

E 415

.7

.P51

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0000568450A









JESSE E. PEYTON, HADDONFIELD, NEW JERSEY.

REMINISCENCES OF THE PAST

BY
COLONEL JESSE E. PEYTON



PHILADELPHIA
PRINTED BY J. B. LIPPINCOTT COMPANY

1895

E 4 15
.7
.P 51

COPYRIGHT, 1895,
BY
JESSE E. PEYTON.

WITH KINDLY REMEMBRANCES OF THE PAST,

THIS VOLUME

IS RESPECTFULLY

Dedicated

TO HIS FRIENDS

BY

THE AUTHOR.

PHILADELPHIA, May 26, 1895.

COLONEL J. E. PEYTON, Haddonfield, New Jersey :

DEAR SIR,—The undersigned, your friends of long standing, being somewhat familiar with your connection with public events, which have resulted creditably to all, and calling attention to the past, know the fact that our City of Brotherly Love, through names and events, is truly the historic city of the New World. We think that you can collect material through reflection, the results of the past, that will be read with interest by those generations that take our place when we leave. We will gladly serve you in any way that we can to accomplish the object and purpose.

Yours very truly,

B. B. COMEGYS,
GEO. PHILLER,
W. H. RHAWN,
ALEX. P. COLESBERRY,
J. SIMPSON AFRICA,
SAMUEL BELL,
JAMES M. BECK,
FRANK McLAUGHLIN,
EDW. SHIPPEN,
CHAS. EMORY SMITH,
M. RICHARDS MUCKLÉ,
HAMPTON L. CARSON,
PERSIFOR FRAZER,
THOMAS M. THOMPSON,
THOMAS SHAW,
EDWARD F. KINGSLEY,
JNO. WANAMAKER,
F. B. VOGEL,
WILLIAM POTTER,
THEO. E. WIEDERSHEIM,
JAY COOKE,
W. J. SEWELL,
ROBT. E. PATTISON,
EFFINGHAM B. MORRIS,
G. W. BOYD,
EDW. S. STUART,
JOHN W. WOODSIDE,
WILLIAM B. MANN,
CLAYTON McMICHAEL,
ANDREW WHEELER,
CHAS. H. HEUSTIS,
JOHN LUCAS,

JOSEPH M. ROGERS,
WILLIAM PERRINE,
GEO. G. PIERIE,
LINCOLN GODFREY,
J. R. McALLISTER,
J. R. ALTEMUS,
J. W. McALLISTER,
J. LEVERING JONES,
PHILEMON P. BOWLES,
A. K. McCLURE,
WILLIAM M. SINGERLY,
J. D. SOVERN,
WILLIAM J. LATTA,
F. GUTEKUNST,
JNO. RUSSELL YOUNG,
EDWIN N. BENSON,
CHAS. F. WARWICK,
FRANCIS M. BROOKE,
J. H. MICHENER,
SETH CALDWELL, JR.,
LINCOLN K. PASSMORE,
JNO. LOWBER WELSH,
AUG. HEATON,
OLIVER LANDRETH,
BARCLAY H. WARBURTON,
J. M. BUTLER,
THOS. H. MONTGOMERY,
JNO. M. WALTON,
SAML. R. SHIPLEY,
CHAS. B. COLLIER,
W. E. LITTLETON.

GENTLEMEN :

In reply to your esteemed favor of the 26th ult., it affords me much pleasure to comply with your request. The events referred to in your communication ought, I think, to be placed on record for coming generations. They would be read with interest. The narrative, whilst marked with feelings of sadness, stands as a result without regret. The frequent assembling of the people in social intercourse makes us a united, peaceful, and fraternally happy and prosperous people, and also makes us known as a nation to other nations of the globe.

In concluding, I will introduce a fact that came to me through tradition and history which connects the great name of Henry Clay with the inherent and inalienable rights of the human family. May it so continue to be associated to the end of time.

With grateful regards and pleasant memories of the past, I am,

Very sincerely and truly yours,

J. E. PEYTON.

REMINISCENCES OF THE PAST.

IN the year 1637, owing to the frightful condition of affairs in England due to the tyranny of the government and the immorality, fanaticism, and religious zeal of the people, many of its best citizens, with their families, left the country. Some went to Holland and many came to America. In the early part of that year a large party was organized, and ships were chartered to take it to America. Among the prominent members of this company were Oliver Cromwell, Pym, Haselrig, and Hampden, and several bearing the name of Peyton. On the 1st day of May, 1637, before the time fixed for their departure, an ordinance was passed prohibiting emigration. Being thus prohibited from going to the New World to worship God according to the dictates of their conscience, they determined to secure that right in the land of their birth. The question was quietly discussed and considered, but it was some time before it was fully comprehended and concurred in by the people of England, and they were ready to join in the attempt to secure it. Oliver Cromwell became the leader in this movement.

History has never given a correct idea of the character of Oliver Cromwell. He was a devoted husband, a kind and affectionate father. His neighbors were warmly attached to him. He was honest, with a strong will, the courage of a lion, and generous to the poor, and especially to the afflicted. He was not a man of impulse, but of reflection; he never undertook that which he deemed important without first appealing to the Supreme Power. Sir Edward Peyton, Baronet of Isleham, and his family were among his devoted friends and supporters, and on this account they lost their property and title, which, however, were subsequently restored to them. In his sketch of the disasters of the Stuart family, Peyton looked

upon Cromwell as the second Moses, comparing his leading the Saxons out of monarchical tyranny, immorality, and fanaticism, with the leading of the Jews out of Egypt. Cromwell's views as to the rights of humanity were brought to this country by the Puritans and sown on good soil, as they now lie at the base of our government. These principles have stood the test of more than one hundred years, the one hundredth anniversary of their adoption having been recently celebrated by our people, participated in by many of the nations of the world. Cromwell believed the rights of the human family were equal, inherent, inalienable, and were the gift of their Creator; that governments should be of the people, by the people, and for the people. These great sentiments were secured through intelligence, courage, and the aid of Providence. He was forced to take charge of what he had secured at the repeated risk of life. He was called a Dictator. So he was. He dictated integrity, morality, industry, intelligently and properly applied. His brief term of sovereignty was a dawn of light to Great Britain, which, through its sister lights of the new world, is illuminating the Globe and will continue to do so. Virginia's day at the Centennial was second to Pennsylvania's in the number of attendants. Massachusetts was represented by many of the descendants of Puritan families. A good many descendants of the early settlers of Virginia were present on Massachusetts Day. Their ancestors belonged to Cromwell's army. They could not fail to join each other on such an occasion. The old families of Virginia and Massachusetts look upon themselves as the Jews do,—they think they are descendants of a chosen people.

During the struggle in which the right of the people to worship God in their own way was secured, the Peyton family always remained true to their Christian sentiments, and never forgot the rights of their fellow-men. About 1660 they came to America, landing at Jamestown, Virginia, and settled in Gloucester County in that State, calling the place of their settlement, Isleham, the name of their old English home.



OLIVER CROMWELL.

After the Revolutionary War, my grandfather, William Peyton, moved to the western part of Virginia, which is now the State of Kentucky. After remaining there a year or two, he returned to Virginia, believing that civilization would never extend beyond the Blue Ridge. He returned to Kentucky, however, and settled upon a land-grant by the State of Virginia, given him for his services during the war for independence. He died at the age of seventy-four.

In 1801, owing to the demoralized condition of the people, the subject of remedying the condition of affairs was taken up by my father and a few Virginia friends. They conceived the idea of a great camp-meeting, by means of which they could bring together people from all parts of the State. Barton W. Stone, a Presbyterian clergyman, was visiting my family at the time the camp-meeting was suggested, and he consented to lay aside Presbyterianism (most of the people in that section of the country being Baptists) and conduct the meeting. It was held in August, 1801, at a place called Cane Ridge, and lasted two weeks. The attendance ranged from twenty thousand to thirty thousand daily, over four thousand people being converted. The excitement was intense, many men and women being overcome with religious enthusiasm to such an extent that they fell to the ground speechless. It was looked upon as the second Pentecost. People came from Ohio, Tennessee, and North Carolina, and the roads in the vicinity of the camp were crowded with men, women, and children, with wagons, tents, food, and bedding.

The meeting was of incalculable benefit to the State. Log churches were erected all over the State, and societies were organized for the vigorous prosecution of church work; and to-day there is no State in the Union where the people are more moral, and more strictly observant of the Sabbath, than the State of Kentucky.

From this meeting went out what was called the "New Light Doctrine," subsequently called the "Campbellite Doctrine," and

now known as the "Christian Church," which is very popular through the South and West. President Garfield was a member of this Church, and John T. Johnson, a brother of Vice-President Richard M. Johnson, was one of its noted clergymen.

I was born on the 10th day of November, 1815, the year in which Jackson defeated Pakenham at New Orleans, and Wellington Napoleon at Waterloo. The eminent statesman Bismarck was born in the same year. The place of my birth was a small farm on the road leading from Maysville, on the Ohio River, to Lexington, Kentucky, being about half-way between these towns. It was the resting-place of immigrants coming in from Virginia to settle Kentucky, and was also the stopping-place of the Revolutionary soldiers who had settled along the Ohio River as they went to Lexington each year to draw their pensions. I often listened to these soldiers and immigrants telling the incidents of their lives while sitting in front of an old-time wood-fire. My home, through its host and guest, is so impressively and correctly described in Goldsmith's "Deserted Village," that I take the liberty of quoting it.

"Unskilful he to fawn, or seek for power,
By doctrines fashioned to the varying hour;
Far other aims his heart had learn'd to prize,
More bent to raise the wretch'd than to rise.
His house was known to all the vagrant train,
He chid their wanderings, but relieved their pain;
The long remember'd beggar was his guest,
Whose beard, descending, swept his aged breast;
The ruin'd spendthrift, now no longer proud,
Claim'd kindred there, and had his claims allowed;
The broken soldier, kindly bade to stay,
Sate by his fire, and talk'd the night away;
Wept o'er his wounds, or, tales of sorrow done,
Shoulder'd his crutch, and show'd how fields were won.
Pleas'd with his guests, the good man learn'd to glow,
And quite forgot their vices in their woe;
Careless their merits or their faults to scan,
His pity gave ere charity began."



CHRIST CHURCH.

My father, Stephen Peyton, was a faithful member of church, and was a farmer when farming did not amount to much, there being no market for produce. As may be imagined, I did not have much opportunity for schooling, as schools were very few. The rifle took the place of the spelling-book and arithmetic. I was on the farm until I was about sixteen years of age.

My first employment was in 1836, in a store kept by Rogers & Garrett, in Flat Rock, Bourbon County, Kentucky, at a salary of fifty dollars a year, and board. Mr. Rogers, a member of one of the most prominent families of Bourbon County, a graduate of Augusta College, Kentucky, became a very devoted friend, as were also the members of the Rogers and Lindsay families, two of the most prominent families in the county.

On my coming to Philadelphia in 1841, Mr. Rogers gave me a letter of introduction to the late Hon. John Welsh, which I delivered to him on the 12th day of January, 1841, from which time we were friends until his death; also a letter to Caleb Cope.

Mr. Rogers tendered me a scholarship, with board and all expenses to be paid by him, at the Georgetown College, Kentucky, which I declined to accept.

Alexander Campbell, who was at the head of his college in West Virginia, a friend of my father, tendered me a scholarship at his institution, which I also declined to accept.

During the last year of my residence in Kentucky, I was in the employ of William P. Payne, and U. S. Grant, then of Georgetown, Ohio, brought Mr. Payne's niece over to visit Mr. Payne's family. During his stay he slept with me in the store, and assisted me in the morning in cleaning it up and putting it in order. About a year previous to his death, I met General Grant in the Fifth Avenue Hotel. I spoke to him, and asked him if he remembered me. "Yes," he replied, "I think you are Balie Peyton." I told him I was not, and asked him if he remembered going to Flat Rock with Mr. Payne's

niece, and sleeping with me in the store, and helping to clean it the next morning. He said, "Certainly I do," and at once rose to his feet. It was the first time I ever saw him smile. He then told me that on his return from Flat Rock his horse had twice run away, and finally he had to tie his handkerchief over its eyes, and drive the rest of the way with the horse blindfolded.

