

day at noon he tried to rouse himself sufficiently to give the parole for the commandant of Pottsdam, but he was unequal to the effort, and died the following day.

He was seventy-four years old, and had reigned forty-six years. He came to the throne when Prussia was the weakest of the great European powers. At his death she was the acknowledged equal of any.

CHAPTER XI.

GILBERT MOTIER LAFAYETTE.

Where Born—Date of Marriage and to whom—His Interview with Silas Deane—Visit to England—Sailed for America—His Service at Brandywine—At Monmouth—Return to France—Again in America—In France at the Assembly of the Notables—Meeting of the French Congress in 1789—Lafayette Rescues the King from the Palace—Decline of Lafayette's Popularity—In Command of a French Army—Visit to the Assembly—Return to his Army—Crossing the Frontier and Arrested by Austrians—Five Years in Prison—Liberated through the Influence of Napoleon—Grant of Pensions—Death in 1834.

ONE of the most interesting characters brought into prominence during the stormy period of the French and American Revolutions, and who played a distinguished part in both, was Gilbert Motier de Lafayette. Born in the highest ranks of the nobility, he became a champion and soldier of freedom. His name was an honored one in the annals of France as early as the fifteenth century. The Chateau de Chavagnac, which was his birthplace, was in the province of Auvergne, a region famous for its magnificent mountain scenery. He was born in 1757, and passed the first eight years of his life in Chavagnac, under the sole care of his mother, his father having been killed at the battle of Minden, a few months previous to the birth of Lafayette. At the age of twelve, the boy entered a

We have not space to dwell on the details of the operations of the next few months. In June, 1778, in Monmouth, N. J., the forces met again in conflict, and Lafayette distinguished himself by his heroism in endeavoring to retrieve the disasters occasioned by General Lee's mistake in ordering a retreat early in the day. Lee had ordered all the forces back, and the battle threatened to become a total rout. Suddenly Washington appeared upon the field, and gave utterance to furious anger at the sight of the flying squadrons. Through all the day Lafayette ably seconded the commander-in-chief, and when night fell on the still undecided contest, the two passed it together stretched on the ground, and lying on the folds of Washington's mantle. When morning rose the enemy had departed. At this time Lafayette was but twenty-two years of age.

The storm which had threatened France, even before Lafayette's departure, was now gathering in strength and intensity. The young Frenchman felt that, however intense the interest he felt in the fortunes of the American republic, his first duty was to his native country. He, therefore, obtained leave of absence to revisit it, and in February, 1779, he sailed from Massachusetts Bay. Off the banks of Newfoundland they encountered a terrible storm. Later, when nearing the coast of France, a plot was discovered among the crew to seize Lafayette and surrender him as a prisoner to England. The perils of the voyage past, he landed at Brest; and in the rapturous delight of meeting his wife and family, the pain of their separation was forgotten. His brilliant career had made him famous, and he was received with enthusiasm in Paris. Finding that no

immediate opportunity of serving his own king and country offered itself, he prepared to return to America, and by his unwearied exertions he prevailed on the French government to send six ships-of-the-line and six thousand soldiers to the aid of the American cause. After a sad and affectionate parting with his wife and family, he sailed in the "Hermione," March 19, 1780.

It is impossible in the limits of this sketch to give even an outline of Lafayette's important services during the rest of the Revolutionary War. In 1781, desiring again to revisit his native land, he sailed from Boston, and on his arrival in France was received with the most flattering demonstrations by the people, and with unbounded delight by his family. He still took a warm interest in American affairs. Every ship brought him letters from the new world, and when peace was at last declared, Lafayette began to interest himself in establishing friendly commercial relations between France and America. Washington sent him a warm invitation to Mount Vernon, and he decided to pay another visit to America. The period of his stay was one continued ovation. He moved through all the northern cities in a species of triumph, which continued until he re-embarked for France, in December, 1784.

During the following year he was elected a member of the Assembly of Notables. This body was composed of aristocrats, and the French people had for some time been endeavoring to abolish this assembly, and substitute for it a convocation of the states general—that is, a body representing all classes. To this movement Lafayette lent all his influence. The king was at last, under the increasing pressure of popular

opinion, induced to issue an edict convoking the states general. Lafayette was elected a deputy from Auvergne. There were more than a thousand deputies from all parts of France. After several stormy sessions they resolved themselves into a governing body, divided into three orders, and entitled the national assembly.

