

OBSERVER.

FAYETTEVILLE

THURSDAY MORNING, MARCH 10, 1825

The pride of all hearts and the delight of all eyes, the illustrious American General Lafayette, arrived here on Friday evening last.

We cannot pretend to give a regular correct detail of the scenes to which his presence gave rise. The task were far above our ability. Such, however, as is in our power, we must offer our readers.

The general entered the town about 3 o'clock, accompanied by his Son and Secretary; the Governor of this State; Gen. Wm. Williams, of Warren, and Col. J. G. A. Williamson, of Person, who had been appointed by the Governor to escort him through the State, and Judge Taylor, of Raleigh, in behalf of the citizens of that place. He was escorted from Raleigh by Col. Polk's fine troop of Cavalry from Mecklenburg, was met at the house of Robert Campbell, Esq. 10 miles from town, by the Fayetteville troop of Flying Artillery, commanded by Col. Townes, and at Clarendon Bridge by Maj. Strange's Independent Company, Capt. Hawley's Eagle Artillery, and Capt. Birdsall's Light Artillery. The whole cavalcade proceeded thence, amidst the discharge of artillery, to the Town House, where several hundred persons were assembled, numbers of whom, though the rain continued to descend, as it had done for several previous days, with little intermission, had patiently awaited the approach of the General, regardless of every consideration of comfort or health. When arrived in front of the Town House, where a spacious stage had been erected for the occasion, the troops formed lines on each side of the street, and the carriages, containing the General and his suite, passed between them to the east door of the House. Here,

alighting from his carriage, with the gentlemen accompanying him, he was met by Judge Toomer, who, in behalf of the Committee and the citizens of Fayetteville, welcomed him in the following words, pronounced in the forcible manner for which the Judge is so remarkable.

GENERAL LAFAYETTE: The Congress of the United States, expressing the will of the millions of people, invited you to our shores, as the "Guest of the Nation." Your arrival was hailed as an era in the annals of our country. Wherever you were seen, you were greeted with acclamations. The 15th of August, in each returning year, will be celebrated as a day of jubilee by the sons of freedom. Already has American genius consecrated your fame. History has recorded the incidents of your eventful life: Oratory has portrayed your character: and Poetry has sung your praise.

The Governor of North Carolina, anticipating the wishes of his constituents, invited you to our state. The invitation echoed from the mountains to the coast.

My fellow citizens, the inhabitants of Fayetteville, have also, solicited the honor of a visit. In their behalf, and as their organ, I bid you welcome to our homes. Forty-three years ago, our fathers named this town, to commemorate your achievements, and to express their gratitude. We receive you, with joy and exultation, in our family altars, and request your participation in our domestic comforts. We are plain republicans, and cannot greet you with the pomp common on such occasions. Instead of pageantry we offer you cordiality. We have no splendid arches, gilded spires, or gorgeous palaces to present you, but we tender the hospitality of our homes, and the grateful homage of devoted hearts.

Ingratitude is no longer the reproach of republics. The freemen of America, when asked for their jewels, rejecting classic ex-

amples, point not to their sons, but to the surviving heroes of the Revolution.

You, Sir, have been the steadfast friend of liberty, in every period of your life. In youth, you fought the battles of freedom; in age, you advocated the rights of man. You embarked your life and fortune on the tempestuous sea of American liberty, when clouds and darkness portended the most fatal disasters. Neither the admonitions of prudence, the precepts of wisdom, nor the frowns of power, could restrain you. Our Commissioners at the Court of Versailles frankly represented to you the gloomy aspect of our affairs, at that crisis, and advised you not to link your fortune with ours, in the struggle for independence. Your Sovereign, also, interdicted your participation in the contest. Notwithstanding all these adverse circumstances, at the age of 19, such was the ardour of your devotion, you left wealth and beauty, family and friends, influence and distinction, and all the fascinations of the most polished Court, to encounter the perils of the deep, and to brave the dangers of the tented field. Your embarkation quickly sounded the tocsin of alarm, and the fleets of France and Great Britain were ordered to pursue and arrest you; but, protected by the Genius of Liberty, you escaped the eagerness of pursuit. Your ardent devotion to this sacred cause, and your youthful enthusiasm, "touched a nerve which vibrated to the centre of Europe."