In 1840, when making a visit to Carlisle, the county seat of my native county, I met Senator John S. Morgan, representing Nicholas and Bourbon Counties in the State Senate. Not having seen me for some time, he asked where I was residing, and on being informed that I was residing at Flat Rock, and was still a constituent of his, he stated that he would come up to see me. It was then arranged that he would come up on the 6th day of June. On my return home, I got the people of the town interested, and we invited ex-Governor Metcalfe, of Nicholas County, ex-Governor Letcher, Leslie Combes, and Richard M. Manafee to be present: the three former accepted. We determined to have an old-fashioned barbecue, the farmers supplying the necessary articles. A log cabin was built, with the latch-string hanging out and a live coon chained to the roof. As it was thought the meeting would not be complete without hard cider, we sent to Paris for six barrels of it, which arrived the night before the meeting. During the night three rollicking young Democrats, members of prominent families in the neighborhood, bought a barrel of whiskey, drew six gallons out of each barrel of cider, and replaced it with whiskey. Before the meeting began the cider was set out along the tables, with the heads of the barrels knocked out so that the people could freely drink it. In three hours after the dinner there was scarcely a sober person on the ground. Prominent church members were staggering around, throwing their hats in the air, and behaving most ludicrously. On Monday after the meeting, a man came to see me and threatened to thrash me for getting his father-in-law, who was a deacon in a church,

drunk. I was in entire ignorance as to who played this trick until about ten years ago, when one of the party told me who had perpetrated it. The event is still remembered in that part of Kentucky, and perhaps always will be.

In the latter part of December, 1840, I visited Lexington, with a letter of introduction from Benjamin F. Rogers, my former employer, to Henry Bell, the most prominent merchant in that city. Mr. Bell was informed in this letter that it was my intention to come to Philadelphia to enter a wholesale store as a salesman. Mr. Bell very kindly wrote me two or three letters of introduction. Whilst he was doing so, Henry Clay, who was on very warm terms with him, came into the office. Mr. Bell told him that I was going to Philadelphia for the purpose of securing a position, and he was writing a few letters of introduction for me to friends of his in that city. Mr. Clay asked me if I thought a letter from him would be of any service, stating that he had a number of friends in that city. Mr. Bell remarked that I could not carry a letter from any one in Kentucky that would be of more service to me. Mr. Clay then wrote three letters,—one to Mayor Swift, one to Henry White, and one to William D. Lewis, then cashier of the Girard Bank, who was Mr. Clay's private secretary at the Treaty of Ghent.

I came to Philadelphia, and was very kindly received by Mr. Lewis, who introduced me to Morton McMichael, Henry C. Carey, Louis Godey, Joseph R. Ingersoll, Joseph R. Chandler, and other prominent Philadelphians who were friends of Mr. Clay. The kindness and friendship of these gentlemen, which lasted during the balance of their lives, I can never forget.

Ezekiel K. Hunn, a member of the firm of Hunn & Remington, secured for me a position with J. W. Gibbs & Co., dry goods merchants on Fourth Street, near the Merchant's Hotel. The firm failed in a few months, and I secured a position with Wolfe & Boswell, who were also in the dry goods business, on Market Street.

In 1842 I was in Lexington, Kentucky, on business, where I found one of the customers of the firm in financial difficulties. I called on Henry Bell for advice. He referred me to James B. Clay, a son of Henry Clay, who had just commenced the practice of the law in connection with his distinguished father. While talking to him, his father came in. As he seemed to be very much depressed, I asked James what the trouble was, and he informed me that his father was not in very good health, and was very much worried about his financial affairs; that his father had endorsed notes for a man who had failed, and in order to meet the obligations he would have to part with "Ashland," his home. I asked him what the indebtedness would amount to, and he said between thirty and forty thousand dollars. I again called on Mr. Bell, and told him what James B. Clay had stated to me in reference to his father's embarrassments, and said that on my return to Philadelphia I would see some of Mr. Clay's friends, and endeavor to have arrangements made to relieve Mr. Clay. Mr. Bell informed me that Mr. Clay was of a very sensitive nature, and cautioned me to go about it in a very quiet manner.

Upon my return to Philadelphia, I saw Mr. David S. Brown, who was a friend of Mr. Clay, and a prominent merchant, and told him that I thought the merchants and manufacturers of Philadelphia ought to see that Mr. Clay's declining years were relieved from anxiety and worry. Mr. Brown said that he would talk the matter over with some of his friends, and asked me to call in a few days, when he would communicate to me the result of his efforts. A few days afterwards he informed me that the debts would be taken care of, but that the people concerned in it did not want their names known to Mr. Clay, because they did not care to have him feel under any obligations to them. The fund was raised, and Henry White was sent to Kentucky, where he settled the entire indebtedness of Mr. Clay.

A few days after the debt had been paid, Mr. Clay called at



CARPENTERS' HALL COURT, 322 CHESTNUT STREET.

the bank (so I was informed) and stated that he had a note there; that he was able to pay but a portion of it, and would have to ask that the balance be extended. The cashier informed Mr. Clay that he had no note there.

"What!" said he; "no note here! what do you mean?"

"There is nothing here against you whatever, Mr. Clay," said the cashier.

"What do you mean?" said Mr. Clay.

"I mean, sir, that your friends have paid every dollar you owed."

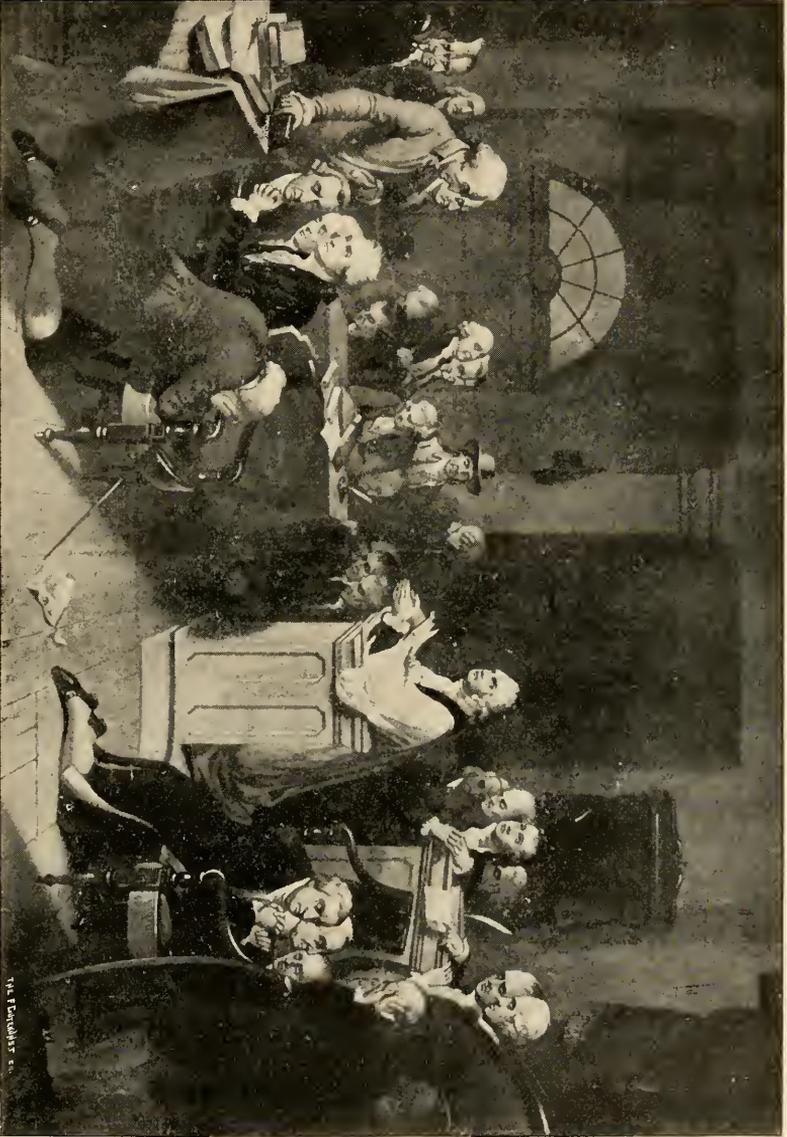
"My friends! who are they?"

"They desire their names kept secret. It was done through their appreciation of your services to the country and their respect for you."

"Did any man ever have such friends!" remarked Mr. Clay, while the tears rolled down his cheeks.

In 1854 I retired from the dry goods business and became interested with Colonel William M. Peyton and others in a tract of coal land, situated on Coal River, West Virginia. I organized a company for its development. Finding that Coal River did not furnish a sufficient quantity of water to float the barges carrying the coal, and that it was necessary to have it locked and dammed, I applied to the Legislature of the State of Virginia for sixty thousand dollars, which was six-tenths of the cost of doing the work. The Legislature was not favorably disposed to making any expenditures for internal improvements, and at first would not consider the question of any appropriation for public works. I spent nearly three months in Richmond endeavoring to get the Legislature to understand the immense undeveloped resources of the western portion of their State. I had a wagon-load of cannel-coal brought across the mountains to Richmond, and went to New York, where I purchased two gallons of oil made in Scotland from cannel-coal, for which I paid a dollar a gallon. On my return to Richmond I had a fire made

in the grate with the coal, and the oil placed in a lamp on the mantel, burning. This was done for the purpose of giving an illustration to the people of Virginia of the uses to which their coal could be put. This attracted much attention. Among those who spent much time in my room were Major Robert E. Lee, who became distinguished during the late war; Dr. Randolph, a grandson of Thomas Jefferson; a grandson of Patrick Henry; A. H. H. Stewart, who was in Fillmore's Cabinet; ex-Governor John B. Floyd, of Virginia, who was a member of the Legislative Committee on Internal Improvements. Through the influence of the latter I was permitted to go before that committee and make a statement. I informed them that Mr. Aspinwall, Mr. Pierrepont, and other prominent citizens of New York were interested in the enterprise, and if the State of Virginia would encourage the development of that portion of their State, I thought these gentlemen would take hold of what was then called the Virginia Central Railroad, and complete it to the Ohio River. The road was then but partially built, and was rapidly going into decay. I told them also that the coal would have to be shipped East, and that we must have railroad facilities for doing it. Governor Floyd remarked that it reminded him of an incident that happened to a young countryman of mine, whose father sent him to South Carolina with a drove of horses. He sold the horses, got into a gambling-house, and lost every dollar. Being afraid to go home without the money, he concluded he would rob a bank. He commenced digging under the wall of a bank, when it caved in. Some persons passing by asked him what in the world he was doing there. He replied that he was only digging his way back to Kentucky. "So you think these Yankees, if we get them interested in Virginia, will dig their way back, do you?" I told him I did. The Committee recommended that the appropriation be made, and the Legislature assented, and it was the only one made that session, except those to defray the expenses of the State.



OPENING PRAYER OF THE FIRST CONTINENTAL CONGRESS.

I thereupon went to New York, saw Mr. Aspinwall and Mr. Pierrepont, who got Mr. Huntingdon interested with them; the road was taken hold of and completed, and now extends from Newport News to the city of New Orleans. It has led to the building of cities, towns, and villages, and the opening of the then wilderness, and is worth millions of dollars to the Southern States. Coal River was locked and dammed from its connection with Kanawha to Peytona.

During my sojourn in Richmond the equestrian statue of General Washington in the public square was unveiled. A banquet to the visitors was given in the evening in what was then called the new post-office. I was present, and the occurrences of that night have never passed from my mind. Hon. William L. Yancy, of Mississippi, made a very bitter speech, referring to the condition of the South, and urging the Southern States to secede from the Union and establish a government of their own, in order to be subject no longer to what he called the dictation of the Northern States. His remarks were received with much applause by many of the young men. I was then and there impressed with the difficulties that confronted us. How they could be avoided was a subject of much reflection to me. It prompted me to urge Virginia to select James Buchanan, of Pennsylvania, a conservative Northern State, for President, and John C. Breckinridge, of Kentucky, also a conservative State, for Vice-President. Ex-Governor Floyd, and other prominent men in Richmond, concurred in my views. The convention—for the selection of delegates to attend the Presidential convention to be held in Cincinnati—met in the African Church, Richmond, and the delegates were instructed to vote for Buchanan and Breckinridge.

I had Hon. W. H. Witte go to Lancaster to see Mr. Buchanan, and, through his influence, ex-Governor Floyd was made a member of Mr Buchanan's cabinet.