In this assembly Lafayette presented for adoption his famous Declaration of Rights, resembling in many respects the American Declaration of Independence. A long debate, the opening sounds of insurrection, were making themselves heard; for the people were determined to insist on their rights. The king went in person, unattended, to the assembly, and thus averted the threatened outbreak. The declaration was accepted and peace restored for a time.

But the revolution only slept. The royal family and the court, blind to the wretchedness of the people, banqueted and danced on the verge of ruin, exasperating to madness the almost starving populace. At length, on the morning of October 5th, all Paris, as by one impulse, rose in insurrection. Thousands of infuriated men and women poured through the streets, shrieking for bread or blood, and after some hours of tumult took the road to Versailles. Lafayette, at the head of the national guards, also moved to Versailles, with a view to protect the royal family. Arrived there, he placed guards at every entrance to the palace, and not too soon, for at six o'clock next morning a furious mob surged through the gates. Finding one open which had unfortunately been intrusted to the life guards instead of Lafayette, they soon rushed through the corridors of the palace. Entering the

queen's room but a few minutes after she had left it, they vented their rage by piercing her bed with hundreds of bayonets. Lafayette, who had not slept since the riot broke out, leaped on his horse, and soon appeared among the insurgents. He found them on the point of butchering a number of the king's life-guards whom they had captured, when he sternly ordered them to cease their work of blood. For a moment they wavered; but Lafayette had long been known to them as the people's friend, and they followed him peaceably while he hastened to the palace. Arrived there, the royal family hailed him as their deliverer with warm gratitude. The mob roared, "To Paris with the king!" Louis came out on the balcony with Lafayette, and calmly stood before them. A moment later the fickle mob was shouting, "Long live the king!"

But soon their voices were heard in angry threats against the queen. Lafayette respectfully entered her room, and asked her to present herself in the presence of the people. He led her to the balcony. In sight of the sea of furious faces, the noble soldier bent before the beautiful queen, and raised her hand to his lips. The effect was electric. The air was rent with shouts of "*Vive la reine! Vive Lafayette!*"

Once more the passions of the mob were roused; the king's guards had fired upon the people, and cries for vengeance on the guards rent the air. Lafayette again came to the rescue. Beckoning one of the soldiers to his side, he took off his own cockaded hat and shoulder belt, placed them on the guard, and showed him to the people. Their cries of applause told that his sanction could reconcile them even to the detested guards.

Louis and his household now agreed to go to Paris,

and Lafayette escorted them thither. Around them moved on the terrible mob, checked and controlled by the presence of the marquis. We must pass lightly over the succeeding events. The waves of revolution rose and fell. The doomed king and queen were established in the Tuileries, and Lafayette acted as their guard and protector, while they, especially the queen, were inclined to look on him as their jailer. At length the royal family determined to make an effort to escape. In various disguises, one by one, they left the palace by a private entrance, entered carriages which were waiting for them, and were rapidly driven from Paris. But prompt measures were taken. The unfortunate fugitives were arrested and brought back. The attempt at escape added to the king's unpopularity. Lafayette was the idol of the people, and being now generalissimo of the national guards, was for a time virtually the ruler of France.

When at last the excesses of the revolutionists had banded all Europe against them, Lafayette was sent to fight in the cause of France against her foreign enemies. He was taken prisoner by a detachment of Austrian soldiers, and conveyed to the dungeon of Wessel, and thence to Magdebourg, where he passed a year in close confinement, and finally to Olmutz. Here all the rigors of imprisonment were inflicted on him. Efforts for his liberation were made, but in vain, and only increased the determination of Austria to hold him captive. In the third year of his imprisonment his heroic wife implored permission of the emperor to share her husband's captivity, and she, with her two daughters, took up their residence in the fortress of Olmutz. Seldom have prison-walls beheld a more touching

scene than the reunion of this unhappy family, and for twenty-two months they remained together, sharing the privations and miseries of captivity. The two daughters were guarded in separate dungeons, and the family were allowed to be together only eight hours of the twenty-four. Their food was of the coarsest, their clothing scarcely ever renewed, and light and air were very sparingly admitted.

