from Fort Lafayette and the steamship *Robert Fulton*.

The forts in the harbor will also salute as the vessels pass.

The masters of vessels are requested to hoist their flags at mast-head, and, where convenient, to dress their vessels.

The bells of the city will be rung from 12 to 1 o'clock.

The portrait room of the City Hall is appropriated to the marquis, where, during his stay, he will, after this day, between the hours of twelve and two o'clock, receive the visits of such of the citizens as are desirous of paying their respects to him.

The committee of arrangements of the Corporation having accepted the proffered services of the steam-ship *Robert Fulton*, and the steam-boats *Chancellor Livingston*, *Oliver Ellsworth*, *Henry Eckford*, *Connecticut*, *Bellona*, *Olive Branch*, *Nautilus*, &c.; they were all superbly dressed with flags and streamers of every nation, and directed to meet and form an aquatic escort between the south part of the Battery and Governor's Island, and thence proceed in order to Staten Island. The spectacle, as the boats were assembling, was truly interesting and beautiful. The Battery was crowded with respectable people of both sexes; Castle Garden was filled, and every boat that arrived to take its station was completely crowded with elegantly dressed ladies and gentlemen. The appearance of the *Robert Fulton*, as she came down the East River, from the Navy Yard,

escorted by the *Connecticut* and *Oliver Ellsworth*, all superbly decorated, was rich beyond description. Her yards were manned to the round-tops, with about 200 seamen from the *Constitution*, who made an elegant appearance; and a battalion of marines, under the command of Major Smith, was on board, with a band of music, and many of the naval officers upon this station, together with several ladies and private gentlemen.

Arrived at the place of rendezvous, the several vessels comprising the fleet took their station, and proceeded in regular order to the quarantine, as follows:—First, the *Chancellor Livingston*, on board of which were the committee of the Corporation, Major-General Morton and suite, a number of the members of the Cincinnati, including Colonels Willet, Varick, Trumbull, Platt, and others, together with a few ladies, several officers and professors from West Point, accompanied by the excellent military band attached to that institution. On the right of the *Chancellor*, and about a length in rear, was the *Connecticut*, and on the left, to correspond, was the *Oliver Ellsworth*. Directly in the rear of the *Chancellor* was the *Robert Fulton*, whose lofty masts and wide-

spread arms, which literally swarmed with men, towered proudly above her less-pretending, but not less gay and beautiful consorts. On the right of the Robert Fulton, about a length in the rear, was the Bellona, and on the left, the Henry Eckford, in a station to correspond; and the squadron was closed by the Olive Branch and Nautilus. The signals exchanged, and the steam-boats having attained their stations, as above stated, the squadron got under way, amidst the cheers of thousands of delighted spectators. The view of this fleet will perhaps never be forgotten. It was not only unique, but beyond a doubt, one of the most splendid spectacles ever witnessed on this part of the globe. The squadron, bearing six thousand of our fellow-citizens, majestically took its course towards Staten Island, there to take on board our long expected and honored guest. At one o'clock the fleet arrived at Staten Island, and in a few minutes a landau was seen approaching the hotel, near the ferry. The Marquis, the Vice-President, and the Ex-Governor Ogden of New Jersey, having alighted, a procession was formed, and the venerable stranger, supported by these gentlemen, followed by all the officers of the island, and a crowd of citi-

zens, passed through a triumphal arch, round which was tastefully entwined the French and American colors. As soon as the marquis and suite entered on the broad stairs, connected with, and leading to, the steam-boat which was to convey him to the city, he was received by the committee of the Common Council, who conducted him on board the Chancellor Livingston. On entering this splendid vessel, the marines paid him military honors. He was now introduced to the committees from most of our honored associations, and the general officers representing the infantry. The West Point band all this time was playing "See the Conquering Hero Comes," "*Ou peut on etre mieux*," "Hail Columbia," and the "Marseilles Hymn." The steamship now fired a salute, and the whole squadron got under way for the city, in the same order as before, except that the Bellona and Olive Branch fastened each side of the Cadmus, (the ship which brought the general from France,) decorated with colors, and filled with passengers, majestically moved up the bay. The sea was smooth and placid, and the breeze cool and agreeable. The most interesting sight was the reception of the general by his old companions in arms,