The growing sentiment of secession became a subject of great worryment to me. Being of Southern birth, and many

members of my family living in the South, it naturally caused me much uneasiness. In 1859 I visited Nashville, Tennessee, expecting to meet Colonel Balie Peyton on his return from California, but did not see him, as he was detained in California for nearly a month. I called to see Hon. John Bell, with whom my relations had been very friendly for a number of years, and mentioned to him my apprehensions for the future. He did not consider the subject in the same light that I did, and looked upon it as a movement confined to a few impulsive people, which would die out without any bad effect. We discussed the situation until after twelve o'clock at night, and, on separating, he said he would leave the question to myself and Balie Peyton, and that whatever we thought, after our conference, was advisable, he would unite heartily in supporting. This was in the month of October. In November, Colonel Peyton came to Philadelphia, and spent a week with me. As he had been United States Minister to Chili, and was for four or five years in California, he could not realize the feeling that had grown up between the North and the South during his absence. He said he "would as soon think of slapping his mother in the face, as think of breaking up the Union of the States." Eight or ten days after his return to Tennessee he wrote me, saying that he was sorry to learn that my views were apparently correct, and asked how the difficulty could be avoided. I wrote to him, stating that as he was a prominent member of the Whig party, and had been long out of the country, I would get my friends in Philadelphia to tender him a dinner, to which he could invite prominent members of that party, and determine what steps had best be taken. He replied that the citizens of Philadelphia were under no obligations to him, and thought it indelicacy on my part, as a relative of his, to suggest such a reception. I told him that while it was to be a compliment to him, that was not my object, but to make use of him as a means of bringing together the members of the old Whig party,—the conservative Union party,—to con-



BALIE PEYTON.

sider how the future interests of the country could be preserved. After a conference with Mr. Bell, he accepted the invitation.

The dinner was given on Saturday, January 14, 1860, in the Academy of Music, there being about six hundred persons present. Among the guests were ex-Secretary of War Conrad; Mr. Gillman, of North Carolina; John J. Crittenden, of Kentucky; and Horace Maynard, of Tennessee. Speeches were made by Balie Peyton, Mr. Gillman, Mr. Crittenden, James Campbell, of Pennsylvania, and Joseph B. Comegys, of Delaware, who said that his State was the first to accept the Constitution, and would be the last to desert it. Horace Maynard stated that if the Northern people persisted in electing a sectional President, the South would secede. He was hissed. Morton McMichael, the presiding officer, adjourned the meeting at once.

On the following Monday, Colonel Balie Peyton and I, with Marcellus Mundy, met in what was then called the Chamber of Commerce. We then outlined what became the Constitutional Union Party, the principles of which were the Union, the Constitution, and the enforcement of the laws. Colonel Peyton suggested that if I wanted to make the movement successful, it would be necessary for me to visit the South, see the prominent men of the Whig party, and, if possible, get them to consent to be delegates to the convention of the party, which was to be held in Baltimore in the following May. I did so, and spent more than a month in the South. On my return I went to Boston, and there saw the Hon. George H. Hilliard. I made known to him the objects and purposes of the party, and our desire to secure the ablest men we could to come to the convention. He consented to be a delegate, and made one of the most eloquent speeches of the convention. I represented the First District of New Jersey. There never had been such a convention held in the United States since the one that framed the Constitution. No person was present who expected political preferment or personal advancement, but every man was there

with his heart and soul in the future welfare of his country. The convention nominated John Bell, of Tennessee, for President, and Edward Everett, of Massachusetts, for Vice-President.

A short time before the convention I visited Virginia, and went over the matter with a number of well-known citizens, among whom were Alexander H. H. Stewart and John B. Baldwin. I was very much gratified when Virginia cast her vote for Bell and Everett, the first and only time that I know of her voting anything but the Democratic ticket.

The election took place with the following result, according to the official vote of the slave-holding States :

	JOHN BELL.	JOHN C. BRECKINRIDGE.
Alabama	28,875	48,831
Delaware	3,864	7,337
Maryland	44,681	42,482
Georgia	42,886	51,889
Kentucky	66,058	53,143
Virginia	74,681	74,323
North Carolina	44,990	48,539
Missouri	58,372	31,317
Tennessee	69,274	64,709
Louisiana	20,204	22,681
Mississippi	25,040	40,792
Arkansas	20,094	28,732
Texas	15,110	47,547
Florida	5,437	8,543
	<u>519,566</u>	<u>570,865</u>

The result of that election is without a parallel in the history of the United States. Had it not been for the Constitutional Union Party that nominated John Bell,—an able, popular, and conservative Southern man,—against Abraham Lincoln, the candidate of the so-called “Black Republican Abolition Party,” the slave-holding States would have voted solidly for John C. Breckinridge, and seceded as a solid people, and established a government of their own, which would un-

doubtedly have been recognized by Great Britain, France, Spain, Germany, and Italy, and possibly Mexico and the other Central American Republics, owing to their close relations to Texas, and, in all probability, based on free-trade principles. These governments would no doubt have aided the South with men and money, it being to their commercial interest that the South should secede from the Union, as, being exclusively an agricultural country based on free-trade ideas, it would open a fair market for their manufactured products to the exclusion of those of the Northern States.

I do not think there has been born in the United States of America an individual who did more for his country than Balie Peyton. He made the canvass of the Southern States during the Bell and Everett campaign. His speeches were in favor of the Union of the States, were eloquent and impressive, and caused the people to reflect and stand by the Union of the States and support the President, whoever might be elected, in the preservation of our Union. They stood by the principles announced in their platform, and sustained Mr. Lincoln's administration in preserving the Union and the Constitution through the enforcement of the laws. Owing to the excitement incident to the war, the Bell and Everett party has never been comprehended or its services to the country fully appreciated.

Mr. Lincoln was elected and inaugurated. About a month after his inauguration I called on him with a letter from a friend of mine, who was then a resident of Springfield, Illinois, Mr. Lincoln's home. I was at once ushered into his office. I told him that I had opposed his election, and did all that I could to defeat him, and was instrumental in starting the movement by which John Bell, of Tennessee, and Edward Everett, of Massachusetts, were nominated; that I supported Mr. Bell because he was an old friend, a member of the Whig Party, and highly esteemed by his countrymen. Mr. Lincoln said that he had always been a member of the Whig Party, and that "Henry Clay was the jack-staff by which he steered." I spoke of the

principles of the Constitutional Party, and he stated that he heartily endorsed them. I also informed him that the party was prepared to support him, provided he would not interfere with the Constitutional rights of the States. I think he stated that he was opposed to any violation of the Constitution, and that he would use every means within his official power to preserve the Union of the States; that the rights of the Southern States would be recognized the same as the other States; that he was opposed to the extension of slavery into the Territories, and thought it a great misfortune to our race that it had ever existed in this country. I concurred in all that he said, and, as he endorsed the platform of our party, I felt myself bound to sustain his administration, and gave him, on that occasion, my assurances of support.

I told him that one of the chief sources of worry to me was the condition of my native State, Kentucky, and that I thought if the people were kindly treated, and brought to reflect upon the subject, the State could be induced to hold her position in the Union, notwithstanding the efforts of the Southern States, to which she was closely allied through interest and blood.

To secure his confidence and friendship, we being natives of the same State, I handed him a letter that I had some years previously received from ex-Governor Metcalfe, whom Mr. Lincoln looked upon as one of Kentucky's most eminent men. He read it with very great interest, being himself personally acquainted with the author. He stated, "From your family relations with the people of Kentucky, from the time of its settlement to the present, your influence will probably be felt more than that of any man who could visit the State, and I hope, as we are Kentuckians, that you will use it in that direction."

After some further conversation, I consented to go to Kentucky. I then left the President and returned to Philadelphia, and called upon Joseph R. Ingersoll and other citizens prominently identified with public affairs, told them of my interview with President Lincoln, and that I felt, in view of his expressions,



INDEPENDENCE HALL, 1776.

it was our duty, under any and all circumstances, to sustain him in his efforts towards the preservation of the Union, and that I had consented to go to Kentucky and do all that I could to induce her to hold her place in the Union. Mr. Ingersoll was at first disinclined to take any active part in supporting Mr. Lincoln's administration, but finally came to the conclusion that it was his duty to do so, and he prepared and gave me the following letter, which was signed by several of those who took part in the Balie Peyton dinner :

PHILADELPHIA, March 21, 1861.

DEAR SIR,—You have been so long and so favorably known in peace and in war that there ought to be no reluctance in inviting your co-operation in measures which may contribute in a time of need to the welfare of the country. There can be no reluctance on your part in acceding to the call. Throughout the United States there are individuals everywhere who are devoted to the Union. Recent events would seem to exhibit them in certain places in a minority. The contagion of example is powerful for evil as well as for good, and the majorities are liable to augmentation. Tendencies towards mischief have not been effectually arrested, although sternly rebuked by patriotic and manly appeals which have been uttered by the wise in different places. Insubordination has increased, and, we lament to say, is probably on the increase still. It can be checked only by a general effort of wisdom and strength, and such effort can be made available by united action from every quarter. Representatives from each and every section must be brought together to confer upon mutual suggestions, to deliberate on proper means of utility, to determine on prompt, vigorous, and judicious measures, and to seek by liberal conciliation and fair purpose to bring together in one harmonious whole of design and action all who sincerely love their country.

In the class of lovers of their country will be embraced every one who earnestly wishes to arrest its now dangerous and downward tendencies, and to elevate it once more to the position which it has held at least for more than half a century, in its own becoming pride and in the respect and esteem of the whole civilized world.

Your gallant State has been at all times true. Her prominent men have been prompt in times of tumult and disorder, of difficulty and danger, to throw themselves into the breach, and, regardless of mere party ties, to lead the way through evil and through good report to tran-

quillity, honor, and durable prosperity. Many are the occasions on which your lamented fellow-statesman, now no more, effected by his untiring exercise of influence and persuasion compromises when peril was imminent and hope almost dismayed. His manly course has not been forgotten. Another patriot of Kentucky has recently been foremost to cast aside all base motives of party or personal ambition, and to make bold exertions for the general good. His zeal has not abated for a moment. In all parts of the republic his steadfast efforts have received merited applause. These patriotic trials cannot be lost. They will stand a living lesson for the present day, and an enduring legacy for future generations. While there was no mere theory about them, they have remained unhappily inoperative in practice. One way is open to render them immediately of incalculable use.

One object in this communication is to invite the friends of Union everywhere, and especially the citizens of Kentucky, through your means, to concur in measures for a general convention, to be composed of men of like feelings with themselves from every State. Let it be held in that venerated and almost sacred temple whose walls resounded with the early proclamation of independence; and of a more perfect Union in the shape of a constitutional form of government; and let the deeds and the day be celebrated on the spot consecrated to freedom, and on the ever memorable fourth day of July.

Your friends and immediate fellow-citizens can best determine how they should lead their noble Commonwealth to the selection and arrangement which must be preparatory. We have a similar step in contemplation, and hope not to delay its execution.

A convention for the good of the Union in a moment of disaster cannot require from us a detail of measures. With hearts and minds prepared to advise, and hands ready to execute, the spirit of action will be arrested and directed; and it is not too much to expect that results must ensue like the flowing tide in clear and wholesome waters.

Sincerely yours,

J. R. INGERSOLL,	M. S. SHAPLEIGH,
P. MCCALL,	JAMES C. HAND,
M. MUNDY,	D. HADDOCK, JR.,
J. W. BACON, M.D.,	CHARLES D. REED,
E. W. BAILY,	FRED. FLEISHOME,
JOHN GRIGG,	E. B. SHAPLEIGH,
C. W. LITTELL,	FRANCIS S. OTT,
JAMES MARTIN,	S. W. DECOURSEY.

This letter was sent by Curtis S. Burnham to the clerk of the House of Representatives, who read it, where it created a very favorable impression upon the members.