Napoleon, whose victorious armies had by this time swept over the Austrian provinces, demanded as a condition of peace that all political prisoners should be liberated. On the 23d of September, 1797, Lafayette and his family were set free, and were escorted to Hamburg, and with his wife, whose health was greatly impaired, his son George, who had just returned from America, and his two daughters, he took up his residence at Welmoldt, a small town in Germany. France was closed against him until the reign of the directory was over; but as soon as Napoleon was made consul, Lafayette returned to his native country, and the family retired to La Grange, an estate belonging to Madame Lafayette, where for a few years they enjoyed life in tranquility. In 1807 he had the misfortune to lose his beloved wife. Her death called forth from him the most touching expressions of grief.

During the reign of Louis XVIII. he returned for a short time to public life as a deputy from his department. He had a strong desire to visit America once more, and in July, 1824, he sailed from Havre. He was magnificently received in New York and Boston, and travelled extensively through the country. Congress made him a grant of \$200,000 and a township of land, in testimony of gratitude for his services.

Having spent a year in America in almost uninterrupted festivities, he embarked for France, and was met at Havre by his family. Soon afterwards he accepted a seat in the chamber of deputies, and was afterwards called to the head of the national guards. He supported the election of Louis Philippe, although had he been ambitious of his own aggrandizement, it is more than probable that he could have secured his own appointment as chief magistrate of a French republic.

In February, 1834, he was attacked by disease, and in May he passed peacefully away, in the seventy-seventh year of his age. France and America united in sorrow for him who was known as the "man of two worlds."

CHAPTER XII.

ARTHUR WELLESLEY (DUKE OF WELLINGTON.)

His Corsican Ancestors—Birthplace—Education at Eton—At Angiers Military School—Rapid Promotion—Joins Duke of York's Army—First Active Service—In India—"Who shall take Seringapatam?"—Wellesley provokes the Admiration of his Foes—Battle of Assaye—Other Victories—Peace with India—Wellesley Resigns—Leo Africanus in Parliament—The "Sepoy Captain" again in the Field—Peninsula War—Measuring Swords with Napoleon—The famous Torres Vedras—Napoleon Abdicates—Again they meet—Wellington and Blucher Victorious—Monuments of Honor—"The Duke is Dead."

IN the year 1769 two notable children were born, strangely destined to cross each other's lives. One saw the light at Ajaccio, Corsica, the other at Dangan Castle, Dublin, where the family of Lord Mornington had for some time held posts of political preferment. Arthur Wellesley was the second son of a large family of children. His father dying in the very noon of life, left an encumbered estate, but a pure and noble name. The elder son succeeded to the title. Arthur, after a course at Eton, was sent to the military college at Angiers, then under the celebrated engineer Piquerol. Like his great prototype, Marlborough, he learned much of the real science of war in France.

When about nineteen he received his first commission, and in the course of the next two years, after sev-

college in Paris, and was distinguished for his devotion to study during the first few years of his attendance there. As he grew older, he began to feel the attractions of that brilliant and courtly society to which his high birth and position gave him admittance. He was introduced at court and won the favor of the queen, Marie Antoinette, who appointed him one of her pages. At the age of fifteen he was enrolled among the Mousquetaires du Roi, a body-guard of young noblemen who were appointed specially as personal attendants on the king.

In April, 1774, being but seventeen years of age, he married the Countess Anastasie de Noailles, daughter of the Duke d'Ayen, and one of the greatest heiresses in France. Whether or not this marriage was founded on mutual affection, or was arranged by the relatives of the contracting parties, it proved to be a most happy union. Devoted to each other in the gayety and brilliance of the early days of their marriage, their love grew and strengthened in the darker years that followed, and neither absence nor long imprisonment ever weakened the bond between them. But the boy-husband was sent in 1776 to the citadel of Metz, on military duty, and while there began to watch with absorbing interest the course of the Revolution in America, and gradually his interest in the struggle developed into a determination to join in it. He returned to Paris to consult with his relative, Count de Broglie, who strongly opposed his design. He then appealed to Baron de Kalb, who, being himself strongly in sympathy with the Revolution, seconded his plans, and introduced him to Silas Deane, who had been sent by the American Congress to negotiate with the French

government. Mr. Deane was at first disposed to treat the matter lightly, on account of the boyish appearance of the young soldier. Finding, however, that it was no mere boyish spirit of adventure that animated the marquis, he accepted the youthful volunteer, and acting on his powers as general agent for the American Congress, he conferred on Lafayette the rank of Major-General in the army of the United States.