The Southern States of the Union, Sir, have strong claim to your affection. North Carolina is the birth-place of American Independence. At Charlotte, in this State, independence was first conceived, and first declared. Although History may not have recorded this fact, yet witnesses still live to attest it; and we now have before us, in the patriotic troop of Mecklenburg Cavalry, the sons of those heroes who made the bold declaration, that we were, and should be,

free and independent. South Carolina was the place of your first landing in America. Virginia was the theatre of your youthful glory. Forty-eight years have elapsed since you passed through this State, to join the Army of the Revolution. You disinterestedly lavished your treasure, and shed your blood, in the hallowed contest; and, by the influence of your high example, you consecrated the principles for which our ancestors contended. The heights of Brandywine witnessed your valour and your sufferings; and on the plains of Yorktown, you obtained a wreath of laurel, which encircles your brow with unfading verdure. Never, never can we forget the youthful stranger who, in the darkest hour of adversity, so generously flew to our succour, and so gallantly fought the battles of freedom.

The names of Washington, Lafayette, and Hamilton, will ever be dear to American patriotism; and let it be remembered, that Washington and Hamilton fought for country and for home; Lafayette for liberty alone.

Your ardent devotion to the rights of man was sealed with your blood in America, and attested by your sufferings in Europe. Your love of liberty exposed you to the persecution of tyranny, and you were cast into the dungeon of Olmutz; but incarceration could not extinguish the sacred flame which fired your bosom. An American youth, of chivalrous feelings, aided in an attempt to rescue you from imprisonment; -- the attempt was abortive. Oppression riveted her chains, and rendered your confinement more oppressive. Amid all the vicissitudes of your fortune, it is gratifying for us to recollect, that your sufferings always excited the sympathy, and, on this occasion, induced the mediation of your friend and compatriot, the illustrious Washington.

Nature has lavished her choicest gifts on my native state. We have a salubri-

ous climate, fertile soil, and numerous rivers, susceptible of the highest improvement. I fear, Sir, your anticipation may not have been realized. We have neglected to improve our advantages; we have relied too much on the bounty of the Parent of every good. But the spirit of Internal Improvement is, at length, awakened; North Carolina may look forward with pride and pleasure to her destiny. We place our confidence in the liberality and exertions of succeeding Legislatures. Colleges will be endowed; the arts and sciences will be patronized; roads will be made; rivers will be opened; our resources will be annually developed; and Fayetteville, at some future day, may be worthy of the distinguished name it bears. You have just left, in the capitol of our state, the statue of Washington, the master-piece of Canova. Would to God that you could have visited the University of North Carolina. These, Sir, are monuments of an enlightened liberality, in which we indulge a generous pride.

The darkness of error is vanishing before the light of truth. The doctrines of divine right and passive obedience are viewed as relics of ancient barbarism. Our political institutions are founded on the sovereignty of the people, from whom all power is derived; and here the jargon of legitimacy is not understood. We recognize no Holy Alliance, save that of religion and virtue, liberty and science. The sun of freedom is extending the sphere of his genial influence; South America is "regenerated and disenthralled;" the thrones of Europe are supported by bayonets, and must totter to their fall; and the genius of our country is ready to hail the spirit of "universal emancipation."

Sir, on behalf of my townsmen, I welcome you to our homes.

To which the General replied as follows:

SIR: At every step of my progress through the United States, I am called on to enjoy the emotions arising from patriotic feelings and endearing recollections, from the sight of the improvements I witness, and from the affectionate welcomes I have the happiness to receive. - Those sentiments, Sir, are particularly excited when, upon entering the interesting and prosperous town which has done me the honor to adopt my name, I can at once admire its actual progress and anticipate its future destinies; convinced as I am that the generous and enlightened people of North Carolina will continue all assistance to improve the natural advantages of Fayetteville and make it more and more useful to the State.

Your kind allusions to past times, your flattering commendation of my personal services in our common cause, your remembrance of my peculiar state and connexion, and particularly of my obligations to my gallant Carolinian deliverer, call for my most grateful thanks. The spirit of independence early evinced by the fathers of the young friends who so kindly accompany me, is highly honorable to that part of the Union. I cordially join in your wishes for the universal emancipation of mankind; and beg you, my dear Sir, and the citizens of Fayetteville, to accept the tribute of my deep and lively gratitude for your so very honourable and gratifying reception.

At the conclusion of the answer, the multitude assembled expressed their admiration by three hearty cheers.

The general was now conducted to the State Banking House, the residence of Duncan MacRae, Esq. which had been politely tendered by him for the General's use.