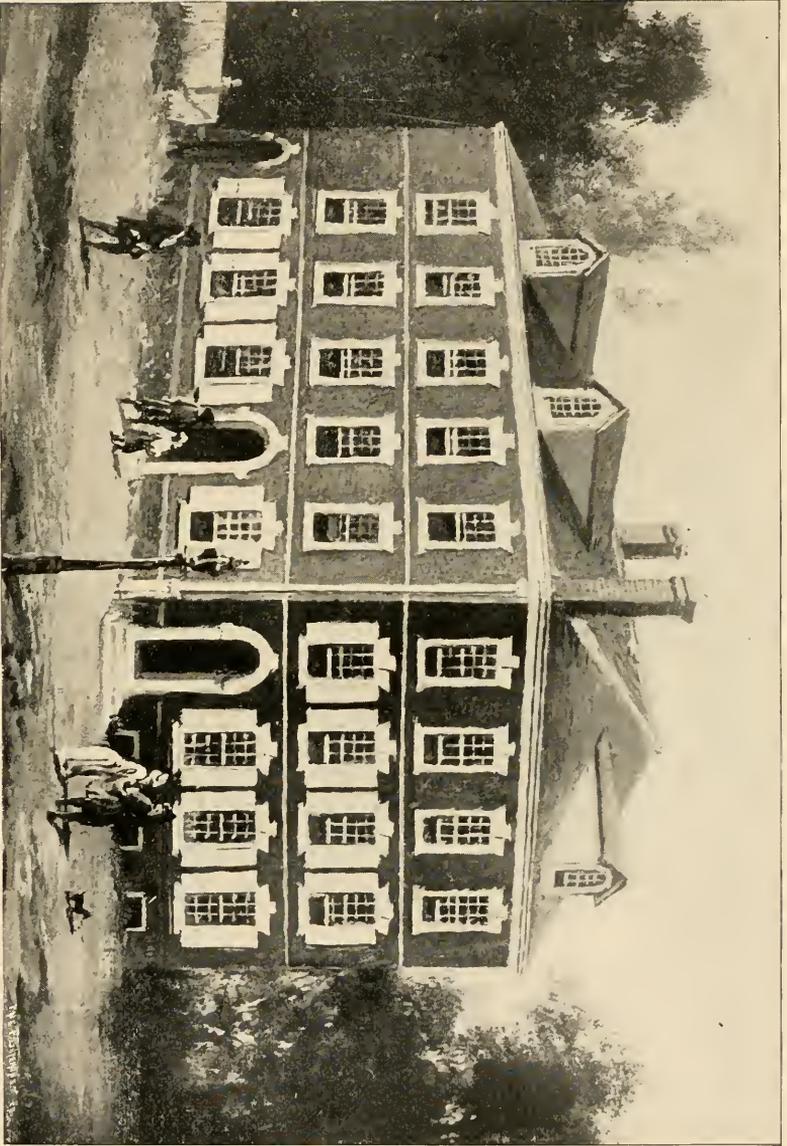
I will never forget my efforts to draw the Bell and Everett party to the support of Mr. Lincoln. Some of my well-known friends in the South, who were members of the party, deserted the cause, because otherwise they would have had to leave their homes, dispose of their property, or live there and be looked upon as traitors to their State. John Bell removed to Georgia, where he died.

I spent five or six weeks in Kentucky, and found that there was a feeling among many that the State should maintain a neutral position in the controversy between the North and the South. I was told by some old men that I had better go home, and let Kentucky affairs alone. The result of my visit was in every way satisfactory. I returned with a letter from Major Anderson, of Fort Sumter fame, with authority to equip a regiment in New Jersey for service in Kentucky,—not so much for field-service, as for the purpose of bringing the people of the two sections of the country together and enabling them to commingle and become acquainted with the views of each other. When I delivered the letter to Governor Olden, of New Jersey, he informed me that the State quota, consisting of four regiments, was made up.

Kentucky maintained her position in the Union, and the Legislature appointed a committee of seven to devise means for the protection of the State. This committee authorized the raising and equipping of ten regiments, and arranged with me to have them equipped in Philadelphia. The governor, on hearing that the regiments were to be fitted out in the East, asked the committee to meet him at his office, and suggested the advisability of having them equipped in Kentucky. The committee was with him until about twelve o'clock at night, when Philip Sweigard, a prominent citizen of Frankfort, and secretary of the committee, called to see me, and told me that the governor would allow

the committee to name a quartermaster and an adjutant-general if the regiments were equipped in Kentucky under State authority. I advised the committee to accept the governor's proposition, and pay the expenses of equipping the regiments in greenbacks of the government, stating that every man who had government paper was interested to that extent, at least, in preserving the government. On telling Mr. Sweigard that I was going to leave for the East on the early morning train, he asked me to remain over and meet the committee the following morning at ten o'clock. I did so, and told them that I understood that the banks of Kentucky had on deposit in the city of New York about four million five hundred thousand dollars in gold, and, as that city was composed mostly of foreigners, they had no assurance, in case war broke out and became a disruptive affair, that they would ever see a dollar of their gold, and advised them to exchange it for greenbacks, and trust their government for its return. A bank president, who was a member of the committee, thought it a wise suggestion, and asked me how it could be brought about. I suggested to him that a meeting of the bank presidents of Kentucky be called, and measures adopted looking to that end. He asked me if I could come out and attend such a meeting two weeks from that date. I told him I could, and did so, and the banks of Kentucky were the first in the country to make an exchange of their gold for greenbacks of the United States. The authority to equip ten regiments, and the willingness to exchange gold for paper, gave confidence and an inspiration in the city of Philadelphia that I had no expectation of seeing.

My gratitude to Kentucky prompted me to recognize the centennial of her admission into the Union by presenting her with pictures of the historic buildings of our country,—the State House and Congress Hall, in Philadelphia,—the place where the government had its inception and organization, and where Kentucky became a member of our family of States,



THE BUILDING WHERE JEFFERSON WROTE THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, AT SEVENTH AND MARKET STREETS.

and of the building in which Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence.

Whilst on a visit to Washington near the close of 1862 I met Judge Usher, of Indiana, who was on friendly terms with my brother, a resident of the same State. We talked over the condition of affairs of our country, which were clouded with doubt and uncertainty. My idea was the issuance of an ordinance to free the slave and have him, instead of producing supplies for the Confederate army, go into the Union army to secure his liberty and the union of the States. I told the Judge that, in my judgment, Abraham Lincoln's election as President of the United States was the end of slavery; that, if the slave-holding States established an independent government, the slaves would escape and go into the free States, where the controlling power of abolitionism would protect and defend them. If the former owner followed them, it would be at the risk of his life. The same condition of affairs would have existed under the union of the States; that the abolition sentiment had become a power in many of the free States. The Judge asked me to write him a letter embodying my views. I did so, and he showed the letter to President Lincoln, who, he stated, had it read in a Cabinet meeting. The Judge, in reply to my letter, said that if I should visit Washington the President would be glad to have me call to see him. I did visit the capital in a few days, and called with the judge to see the President. The contents of my letter were talked over, and the suggestion favored of paying for the slaves and instituting gradual emancipation. President Lincoln seemed to think that the Union element would oppose an ordinance taking their property from them without compensation; that they would rebel and join the Confederacy. I assured him that capital invested in slaves was not regarded, under the condition of affairs, as being reliable, except under the protection of the government, and if the union of the States was severed, it had reached its end. They were for the Union, and would sustain its perpetuity at any sacrifice of life

or property. The President stated that if time and circumstances required action of the kind named, the subject would be duly considered. We parted with feelings of mutual friendship.

I have now concluded my reminiscences of my connection with civic affairs, and reach the opening of the Civil War.

In January, 1861, I was called upon by Colonel Young, who bore a letter of introduction to me from Judge Barry, a brother-in-law of Balie Peyton. Young had come East with the view of establishing a paper in Nashville, to be called the *Spirit of the South*. In view of the trouble between the two sections of the country he changed his plans, and obtained from the Secretary of War, Simon Cameron, authority to raise a regiment. He called upon me and asked the privilege of using my name as quartermaster. Owing to my lack of knowledge of military affairs, and for other reasons, I declined.

A few days afterwards, being in Washington, I took breakfast with Secretary Cameron, whom I knew very well, and told him that Young had called upon me and requested the use of my name as quartermaster. Young appeared to have impressed the Secretary with the idea that if he had a regiment he could put down the Rebellion. Mr. Cameron said that he thought Young was a man of courage and would be of service to the country, and, under the circumstances, granted the authority to recruit the regiment; and, as he knew that I desired to do all in my power to save the Union, thought I ought not to hesitate in allowing my name to be used in any matter looking to that end; that I had become very well known through my connection with the Constitutional Union Party, and he hoped I would do all I could to sustain the administration. I therefore consented, and accepted the position of quartermaster in Young's regiment. That fact was published in the newspapers, and in nineteen days I had the assurance of fourteen full companies. Twelve of them were mustered into the service, and

two of the companies were turned over to Colonel Max Friedman, whose head-quarters were on Ridge Avenue, in Philadelphia. The head-quarters of the so-called "Young's Kentucky Cavalry" was named, as a compliment to me, "Camp Peyton," at Haddonfield, New Jersey. It is so recognized in history.

I had a white elephant on my hands. Here were twelve hundred men without means at their command to secure either rations, horses, or the necessary equipments for service. I went to Washington, saw Secretary Cameron, stated the condition of affairs to him, and went with him to see President Lincoln, who sent for General Meigs. It appeared as if no one could give authority for the equipping of cavalry. I told the President that the men were without the means of buying their own equipments, and that unless assistance was at once forthcoming they would have to disband. Congress was then in session, and the subject was brought to the attention of the Committee on Military Affairs. Three regiments of cavalry were authorized to be equipped,—one from New York, one from Iowa, and the so-called "Young's Kentucky Cavalry," from Pennsylvania.

It was some months before the government paid the bills for provisions for the regiments, amounting to two thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars, the interest on which I had to pay personally. This was the first regiment of cavalry that reached Washington after the outbreak of the war. Colonel Harlan was to have filled the position of lieutenant-colonel, but difficulties arose between him and Colonel Young, and they separated. The regiment was put under the command of Colonel (afterwards General) Averill, and was numbered the Third Pennsylvania Regiment. It distinguished itself at Salem, Virginia, where it cut the line of communication between Tennessee and Richmond.

General Harlan applied for, and received, authority from the Secretary of War to recruit a regiment of cavalry, and asked

me to allow him to use my name in raising the necessary number of men. After some hesitation, I consented, and established head-quarters at the St. Louis Hotel, where the First National Bank of Philadelphia now stands. General Harlan, losing his health, the entire labor, trouble, and expense of raising the regiment devolved upon me. Samuel D. Wetherill, then a resident of Easton, a well known Philadelphian, wrote to me, and stated that if I would have him made major of the regiment he would furnish four companies. Knowing him as I did, I accepted his proposition, the companies were furnished, and we jointly quickly made up the other eight. That was the Eleventh Regiment of Pennsylvania Cavalry. General Harlan went to Washington with the regiment, and was mustered into service. He took with him all the papers in connection with recruiting the regiment. He was soon mustered out of service, and the papers were lost. The result was I never received a dollar for the expenses incurred in fitting out either Young's Kentucky Cavalry or the Eleventh Regiment of Pennsylvania Cavalry, all of which were paid by me. As the papers were lost, I could not make any legal claim on the State of Pennsylvania or the government of the United States.

I may, without personal laudation or injustice to any one, claim the credit of placing the Third and Eleventh Regiments of Pennsylvania Cavalry in the field, and I am sorry to say but a few of them survive.

I will here state that I found Secretary of War Cameron to have a clearer and a more accurate comprehension of the condition of the country than any person with whom I conferred. He recognized the intelligence, courage, and energy of the American citizen; and as the Southern States comprised a vast extent of territory, the population of which was made up of that class of people, he knew it would cost a great many lives and a great deal of treasure before the Rebellion could be crushed out.

My next relation with the government was at the instance of John Edgar Thompson, the president of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, whom I had known for many years. He suggested that I raise a regiment of cavalry for special service in Kentucky, where the Confederate States obtained their supplies of horses and provisions. He thought I was the proper person to do this work, as I was a native of that State and was acquainted with the people. He wrote a letter to that effect to President Lincoln, which was signed by Morton McMichael, Henry C. Carey, and other prominent Philadelphians. The President thought well of it, and referred it to General Halleck, who, however, declined to grant the authority, on the ground that it was for special service. He changed it to general service, to which I assented. I returned to Philadelphia, and opened my head-quarters at Fourth and Walnut Streets.