Colonel Marinus Willet, now in his eighty-fifth year, General Van Courtland, General Clarkson, and the other worthies whom we have mentioned. Colonel Fish, General Lewis, and several of his comrades were absent. He embraced them all affectionately, and Colonel Willet again and again. He knew and remembered them all. It was a reunion of a long separated family.

After the ceremony of embracing and congratulations were over, he sat down alongside of Colonel Willet, who grew young again, and fought all his battles o'er. "Do you remember," said he, "at the battle of Monmouth, I was volunteer aid to General Scott? I saw you in the heat of battle. You were but a boy, but you were a serious and sedate lad. Aye, aye; I remember well. And on the Mohawk, I sent you fifty Indians, and you wrote me that they set up such a yell, that they frightened the British horse, and they ran one way and the Indians another."

No person who witnessed this interview will ever forget it; many an honest tear was shed on the occasion. The young men retired to a little distance, while the venerable soldiers were indulging recollections, and embracing each

other again and again; and the surrounding youth silently dropt the tear they could no longer restrain. Such sincere, such honest feelings were never more plainly or truly expressed. The sudden changes of the countenance of the marquis plainly evinced the emotions he endeavored to suppress. He manfully supported this truly trying situation for some time, when a revolutionary story from the venerable Willet recalled circumstances long past: the incident, the friend alluded to, made the marquis sigh, and his swelling heart was relieved when he burst into tears. The sympathetic feelings extended to all present; and even the hardy tar rubbed away the tear he could no longer restrain. The scene was too affecting to be continued, and one of the Cincinnati, anxious to divert the attention of the marquis, his eyes flowing with tears, announced the near approach of the steam-ship. The marquis advanced to the quarter-railing, where he was no sooner perceived by the multitude, than an instantaneous cheer most loudly expressed the delight they experienced. The other steamboats in succession presented themselves, and passed, each giving three enthusiastic cheers. The marquis was delighted, and

especially with the activity and quickness with which 200 of our gallant seamen manned the yards of the steam-frigate, previous to the salute. About two o'clock, P. M., the fleet arrived off the Battery. What an impressive scene!—3000 men, making a splendid appearance, formed in line with a battering train. The ramparts and parapets of the Castle were lined with ladies and gentlemen. The flag-staff, the windows, and even the roofs of the houses facing the bay, were literally crowded with spectators. Hundreds of boats and wherries surrounded the Battery. The marquis left the Chancellor Livingston in a barge commanded by Lieutenant Mix, of the navy, accompanied by the committee of the Corporation, and the Cincinnati, the generals of infantry, &c.; and landed amidst the cheers and acclamations of 30,000 people, who filled the Castle, Battery, and surrounding grounds within sight. The marquis now entered the Castle, which was tastefully carpeted from the landing place to the receiving rooms. He then partook of some refreshment, and was introduced to some distinguished citizens. Perceiving the restless anxiety of nearly 3000 persons in the Castle, to see the general, the marquis advanced

to the centre of the rear of the Castle, and was greeted with loud cheers. From Castle Garden, he proceeded with the appointed committee, and the military and naval officers, to review the line of troops under the command of Brigadier-General Benedict. The muster was, on this occasion, unusually numerous and splendid, each corps vying with the others in paying a tribute of respect to the soldier of the revolution, the friend and companion of Washington. After the review, the general, accompanied by General Morton, entered a barouche, drawn by four horses.