All his negotiations were conducted with the utmost secrecy. Even his dearly loved wife knew nothing of his plans, for having decided that it was right for him to serve the cause of freedom, he dreaded her opposition to his departure. The French king looked with disapproval on a measure that might not improbably bring him into hostile relations with England, and the latter country kept a jealous watch on all movements in favor of her insurgent colony. Benjamin Franklin, who was then in Paris, strongly advised Lafayette to visit England in order to divert suspicion as to his actual intentions.

Lafayette followed this advice, and spent three weeks in London. He was received with great distinction at court and by the nobility, but was not turned from his design by the strong current of English opinion, nor even by the peremptory prohibition from his own king which met him on his return to France. It is supposed that the English ambassador had remonstrated with the French king on the subject, for an order was issued for the arrest of Lafayette. To avoid this, he left France, and at Passage, a port in Spain, continued the preparations for his expedition. On the 26th of March, 1777, he set sail on the ship "Victory" for

America. The voyage was long and fatiguing. Two months elapsed before the voyagers on the "Victory" came in sight of the shores of America.

At midnight, on the 14th of June, 1777, a canoe bearing Lafayette and De Kalb was sent from the "Victory" to the shore. They landed at Winyan bay, on the coast of North Carolina. The marquis was in high spirits, delighted that the monotonous voyage was over, and the career of action and adventure which he desired open before him. He spent some days at the house of Major Huger, charmed with the novelty of his surroundings. He then went to Charleston, and thence set out on the journey to Philadelphia, where Congress was then in session. But he did not meet the reception he had anticipated, for the administration was somewhat embarrassed by a number of applications from foreign adventurers, and was disposed to look coldly on him. The Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs informed him that the government was not disposed to carry out the arrangements proposed by Mr. Deane. Lafayette then hastily addressed the following note to Congress:—

"After the sacrifices I have made, I have a right to exact two favors; one is, to serve at my own expense; the other is, to serve as a volunteer."

This note, proving his earnestness and disinterestedness, caused an immediate reaction in his favor, and in July, 1777, Congress accepted his services, and conferred on him the commission of a Major-General. The next day Lafayette was presented to Washington. The young soldier and the elder one were strongly attracted to each other. Washington invited Lafayette to accompany him to his camp, treating him, however,

rather as a friend and guest than as an officer in command, for the commission given to Lafayette, was considered in some degree as being merely honorary.

At the battle of the Brandywine, the young French leader entered on his career of active soldiership. Three divisions, forming the right wing of the American army, had been detached to meet the British troops under Cornwallis. Learning that it was expected that the heaviest part of the day's fighting would fall on these divisions, Lafayette solicited and obtained permission to join the central division. For a time the fortunes of the day were doubtful, but the combined attack of the English and Hessian troops forced the Americans to yield. Lafayette attempted to rally the retreating troops, but in vain; and while still engaged in the effort, a ball struck him and inflicted a severe flesh wound. At this moment Washington with fresh troops arrived upon the field. Lafayette attempted to join him, but was obliged to remount and ride on, in order to obtain the attention which his wound demanded. He was conveyed to Philadelphia the next day, and thence to Bethlehem, where he remained under the care of the Moravian Brethren for several weeks. His anxiety for active service led him to return to the camp, but the commander-in-chief gently reproved his imprudence, and urged him to remain at headquarters. On the 1st of December, 1777, Lafayette was appointed to command a division, and accompanied the army into Valley Forge, where he shared the privations and discomforts of that terrible winter. Although reared in luxury and splendor, he bore uncomplainingly hardships which tried even the endurance of the hardy soldiers of the republic.