In a short time I had four hundred and forty-five men enrolled, and encamped at "Camp Metcalfe," adjoining Haddonfield, New Jersey. The battle of Fredericksburg had been fought, and the Union forces were defeated; the people saw wounded soldiers brought home. These facts, and the severity of the weather, embarrassed recruiting. As the time within which to recruit the regiment was about to expire, I applied to the authorities in Washington for an extension. President Lincoln referred the application to Secretary Stanton, with a favorable recommendation. The Secretary of War wrote under this endorsement, with his own hand, "For good and sufficient reasons I decline.—Edwin M. Stanton, Secretary of War."

The letter was brought to me at Willard's Hotel. After supper I called to see President Lincoln, who was then in conference with Senator Harris, of New York, Judge Davis, of Illinois, and Senator Henry L. Wilson, of Massachusetts. These gentlemen had called to try to induce the President to reinstate General George B. McClellan. I was sitting in the

ante-room, and distinctly heard President Lincoln say that his past relations with General McClellan were like father and son, or elder and younger brother; that there was no truer Union man in the country, and that to organize and discipline an army he did not have his superior in this or any other country; "but, gentlemen, somehow or other when it comes to the scratch Little Mack won't act."

Senator Harris and Judge Davis soon left. The Judge, in passing, said, "If you want to see the President, step in." I did so, and the President asked me what I wanted. I told him that I wanted to know what the Secretary of War meant when he said that "for good and sufficient reasons" he declined to grant me an extension of time to organize the regiment. The President said it would not do for him to take part in any quarrel between Mr. Stanton and myself. I replied, "Very well, sir," and turned to leave. Senator Wilson, who was in the room, asked me if I was Colonel Peyton, and, being told I was, said that he had received a letter a few days before from William B. Claflin, afterwards Governor of Massachusetts, and for several years a member of Congress, who requested him to do anything he could for me should he meet me in Washington; that he had had many conversations with me regarding the condition of the country, and always found me correct in what I said. Mr. Wilson then told the President that it was his duty to let me know what Mr. Stanton meant by his note. The President said he would look into it, and let me know. Two days afterwards the extension was granted, but with no explanation of what Stanton meant. I therefore returned the authority, and stated in my letter that I would have nothing to do with the military service so long as Stanton was at the head of it.

In all I recruited three thousand and forty-five men for the service, and they stand to the credit of the State of Pennsylvania.

When in Washington in 1863, I met an old and intimate



CONGRESS HALL, SIXTH AND CHESTNUT STREETS.

friend from Tennessee, who was in Washington in company with Governor Andrew Johnson, the military governor of that State. He told me that Governor Johnson had received authority to raise twenty-five thousand troops to take the place of Sherman's army when it moved South. On meeting him the day following, he informed me that Johnson would like to see me. I called on the governor, who was stopping at the St. Charles Hotel. He asked me to recruit a regiment to go to Tennessee. I told him of the difficulty I had with Stanton, and that I would have nothing to do with the War Department so long as he was Secretary. He informed me that my reports would not be made to Mr. Stanton, but to him, and that his would be made directly to the President. After having a second interview with him, I decided to aid him. I arranged to recruit a brigade of four regiments, which were to be stationed at Nashville and to remain there as the governor's guard.

Unfortunately the governor was not on very good terms with the Union element of Tennessee or with the citizens. He felt that my connection with the Union Party would tend to sustain his administration in holding the State in line. I came home and made preliminary arrangements for four regiments. As General Lee was marching on Gettysburg, Johnson's authority was rescinded, and, of course, my authority fell with his. The expenses I was put to in connection with this regiment were never repaid me.

During my conversations with Governor Johnson, the subject of the use of his name for Vice-President was mentioned. I told him that I thought his name upon the ticket would satisfy the public that the war was neither partisan nor sectional. He said that he had no objection to the use of his name, but did not believe that it would be acceptable to the Republican Party.

During the winter of 1864, Hon. N. G. Taylor, of Tennessee, came East to secure aid for the destitute people of the eastern

section of that State. He brought letters to me from Parson Brownlow and other citizens of Knoxville. Mr. Taylor went with me to Harrisburg, where we called on Governor Curtin. I showed him the letters, and Taylor depicted the destitute condition of the people, and asked that their wants be considered. The governor called attention to it in his message, and the Legislature referred the appeal to the people with a favorable recommendation. In response to the action of the Legislature, a meeting of citizens was held in the Academy of Music. I secured the signatures of George M. Dallas, Horace Binney, Joseph R. Ingersoll, and many other well-known citizens of Philadelphia to the call for this meeting. Mr. Taylor was present and made an address. A committee was appointed through which the wants of the people of Tennessee were attended to.

I accompanied Taylor to New York, Boston, and Providence, Rhode Island. The subscriptions amounted to one hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars, and were forwarded by the several committees in whose hands the matter had been placed to Mr. Odion, of Cincinnati, through whom it was distributed among the people of Tennessee.

General Hiram Walbridge, knowing that I had incurred expense in performing this work, called the attention of the New York committee to that fact. The committee responded to his suggestion, and sent me a check for an amount about covering the expenses incurred. I knew nothing of his action until I received the check.

During my trip with Colonel Taylor through New York, I breakfasted with Thurlow Weed at Albany. I gave him my reasons why I thought Andrew Johnson a good man to nominate as Vice-President. He agreed with me, and believed that it would add strength to the ticket. The next morning he announced, at the top of one of the columns in his paper, "Lincoln and Johnson" as the Republican candidates for President and Vice-President. The subject was kept before the

people until the convention met in Baltimore, and Johnson was placed on the ticket with Lincoln.

I considered the re-election of Andrew G. Curtin as governor of Pennsylvania one of the important events of the time. My friends in New Jersey joined me in the purchase of Audubon's works, very elegantly bound in Russia morocco, which were presented to him, on his second inauguration in the House of Representatives, by Hon. James B. Dayton, of Camden.

I visited Richmond, Virginia, in October, 1865. The people were gloomy and depressed. The outlook for the future was, to them, anything but hopeful. I said to old friends and relatives that the proper thing to do was to start a movement looking to a grand reunion of the descendants of the old American families, in 1876, in Philadelphia. Some thought the suggestion premature. I told them that such a meeting would remind the people of what our ancestors had endured to secure our independence and to make us a united people under constitutional government; and also that in such reunion the State of Virginia would stand at the front, having given to the country such statesmen as Henry, Jefferson, Washington, Madison, and Marshall. I then saw and conferred with descendants of Patrick Henry and Thomas Jefferson, and also saw Hon. A. H. H. Stewart, all of whom thought the idea a good one. I am sorry to say that Mr. Stewart's letter in answer to one he requested me to write him has been misplaced.

On my return home I called on Robert Morris,—a grandson of Robert Morris, of Revolutionary fame,—who also approved of the idea. I subsequently saw and conferred with a descendant of each of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, with but one exception. They all took an interest in the proposed Centennial.

While making plans for a preliminary meeting, to be held in Independence Hall, Philadelphia, the Southern States were put

under military government, and they therefore declined to take any part in the proposed meeting. This, for a time, disarranged my plans.

In 1868 or 1869 I was in Concord, New Hampshire, and, while there, was introduced to General Thomas Whipple, a grandson of one of the Signers. I told him of the proposed Centennial, and of the refusal of the Southern States to take part in it, by reason of being placed under military rule, and suggested the propriety of having the State of New Hampshire take some steps in the matter. The Legislature was then in session, and we secured the services of Hon. Edmund Burke, a prominent lawyer, and he prepared resolutions which were duly introduced into the Legislature, requesting the State of New Hampshire to petition the government of the United States to purchase Independence Hall and the square upon which it is situated, to be formally dedicated, on the fourth day of July, 1876, to the people of the United States. The Legislature was, politically, evenly divided on the subject. The bill was introduced by a Democrat, and the leader of the Republicans moved that it be laid on the table, which motion was carried.

On being informed of this, I called on him. I ascertained that he had resided for some time in California, and was a warm friend of Balie Peyton. On learning that I was related to Mr. Peyton, he received me very cordially. I then explained the merits of the bill before the Legislature: that there were no politics in the measure, but that it was national in its broadest sense. In the afternoon of that day he moved that the bill be taken up, when it passed by a unanimous vote.

It was published in the papers, and Patrick Gilmore took up the idea of a peace jubilee, which was arranged and carried through with great success, and called attention to the important meetings of the citizens in 1876.

The action of the Legislature of New Hampshire was soon after followed by that of the State of New Jersey, the municipi-



HON. JOHN WELSH.

pal government of the city of Boston, and, in 1871, by the Legislature of Virginia.

It was with great difficulty that I succeeded in getting the State of Virginia to appoint a committee to visit Philadelphia to confer with the city officials regarding the Centennial. They seemed to think that they would be unkindly treated, owing to the feeling between the two sections of the country growing out of the recent war. The committee was, however, appointed, and during their stay in Philadelphia were the guests of Mr. E. L. Davenport, the manager of the Chestnut Street Theatre. A special performance was given in their honor, and at its close Mr. Davenport was called front by the committee, and made a very eloquent and touching address of welcome. The following day they visited Independence Hall and Carpenters' Hall.

Mayor Fox welcomed them to the city in a very patriotic speech, which was responded to by the chairman of the committee. The committee presented Mr. Davenport with a gold-headed cane, as a token of their appreciation of his courtesy. A banquet was tendered the committee by the city, at the Continental Hotel, over which Colonel William B. Mann presided. One of the committee, in the course of his speech at this banquet, declared that "the door of secession was locked and the key thrown into the bottomless pit."

There was some doubt as to whether the Centennial Exposition ought to be held in Philadelphia or New York. I visited Trenton, where the Legislature was in session, and had resolutions passed endorsing Philadelphia as the proper place, and 1876 as the appropriate time, for holding it. These resolutions were approved by the Legislatures of Connecticut, Delaware, Virginia, North Carolina, and the municipal government of the city of Boston. The time and place being set, a charter was subsequently obtained.

After the organization of the Commission and the Board of Finance was completed, I suggested that our leading inter-

ests should organize, and be represented in the Exposition. This suggestion was approved by the Board of Directors, and I thereupon appeared before the Society to Promote Agriculture in the United States (which society was organized in 1785). They adopted resolutions favoring the suggestion, and the work of organization commenced. David Landreth was suggested for president, but, owing to his advanced years, the office was conferred upon his son, who discharged the duties of his position with great ability.

In 1874 I made a visit to Boston, and in the car occupied a seat beside a young gentleman whom I ascertained was travelling for the American Clock Company, of Hartford, Connecticut. He informed me that he had been travelling a little over three months, and in that time had sold sixteen hundred clocks. In view of the depressed condition of business throughout the country, I considered it a very good showing. He said that the American clocks were used all over the world, and that a clock thirty days after leaving the factory in Hartford would be keeping time in Japan. On my arrival at Boston I went to the Parker House, and there met ex-Governor Fairbanks, of Vermont. I told him of the conversation I had had with the clock salesman, and was informed by Mr. Fairbanks that his scales were the standard scales of the world. The next day, while on School Street, a gentlemen stopped me and asked me if I remembered him. On my replying that I did not, he told me that his name was George Richardson. I asked him where he was living, and he said, Cairo. Thinking he meant Cairo, Illinois, I asked him about Mound City affairs, and he then informed me that he was living in Cairo, Egypt, and that he was the agent there for Ames's plows, McCormick's reapers and mowers, and other American agricultural implements. On leaving him I called on Mr. Cummings, the president of one of Boston's best-known banks, who was also extensively engaged in the tanning business. He informed me that his leather was hemlock tanned, and was shipped to



BUNKER HILL MONUMENT.

London, there made into shoes, then shipped to Mexico and Egypt.

From this visit I learned in a practical way that America was far ahead of the world in manufacturing industries; that her scales were the standard scales of the world; that she furnished farming implements to till the soil from which the Israelites gathered straw four thousand years ago to make their bricks; that American shoes were also used in Egypt; and that American clocks were keeping time all over the world.

In January, 1875, I was again in Boston, and called the attention of the citizens to the importance of a Centennial celebration, during that year, of the battle of Bunker Hill, in which the thirteen original States should be invited to participate, and be represented by a regiment from each, and thus bring the soldiers who had been in conflict with each other in the recent war together on the sacred soil where the first pitched battle in the war for independence took place, and that this should be followed by a celebration at Yorktown, Virginia, in 1881. Mayor Cobb, whose grandfather was on General Washington's staff at the battle of Yorktown, favored the idea, and secured a letter from George Bancroft, the historian, on the subject, containing a copy of the act passed by Congress a few days after the battle. This letter the mayor sent with his message to councils. The mayor's message was approved, and the Centennial Anniversary of the Battle of Bunker Hill was properly celebrated, and proved to be a timely and worthy introduction of 1876.