The committee of the Corporation, accompanied by the general's son, George Washington Lafayette, and his secretary, Mr. Le Vasseur, followed the carriages. The general was escorted by a corps of cavalry, and at the head of the column of troops, proceeded up Broadway to the City Hall. The crowds which had assembled to pay honor to the respected visitor, and to be gratified with a view of his person, were such as almost to prevent the passage of the carriages and the troops. The scene could not but have afforded to the general the most delightful gratification. The houses to the very roofs were filled with spectators, and to the

incessant cheers of the multitude, graceful females signified their welcome by the silent, but not less grateful and affecting testimony of the waving of handkerchiefs.

Arrived at the City Hall, the marquis was conducted by the committee to the Common Council Chamber, where the Corporation were assembled. The members of the Common Council rose on his entrance, and upon being presented by the chairman, Alderman Zabriskie, to the Mayor, his honor addressed him in the following speech :

Address of the Mayor.

"General—In the name of the municipal authority of the city, I bid you a sincere welcome to the shores of a country, of whose freedom and happiness you will ever be considered one of the most honored and beloved founders.

"Your only contemporaries in arms, of whom indeed but few remain, have not forgot, and their posterity will never forget, the *young and gallant Frenchman* who consecrated his youth, his talents, his fortune, and his exertions, to their cause—who exposed his life—who shed his blood, that they might become free and happy. They will recollect with profound emo-

tion, so long as they remain worthy of the liberties they enjoy, and of the exertions you made to obtain them, that you came to them in the darkest period of their struggle—that you linked your fortune with theirs, when it seemed almost hopeless—that you shared in the dangers, privations and sufferings of that bitter struggle, nor quitted them for a moment till it was consummated on the glorious field of Yorktown. Half a century has passed since that great event, and in that time your name has become as dear to the friends, and as inseparably connected with the cause of freedom in the old, as in the new world.

"The people of the United States look up to you as to one of their most honored parents—the country cherishes you as one of the most beloved of her sons. I hope and trust, sir, that not only the present, but future conduct of my countrymen, to the latest period of time, will, among other slanders, refute the unjust imputation that republics are always ungrateful to their benefactors.

"In behalf of my fellow-citizens of New York, and speaking the warm and universal sentiments of the whole people of the United States, I repeat their welcome to our common country.

"Permit me to add, that the moment of my life to which I shall look back with the greatest pleasure and pride, will be that in which it fell to my lot to be an organ for expressing, however feebly, a nation's gratitude."

General Lafayette's Answer.

"Sir,—While I am so affectionately received by the citizens of New York and their worthy representatives, I feel myself overwhelmed with inexpressible emotions. The sight of the American shore, after so long an absence; the recollection of the many respected friends and dear companions, no more to be found on this land; the pleasure to recognize those who have survived; this immense concourse of a free republican population, who so kindly welcome me; the admirable appearance of the troops; the presence of a corps of the national navy;—have excited sentiments, to which no human language can be adequate. You have been pleased, sir, to allude to the happiest times, the unalloyed enjoyments of my public life. It is the pride of my heart to have been one of the earliest adopted sons of America: I am proud also to add, that upwards of forty years ago I have been particularly honored with the freedom of this city. I beg

you, Mr. Mayor,—I beg you, gentlemen, to accept yourselves, and to transmit to the citizens of New York, the homage of my profound and everlasting gratitude, devotion and respect."

The general and his son were then introduced to the members of the Common Council individually.

After the adjournment of the Common Council, the marquis received the marching salute in front of the City Hall, and again entered the hall, accompanied by his son and suite, and in the governor's room received the Society of the Cincinnati, composed of his surviving brothers and companions in the field, a small number of whom still remain to meet and congratulate their long absent, but highly respected, friend and fellow-soldier. Here, also, he was met by the officers of the army and navy, and many citizens and strangers. From the hall, he was accompanied by the Common Council, and many distinguished persons, to the City Hotel, to dine, escorted by the troops.

The whole exhibition, from the landing at the Battery to the time of the dispersion of the people at the Park, was in a high degree inter-