Here female taste and ingenuity exerted themselves to concentrate every thing neat and elegant; every thing calculated to delight the eye, or minister to the needs of the distinguished guest.

After a few moments spent in the parlor the General appeared in the balcony beneath which the people and military had assembled. He remained a few minutes and was saluted by the military, which when he retired, were marched to their respective places of rendezvous, and discharged from an extremely arduous day's duty which they performed so well as to elicit the most earnest encomiums. They were under arms nearly the whole day, and though the mud and water were six inches deep in the streets, no deviation from military order was seen, but all was animation and cheerfulness.

The General then, with the Governor, the several Committees, and some of the oldest citizens of the town, sat down to dinner.

About 9 o'clock the General made his appearance in the Ball room of the Lafayette Hotel, where the room was crowded with ladies and gentlemen in number, we believe, between 3 and 400. The display of beauty and fashion of fair sex presented was splendid beyond compare. The rooms, too, were decorated in the most tasteful manner, under the direction of some patriotic young ladies with evergreens and flowers, gracefully adorned with festoons.

The General was here presented to the ladies and gentlemen present, and took each affectionately by the hand. He remained about two hours, and conversed with all who approached him, when he retired, after 11 o'clock. The dance continued till 3, at which hour the company generally had retired to their homes.

On Saturday morning, for the first time in several days, the sun rose in all his brilliancy, and continued to beam on us with the warmth of spring, during the whole day.

The General received a visit, this morning, from Mr. Isham Blake, of this town, who was one of his body guard of at York-

town. The scene which took place is said to have been affecting in the extreme, forbidding all attempt at description.

Early in the morning the various uniform companies of this town, and the Mecklenburg troops, were paraded, and at 11 o'clock, were reviewed by Gen Lafayette who expressed his high satisfaction with their military appearance, and regret they had undergone so much fatigue the preceding day.

The review over, the General returned at 12 o'clock to his lodgings, where agreeably to a previous announcement of the Committee of Arrangements, he received a large number of ladies and gentlemen who waited on him, all eager again to press the hand and enjoy the society of their guest. The company, after partaking of refreshments, which were served in great profusion, and remaining about an hour, took leave of the General, who, with a warm pressure of the hand of each, thanked them for the attentions they have shewn.

The General, then agreeable to invitation, visited the Lodge, where he was addressed by Major Strange, in behalf of the Fraternity, and returned a neat and appropriate reply. He then partook of refreshments with the members.

At 3 o'clock (the General being of the necessity of departing in the afternoon) about 150 gentlemen sat down to dinner, provided by Capt. Taber, in the Lafayette Hotel. Judge Toomer presided, assisted by Major Strange. On the right of the President sat General Lafayette, and on the left Governor Burton. We have been able to procure a few of the toasts given by the Chair of this occasion, which follow:

The Memory of Washington. - He was friend of Lafayette.

The Nation's Guest. - The only surviving Major General of the Revolution.

When this toast was drank, General Lafayette rose and expressed his thanks for the

welcome he had met with from the citizens of Fayetteville. He proposed the following toast:

Fayetteville. – May it receive all the encouragements, and attain all the prosperity, which are anticipated by the fond and grateful wishes of its affectionate and respectful namesake.

The Memory of Hamilton. – He gathered with Lafayette, in the field of York.

Gen. Lafayette. – The chieftain fighting for the hearths and altars of his clan – the patriot of his country's rights – but let us drink to the health of the philanthropic hero, whose devotion to liberty is not confined by chains nor by countries.

The company rose from the table between 4 and 5 o'clock, when the time had come at which at which the General proposed to dispense to Cheraw, on his way to Camden, the place he was under an engagement promised on the 8th for the purpose of laying the corner stone of a monument to Baron de Kalb who fell before that town on the 16th August 1780, bravely fighting the battle for his adopted country.

The General was accompanied from this place by General Williams and Col. William Taylor and Major Stanley; the committee from Cheraw, consisting of [?] gentlemen, who met him here; a number of citizens of this town, and the Fayetteville troop of Cavalry, which escorted him to the South Carolina line.

He was here and is gone, and though it was too short for our wishes, his visit will never be forgotten. The 24 hours during which he remained, will be remembered by the citizens of this town, as a season in which the purest incense of the heart was offered at the shrine of virtue and patriotism. It was a period in which none of the ignobler feelings of the heart were expressed. It was a period, the happiness of which may only be imagined, not described.

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Fayetteville, NC: the first town in the United States named for Lafayette, and the only one that he is known to have personally visited.

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