Mayor Cobb, in his communication to Councils, called their attention to the fact that the monument projected for the field of Yorktown had never been erected. The subject was brought to the attention of Congress by the Massachusetts representatives, and the monument was erected. It is one of the finest monuments in America.

I had previously suggested that the thirteen original States

should each have a building on the ground, in 1876, for the use and comfort of their citizens and descendants. The suggestion was approved, and New Jersey was the first State that erected a State building, and was also the first State to celebrate a State day. She was followed by nearly all of the thirteen original States, and some of the States since admitted into the family also erected State buildings.

The bank officers and bankers of the United States organized an association to aid in securing the financial success of the Exposition. The meeting was held on the 26th of June, 1875, in Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, consisting of three hundred and thirty-three bank officials or representatives, to see the progress made and to ascertain what was essential to make the work a success. On the return home of the New York bank presidents, the clearing house of that city appointed a committee to take the subject in hand, of which B. B. Sherman was made chairman, and the subject, through that committee, was presented to the banks of the United States, which were responding quite liberally, when the financial crisis fell upon the country, and the contributions to the Centennial stock ceased.

I have special reasons for feeling grateful to Benjamin B. Sherman, William A. Camp, who was the manager of the New York clearing house, George S. Coe, J. D. Vermilye, Henry Hall, John S. Baker, and C. L. Jordan. In addition to their contributions to the stock of the Centennial, they organized and erected a building for the use of the bank officials and their families during the Centennial. It was here that the foreign bank presidents met the presidents of the American banks. Through their intercourse with the American bankers and the people of this country they found that, through our resources and productions, we were abundantly able to pay our national debt; and through their intercourse with bank officials of this country they were satisfied that America would pay every dollar that she owed. This fact, as impressed upon foreign



B. B. SHERMAN, PRESIDENT MECHANICS' NATIONAL BANK, NEW JERSEY, 1876.

bankers, gave an assurance of the value of the United States bonds, which they expressed, on their return, to their capitalists, and the price of bonds commenced to go up at once. There was no building occupied on the grounds that did more to build up American credit than the bankers' building.

Through Mr. Sherman's kindness and hearty co-operation, I secured the support of the New York Produce Exchange. This Exchange invited the various commercial organizations throughout the United States to join them on a day when the commercial interests of the country could be present and participate in the celebration. This was carried out, and the number present on Commercial Day was one hundred and fifteen thousand. Mr. Sherman's kindness and assistance to me inseparably connect his name with the work which I was employed in at the time. As a Christian and patriotic gentleman, to whom I was devotedly attached, I take the liberty, as he is no longer in the walks of life, to insert his picture in connection with these reminiscences, which call events both sad and pleasant to memory.

The Clearing-House committee tendered to the Hon. John Welsh a dinner at Delmonico's. The invitation to Mr. Welsh was signed by one hundred of the most prominent citizens of the city of New York, and was given for the purpose of expressing their appreciation of Mr. Welsh's valuable services to his country, and to have a resolution passed calling upon Congress to make the sum loaned by Congress to the Exposition an appropriation instead of a loan, to be repaid to the States, cities, and individuals who had contributed to the stock of the Centennial Commission.

Nothing in the conduct of the Centennial Celebration of American Independence in 1876 was more striking than the fact that with all the vast crowds that assembled there not a single accident occurred. The careful accommodation of the unprecedented crowds was due to the intelligent and energetic

efforts of Mr. D. M. Boyd, the General Passenger Agent of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. Under his direction special care and attention were given to the aged and afflicted who desired to be present on their respective State days out of respect to their ancestors who were connected with the event being celebrated. Many of these visitors were residents of the New England States whose ancestors had taken part in the Revolutionary War.

A special gate was assigned in the station at Jersey City where such persons could be passed in and seated before the gates were opened to the crowds. On their arrival and departure from Philadelphia they were carefully cared for on each State day. I was in the Jersey City station every morning at six o'clock when the steamers landed their passengers. On Massachusetts day I found a gentleman from Marble Head, Massachusetts, in his ninety-second year; his wife was with him in her ninetieth year; they had been man and wife for over sixty-eight years. The father of each was in the battle of Bunker Hill.

Remembering Mr. Boyd's kind and courteous assistance to me, I hold his memory ever kindly with my remembrances of the past. He and his assistant at the Jersey City Station both died soon after the closing of the celebration. The officials of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company all seemed to unite in the sentiment of future peace and prosperity of the people, and were ready to co-operate and accomplish that object and purpose.

My kinsman, Balie Peyton, of Tennessee, who spent some weeks with me during the celebration, said, "Well Jesse, your efforts have permanently established the reunion of our States, and it will so pass into history."

At the time of the close of the Centennial the Bankers' building with its furniture was presented to me. The sale of the building, with the small surplus presented to me by the committee, did not quite cover the expenses I was put to in



D. M. BOYD, GENERAL PASSENGER AGENT PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD COMPANY, 1876.

working up the State days. The furniture I still retain, except a few pieces which I presented to my good friends John Welsh and George Philler, as souvenirs of that great celebration.

The Singer Manufacturing Company also, at my suggestion, erected a large building on the ground for its exhibits and the comfort of the lady visitors. This company at the close of the Exposition presented me with a handsome gold watch, with a picture of the building engraved on the case.

During the Autumn of 1875 it was difficult to secure the means necessary to carry on and complete the work. Mr. Welsh was much worried over the outlook; it was indeed gloomy. I proposed that I visit New York and see what could be done. He consented, and I secured Gilmore's garden for a meeting. The cost of the building and the band for the evening was one thousand dollars. The Centennial Board of Finance did not care to assume that risk. I thereupon sold to the banks and insurance companies of New York two thousand tickets at fifty cents each, which paid for the use of the building and the band. Samuel J. Tilden, then governor of New York, agreed to act as chairman and introduce Mr. Welsh and Governor Hawley, who were to make addresses. There were about eight thousand persons present. Governor Tilden, owing to illness, was unable to preside. The meeting did much to arouse interest in the Exposition.

The financial condition of the Southern States was such that they could not contribute means to the Centennial or erect buildings for the use and benefit of their citizens. At the close of the Exhibition I visited the State of New York, stated to the capitalists the unfortunate condition of the people of the South in not being able to pay the interest on their State debts, and advised that a meeting should be held by capitalists to ascertain if it were not possible for the States and their bondholders to get together and compromise on terms acceptable to the States and bondholders, and settle their obligations.

The subject was well received. The following-named gentleman signed a call for the meeting :

JNO. T. AGNEW,	JAMES G. KING'S SONS,
BABCOCK BROS. & Co.,	A. C. KINGSLAND & SONS,
AUGUST BELMONT & Co.,	KUHN, LOEB & Co.,
BROWN BROS. & Co.,	A. A. LOWE & BROS.,
WM. C. BRYANT,	CHAS. J. MARTIN,
FRED. BUTTERFIELD & Co.,	SAM. M'LEAN & Co.,
JOHN J. CISCO & SON,	MORTON, BLISS & Co.,
H. B. CLAFLIN & Co.,	E. D. MORGAN & Co.,
THOMAS DENNY & Co.,	GEORGE OPDYKE & Co.,
DAVID DOWS & Co.,	PHELPS, DODGE & Co.,
DREXEL, MORGAN & Co.,	HENRY F. SPAULDING,
WM. M. EVARTS,	H. G. STEBBINS & SON,
WM. H. HAYS,	J. & W. SELIGMAN & Co.,
WILSON G. HUNT,	JOHN A. STEWART,
M. K. JESSUP, PATON & Co.	MOSES TAYLOR,
E. S. JAFFRAY & Co.,	L. VON HOFFMAN & Co.,
ROBERT LENOX KENNEDY,	F. S. WINSTON.

The meeting was held in the clearing house of the city of New York, over which William Cullen Bryant presided.

A committee was appointed to confer with the bondholders and the States, and endeavor to have the matter satisfactorily adjusted. The committee consisted of the following gentlemen: George S. Coe, President of the American Exchange National Bank, New York; J. D. Vermilye, President of the Merchant's National Bank, New York; B. B. Sherman, President of the Mechanic's National Bank, New York; B. B. Comegys, Vice-President of the Philadelphia National Bank, Philadelphia; Enoch Pratt, President of the National Farmers' and Planter's Bank, Baltimore.

Mr. Coe, in his reference to the subject, stated that it had its origin with me, during the Centennial,—looking to peace, fraternity, and social relation among the people.

I frequently remarked to Mr. Welsh, in looking over the

vast crowds present, that when the generation present and participating had passed away, the Centennial would soon be forgotten by the people, and that there ought to be a monument erected on the site of the Exposition in respect to the memory of the signers of the Declaration of Independence and the members of the convention that framed our Constitution. I suggested that such a monument should consist of the thirteen original States in line, each under an arch, fronting the rising sun. The central arch should be large and grand, containing a column on its top, upon which should stand a bronze statue of Christopher Columbus. There should be a large hall, covering the arches, in which there should be tablets bearing the autograph signatures of the signers of the Declaration of Independence and the members of the convention that framed the Constitution, and the date of the acceptance of the Constitution, in the order in which it was accepted by the original States; the names of the first President elected under the Constitution, and of his Cabinet; of the Congress that organized the government under the Constitution; the date of admission of the first State into the Union, with the name of its first governor; also of the second and third States; the date of removing the Capital to Washington; and further, tablets with the name of each State, the date of its admission, and its first governor, up to 1876; then the names of the officials and representatives of all nations present and participating in the close of the first century at that time; then the continuance of the admission of States into the Union as above, leaving blank tablets for those to be admitted in the future, so that the history of the organization of the government might be preserved from its origin to the end of time. At the base of the column should stand a statue of Thomas Jefferson, holding the Declaration of Independence; one of George Washington with the sword; and one of Robert Morris, the eminent financier, holding the purse. At the north end of the monument should stand a statue of Benjamin Franklin; at the south end, one of Patrick Henry.

Those are the statues that I should designate as being proper in illustrating the history of our country. Each of the States might have a statue over its arch, which I think should be a testimonial to those States, by the government of the United States. This plan, of course, was suggestive. The idea has since been endorsed by President Cleveland and the members of his Cabinet during his first administration, and by the governors of all the States and Territories.

As an evidence of their good feeling towards the government of the United States, the foreign governments presented their exhibits to the United States, which are now in the Smithsonian Institution, in Washington. The exhibits have been estimated to be worth two millions and a half of dollars.

In 1878 the Pennsylvania Railroad tendered a party of gentlemen from New York, representing banks and insurance companies, free transportation to Atlantic City. During their stay in that place they were the guests of the hotel proprietors. I was in charge of the party. While sitting on the porch of Congress Hall, the Philadelphia Centennial was mentioned, and its great benefit to the country referred to. One of the gentlemen said there ought to be a World's Fair in New York. Another one remarked, "We cannot get it up without the assistance of Colonel Peyton. Colonel, what do you think of it?" I said that ten years hence would bring to the attention of the American people one of the most important events that occurred in the history of the country,—the inauguration of the first President of the United States and the beginning of constitutional government,—and that that event ought to be properly celebrated. They thought it premature, but I suggested that it might be well for them to inform the world that America would pre-empt that year for a World's Fair.

A few days afterwards I was in New York, when a correspondent of the *Tribune* interviewed me in reference to the subject, and the next day my views were published in full in that paper. At the request of my friends I had a meeting



THE MOORE HOUSE, YORKTOWN, VIRGINIA.

THE TOWNSEND CO.

called at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, on the evening that the Paris Exposition closed. Judge Hilton presided. A committee was appointed, of which he was made chairman, and thus the movement was started which ended in the Centennial of the Inauguration of George Washington as President of the United States. Shortly after, a correspondent of the Chicago *Inter-Ocean* called to see me, and stated that we had had one World's Fair in the East, and that the next ought to be given in the West. I told him that the event to be celebrated could not be transferred from New York, and that that city was the only place where the celebration could properly be held. I said to him that 1892 would be the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery of this country by Columbus, and it would then be proper for St. Louis or Chicago to have a great World's Fair; that persons coming from foreign countries could then have an opportunity of crossing from the Atlantic to the West, and see something of the country which Columbus had made known to Europe, and the use America was making of it. He published my views in his paper, and it was taken up by the St. Louis papers and the *Ohio State Journal*; the latter paper thought the fair ought to be held in Columbus, Ohio, as that city bore the name of the discoverer of America.

That was the introduction of what became the Chicago World's Fair. Being so far in advance of the time mentioned for the fair, in a few months the subject had been dropped, and was not taken up again for some years.

In 1879, F. W. M. Halladay, governor of Virginia, who was the Centennial Commissioner in 1876, desired my views on the subject of an appropriate centennial celebration of the surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown. I visited the battle-field, and was convinced that facilities could be furnished for a very complete celebration of the event by the army and navy of the United States, and by the State militia. I advised Governor Halladay to invite the governors of the thirteen original States to meet in the city of Philadelphia, where the first Congress

met, whose action was ratified and confirmed upon the field of Yorktown. He thought it improper for him to invite the governors to meet outside of his own State. On my return to Philadelphia, I had the Carpenters' Company tender him the use of their Hall, the city the use of Independence Hall, and the governor the courtesy of the State, which were accepted, and the meeting was held on the 19th of October, 1880.

Arrangements were made for the celebration. There being no funds at hand for the purpose, and the State of Virginia being burdened with debt, a citizen's committee was organized and money raised for the purpose. The celebration was a grand affair, and a handsome monument now marks the spot where the last scenes of the War for Independence took place.

I have no cause to regret my connection with this celebration. It furnished an opportunity for soldiers engaged in recent civil strife to meet on historic ground, sacred to the nation, and there renew their allegiance to a common country. It was not only a great military display, but led to peaceful and fraternal relations between all present.

A handsome silver vase, manufactured by Tiffany & Co., of New York, to be presented to the regiment or battalion participating that exhibited the best order, drill, and camp discipline, was, by the committee appointed by General Winfield S. Hancock, presented to the New Jersey battalion. The vase cost one thousand dollars, and was ordered by the association.

The death of President Garfield threw a damper upon the enterprise, and left the association bankrupt. I called on Mr. Charles Tiffany, stated to him the condition of affairs, and told him that, as it was at my suggestion the vase had been made, I felt bound to see the bill paid. He asked me who was to pay it, and I told him that I would have to do so. Mr. Tiffany replied, "No, sir; Tiffany & Co. can better afford to lose it than you can. It is now settled, on one condition, and that is, that when you come to New York you will always call and see me."



TIFFANY VASE.

I was once more glad that Cornwallis had been whipped. I had begun to think that victory was on the wrong side for me, as I had assumed a great amount of trouble and hard work without, previous to that time, any apparent appreciation.

My attention was called to the World's Fair to be held in the city of New Orleans in 1884, with a request that I call the attention of the Eastern manufacturers to the importance of their being represented. Meetings were held in the mayor's office, in Philadelphia; in the governor's office, Trenton, New Jersey; and in the city of Baltimore.

As the Centennial Exposition of 1876 had been largely patronized by the South, I could not refuse to take an active part in their exposition. I spent four months in New Orleans, representing a number of Philadelphia manufacturers. The great day of the exhibition was designated "Philadelphia Day," in recognition of the "City of Brotherly Love" in allowing the Old Liberty Bell to be sent South. The meeting, over which I presided, numbered about twenty thousand people. I was introduced as bearing the name of the first president of the First Congress that assembled in Carpenters' Hall, Philadelphia, to whose acts the old bell responded. The old bell rested under a beautiful canopy. The frame work was made by an Englishman, and painted by my friend, John Lucas, of Philadelphia, another Englishman. The canvas for the awning was also presented by an Englishman, and the awning was made by the ladies present. The bell was placed near the Banker's Pavilion, under two large oak-trees.

The Banker's Pavilion was my head-quarters, and was visited by persons from all parts of the United States. The Legislature of Tennessee was entertained there in a body, and photographed. The Legislature of Nebraska, the officials of Mexico, and the noted Mexican Band were also entertained there, and photographed in connection with the bell. After this, the old lady was no longer the bell of Philadelphia, but the belle of the nation. To the representatives of Mexico I am indebted

for many acts of kindness. Some of them had been present in Philadelphia in 1876. The band, when not engaged, was placed at my service.

During a visit to Washington, in May, 1886, I was impressed with the fact that the Forty-ninth Congress, then in session, would close the first century of constitutional government. The recent Anarchist outrages in Chicago and other parts of the country convinced me of the importance of a recognition by the people that our government had been subject to the test of one hundred years, and that we, as citizens, should celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the framing of the Federal Constitution.

I submitted my views to Hon. W. R. Cox, who was then representing the Raleigh District of North Carolina in Congress. He thought the suggestion wise and proper, and his letter, addressed to me, I submitted to eleven members of Congress present from the thirteen original States. Each of them endorsed Mr. Cox's letter.

The Legislature of New Jersey met for a few days to close the business of the session. I went to Trenton, called the attention of senators and members of the House to the importance of the event, and what I deemed the duty of the States in reference to an appropriate celebration on the seventeenth day of September, 1887. A preamble and resolutions were prepared, inviting the governors of the thirteen original States to meet in the city of Philadelphia, where the States assembled that framed the Constitution.

I called on the proprietors of the Philadelphia hotels and informed them that New Jersey had invited the governors to meet in that city, but had made no provisions for taking care of them as the guests of the State. They at once proposed to take them as their guests, and each wrote a letter to governors inviting them and such officials as might accompany them, to be their guests during their sojourn in the city.

The governors met in Carpenters' Hall, Philadelphia, on the



MONUMENT AT YORKTOWN, VIRGINIA.

17th day of September, 1886, the ninety-ninth anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution. The original States were all represented, with one or two exceptions. An address of welcome was delivered by Hampton L. Carson, Esq., of Philadelphia, which is as follows :

“ GOVERNORS AND REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE COLONIAL STATES :

“The agreeable duty has been assigned to me of bidding you welcome in the name of the citizens of Philadelphia. You have been summoned to participate in the preparations now being made for the proper celebration of the centennial anniversary of the most important event in our history as a people, of the sublimest political achievement in the annals of mankind.

“With uncovered heads and with reverent feet you entered, a few moments ago, the sacred Hall of Independence, and now, in the spirit of worshippers before a shrine, you stand upon the very spot where the First Continental Congress protested against the tyranny of the British crown. What a contrast between that day and this! Then a handful of feeble but heroic men, hemmed in upon a narrow strip of land between the ocean and the wilderness, without money or friends, of divided strength and distracted councils, dared all the terrors of destructive war in defence of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. To-day their children's children, gathered from the broad expanse of a continent as boundless as the sea, rich, happy, strong, and prosperous, constitute the most powerful and respected nation of the earth. Such are the results of a century of freedom. Such are the splendid trophies of local self-government. Such are the rich fruits of our Federal Union. Such are the blessings of man's conquest of himself.

We have met together, not for the purpose of commemorating the casting of the tea into Boston harbor, nor of recalling that day when the 'embattled farmers fired the shot heard round the world,' not to celebrate the Declaration of our In-

dependence, nor yet to live anew in that glad hour of victory and exultation, when after six years of arduous struggle the sword of Cornwallis was surrendered to Washington, but to prepare to perpetuate by appropriate ceremonies that far grander and more memorable day when thirteen sovereign States, casting aside their conflicting interests, their rivalries and jealous fears, entered into a close and lasting Union, and gave to the world the Federal Constitution, which the greatest living statesman of England has pronounced to be 'the most wonderful work ever struck off at a given time by the brain and purpose of man.'

"This is the occasion of our meeting, and it seems proper to review briefly some of the events which rendered a Union of the States both possible and necessary. Prior to the Declaration of Independence none of the colonies were, or pretended to be, sovereign States in the sense in which we now use the term. They were colonies, chartered, provincial or proprietary, dependent in a measure upon the crown, although exercising many of the powers of self-government. But when, bending beneath the weight of oppression, they threw off their allegiance and proclaimed their independence, they became, 'and of right were free and independent States.' Without stopping to define, or to closely scrutinize the exact nature of their powers, the Congress of 1775 assumed at once some of the highest functions of sovereignty. They promptly took measures for national defence and resistance, equipped an army and navy, raised money, emitted bills of credit, contracted debts upon national account, established a national post-office and prize courts for the condemnation of prizes with appellate jurisdiction to themselves. In 1776 they took bolder steps and exercised powers which were revolutionary. The validity of these acts was never doubted nor denied by the people. In 1777 the celebrated Articles of 'Confederation and Perpetual Union' were introduced, but they were not ratified, so as to become obligatory upon all the States, until March, 1781. Shortly after this time,

the war was practically at an end, and then it was perceived that the principal powers related to operations of war and were unsuited to times of peace. Congress could send out and receive ambassadors, but they could not command the means to pay their ministers at a foreign court. They could contract alliances, but could not raise money or men to give them vigor. They could enter into treaties, but every State might break them with impunity. They could institute courts for piracies and felonies on the high seas, but they had no means to pay either judges or jurors. They could contract debts, but could not pay a dollar. They could pledge the public faith, but could not redeem it. They could not raise any revenue, levy any tax, enforce any law, secure any right, or regulate any trade. In short, they could declare everything, but do nothing. Congress was at the mercy of the States. They had no resource except persuasion. There was an utter want of coercive authority to carry into effect a constitutional decree. That power to enforce obedience—which jurists call the *sanction* of a law—was lacking. The disobedient could not be punished. No fines could be imposed, no imprisonment be inflicted, no privileges be divested, no forfeitures be declared, no refractory officers be suspended. The only way in which money could be raised was by requisitions upon the States, and compliance depended upon the patriotism and good nature of the Legislatures. Obedience was sometimes tardy, resistance was sometimes defiant. Without an executive, without a judiciary, without a balance wheel to control the violence of passion, the government, if such it could be called, was misshapen, palsied, and powerless. Every measure, however just, required the assent of nine States, and however urgent the necessity for immediate action, involved the fatal delay of debate in thirteen separate Legislatures. The result was as might have been expected. The union 'was but a rope of sand.' The public debt amounted to forty-two millions of dollars, eight millions of which were due to France and Holland, our generous allies

at the darkest hour of the struggle, and there was no power anywhere to redeem the national honor. Thousands of our best citizens, whose patriotism and bravery had saved the country, held the dishonored bills of the Continental Congress. The army, clamoring for pay, mutinous and sullen, threatened to open the flood-gates of civil discord and deluge the land with blood. The navy, which, under Paul Jones, had proudly swept the seas, now cowered beneath the bold swoop of the corsairs of Algiers. Trade languished, commerce was dead. Rebellion reared its horrid crest in Massachusetts, and the Congress, which had braved King, Lords, and Commons, fled from Philadelphia to Princeton, when insulted by a squad of mutineers commanded by sergeants.

“At this day it is impossible to fathom the depth of that dark pit of degradation into which this nation had been cast at the close of the Revolution. It seemed as if all the blood, the treasure, the sacrifices, and the anguish of those eight years of war had been spent in vain. How empty was the boast that this was the ‘People’s Government!’ The fruits at which they grasped had turned like Dead Sea apples into ashes at the touch,—the vision which had lured them onward now mocked them in their misery. Ruin, despair, civil paralysis, bankruptcy, disunion, discord, dishonor! The cynic might have sneered: ‘Far better would it have been to have paid that paltry tea tax, and argued rather than have thrashed the British ministry into acquiescence with our views concerning taxation and representation.’ But God stood ‘within the shadow, keeping watch above his own,’ and out of chaos evolved our beautiful political planetary system, where each State, while moving in an orbit of its own, revolves with the music of the Union about the Federal Constitution as a central sun. Then order came and peace to troubled hearts. Prosperity smiled upon us and benignant Heaven showered down her choicest gifts. Not Rome in her two thousand years of conquest, nor England in her marvellous career, had ever witnessed or dreamed of the

astounding growth and vigor which we have displayed in one hundred years of constitutional government. Not after the models of Achaian leagues, nor of Italian republics, nor of Swiss cantons, nor of the Dutch commonwealth, nor even of Constitutional monarchy did our fathers build; but after a style of architecture all their own, inspired by faith in the great Giver of All Good and upheld by an unfaltering trust in man, his powers, his capacities, his rights, his duties, and his immortal destiny, they laid the deep foundation and reared the swelling dome of the people's government, which, surviving the shock of foreign war and civil strife and furious debate, has emerged from every storm stronger, purer, sanctified.

“In the presence of these hallowed memories, in this sacred hall, let us invoke the shades of our immortal sires, and like them, forgetting and forgiving all real or fancied wrongs, and rising above all sectional prejudice and jealousy, in a spirit of fraternal affection and regard, renew our vows of fealty to the Constitution, and by a fitting celebration of that great day when it became the organic law of our beloved republic, proclaim to our children that for them as for us that Constitution is the ark of the covenant,—the bond, the pledge, and the source of Union. Thus, standing in this temple of liberty, with our hands upon the horns of the altar and our hearts quickened with celestial fire, we can go forth without fear to meet the responsibilities of the century to come.”

At the conclusion of Mr. Carson's speech, an adjournment was had to Independence Hall, where arrangements were made by the governors for a proper celebration of that important event in the history of our country.

Ex-Governor Biggs, of Delaware, whilst participating in the Constitutional celebration in 1887, asked me what would be the next centennial. The question was asked in the presence of several governors. I told him that the centennial of the inauguration of President Washington, which would take place

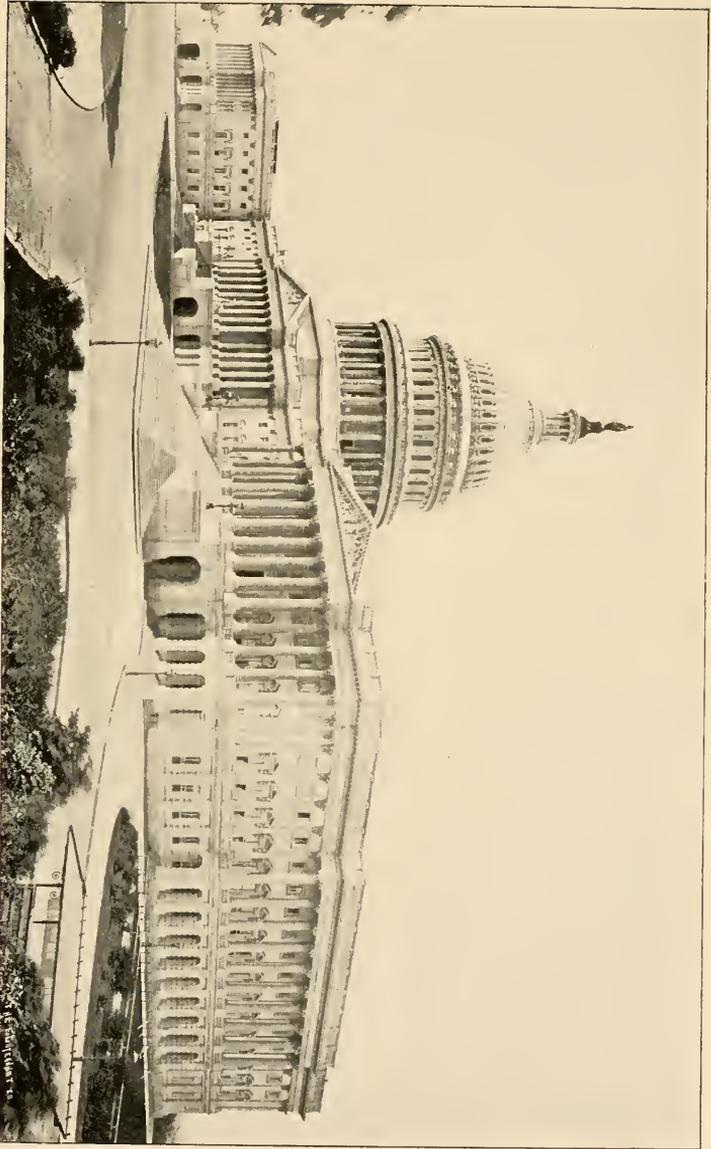
on the 30th day of April, 1889, would close the series of important events in the early history of our country; that the organization of the United States was the outcome of the events that had been celebrated, and that the centennial anniversary of the formation of the government ought to be properly recognized. Those present concurred in this, and it was suggested that I ascertain how the people of New York felt on the subject. I went to New York, and spent four weeks there. I prepared a call for a meeting, to which I secured the signatures of over one hundred of the most prominent citizens of the city. The meeting was held at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, on the evening of the 10th day of November, 1887, Mayor A. S. Hewitt presiding. Hampton L. Carson, of Philadelphia, was present, and made one of his very eloquent speeches in support of the suggested celebration, which impressed all present. An association was organized, and committees were appointed to carry out the work. The death of my good friend, A. S. Sullivan however, apparently severed my connection with this celebration.

I have now referred to my efforts to preserve peaceably the Union through the organization of the Constitutional Union Party. Failing to accomplish that, I gave my time and services to my country to help it put down the Rebellion. I then devoted myself to bringing the people of the country together in a proper celebration of the important events in our history.

The buildings, which are illustrated by the accompanying plates, through events make the city of Philadelphia the historic city of the New World.

The hall of the Carpenters' Company is situated between Third and Fourth Streets, on the south side of Chestnut Street, and is approached by Carpenters' Court. It is visited daily by strangers from all parts of the globe. The opposite corner is still the property of the Carpenters' Company.

Portions of the furniture and chairs occupied by the first Congress of the Colonies, that assembled there on the 5th day



CAPITOL, WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

of September, 1774, are still preserved as relics of that important event.

The guests are received respectfully and kindly noticed by the janitress, who is entirely familiar with the history of the building, and takes great pleasure in explaining facts to visitors; besides, each receives a handsome pamphlet, with the history of the building from its inception to the present.

There is, perhaps, no organization in the city, through the acts of its members, that is more creditable to the city of Philadelphia than the Carpenters' Company.

The movement looking to the celebration of these important events in history were all started in the hall of the Carpenters' Company. I have often been impressed with the spirit shown by those who assembled there to participate in the movement inaugurated. I feel very grateful, indeed, to the members of that Company for their uniform kindness and courtesy to me in initiating those events.

The prayer and appeal to Divine Providence by the Rev. Jacob Duché, an Episcopal clergyman, was delivered on the opening of the first Congress. The prayer was extempore, eloquent, and impressive. It seemed to have been responded to at once through inspiration of union, faith, and courage. It brought tears to the eyes of all present. This event, with the speech of Patrick Henry, places the hall in the line of history that will accompany Sinai to the end of time.

The seats were occupied by the governors of the thirteen original States when they met in the hall of the Carpenters' Company to celebrate the centennial anniversary of the surrender of the British at Yorktown; again, when they met to arrange the centennial anniversary of the promulgation of the Constitution.

Christ Church is on Second Street, above Market, on a line with Church Street. Washington, Franklin, Robert Morris, Peyton Randolph, and many of the members of the first Congress worshipped there. The pews occupied by Washington,

Franklin, and Morris are still preserved in the church. That church, with its history, furnishes the assurance of the Christian faith through the observance and culture of the members of the first Congress that assembled in America, and is expressively recognized in the sentiment contained in the Declaration of Independence. The Christian faith of the members of that Congress is impressively identified with the origin and growth of our government. The members of the congregation of that time have all disappeared, and but a few of their descendants are left. The church now stands in a business part of the city. Its congregation is small, and its means are limited, so that it is not cared for in a way which its history sufficiently entitles it to. Every church in the United States, I think, ought to contribute a trifle every year to preserve and perpetuate this building as the source of the Christian sentiment in the New World, which is revered and respected throughout the globe.

The furniture in the church is the same as it was when the seats were occupied by the Father of Our Country and his eminent associates. The owners of the pews often extend with courtesy their use to distinguished visitors, who are impressed with the sacredness of the events in its history participated in by the founders of this now great republic. It seems that time adds to its attraction, and has a tendency to strengthen the inherent and inalienable rights of the people as endowed by their Creator.

Independence Hall is where these inherent and inalienable rights, as endowed by our Creator, were proclaimed to the world on the 4th day of July, 1776. Further remarks on the subject now are unnecessary; the Centennial Exposition of 1876 established its location and history in the minds of the people.

The bell—that filled its mission, as expressed in words cast upon its surface—is now carefully cared for, and looked upon with reverence by the thousands of people who visit Independence Hall. In looking upon it the visitor seems to think that

sentiment comes from all parts of the globe, as announced on the 4th of July, 1776. In announcing the funeral of Chief-Justice Marshall, the bell cracked, and left its place, as did the Chief Justice. Substitutes were supplied for each, yet the fulfilment of their missions are imperishably recorded in history. My work was connected with both the announcement of Liberty and the organization of the Supreme Court under the Constitution. Independence and promulgation of the Constitution were both appropriately celebrated on the centennial of their anniversaries. They both contributed to make the City of Brotherly Love the historic city of the New World.

In addition to what I have said in regard to Independence Hall, I will state that the table upon which the Declaration of American Independence was signed, also our Constitution, is still in the Hall; also the President's desk and the chairs that were occupied by the members of that Congress. The Hall, with its relics, is attracting the attention of the people of our country and all nations. The attendance daily averages over three hundred visitors who are non-residents of Philadelphia.

The building which stood at the southwest corner of Seventh and Market Streets, where Thomas Jefferson, on the second floor of the corner of the building, slept and wrote the Declaration of Independence, has disappeared. The Penn National Bank now occupies the site, and has placed a bronze tablet, fronting Market Street, containing the history of the site where that instrument, now a feature in the world's history, was prepared. The stone, upon which the finger of Providence marked the ten commandments, has been lost sight of, but Sinai, the source from which those commandments come, is eternal; so I may say of the site where Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence,—the building is gone, but the site is there.

Congress Hall, at the corner of Sixth and Chestnut Streets, is where George Washington was inaugurated for his second term, and where Vermont, Kentucky, and Tennessee became members of the family of States. In my judgment, no State

has been admitted to the Union that has been of more service to our country than the State of Kentucky, through its eminent representatives.

In conclusion, I will take the liberty of attaching some letters from prominent gentlemen, some of whom have known me from my infancy, and were in the past well known to the public. The friendly relations between Governor Metcalfe's family and myself are now being preserved in the fourth generation of their family by little Miss Jessie Peyton Metcalfe, who is now in her fourth year, and is recognized for her beauty and brilliancy at her time in life.

In concluding these reminiscences, I desire to express my thanks and gratitude to the bank officials of New York and many of her prominent citizens; also the same to the city of Philadelphia, and my many kind friends residing there, and especially to the State of New Jersey for her legislative endorsements of the celebrations that I have inaugurated.

I desire again to emphasize my thought, that while the monuments erected at Bunker Hill and Yorktown fittingly mark the opening and the conclusion of the military service in the great struggle for national liberty, and while Carpenters' Hall and the Capitol Building at Washington are impressive emblems of the opening and the conclusion of the civil service in the same great cause, Congress has in no way recognized, by stone or building, the historic city where this great Republic had its origin, as selected by the representatives of the Colonies who, looking to the equal rights of coming generations, mutually pledged to each other their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honors. It is my judgment that an appropriate and impressive monument, such as suggested on page 71, should be erected in Fairmount Park, in the city of Philadelphia, where all nations officially participated in the celebration of American Independence, and should be formally unveiled on July 4, 1901, the first year of the twentieth century of the

Christian Era, now recognized as the legal date of the world. The formal dedication of such a monument would be an occasion of world-wide interest, and I have no doubt that all nations would be represented and take part in the exercises.

My motto: "One God, one Country, and one Destiny."
May that destiny be the perfection of humanity on earth!

ADDENDA.

FOREST RETREAT, KENTUCKY, May, 1846.

DEAR SIR,—My frequent absence from home as usual must plead my apology for not having answered your letter of the 14th ultimo sooner. Allow me to say to you that I have not as yet received any letter of enquiry from the person suggested by you in regard to your standing and character before you left Kentucky. That my response to any such enquiries, if made, will be such as to gratify your feelings you may rest assured; and that, too, under a full sense of all the high responsibilities of the act. I would not for my own brother, or my best friend, deceive the father, or guardian, or the lady herself in such a case. But what could I say in truth, knowing you so intimately from your childhood, unfavorable or disparaging? On the contrary, I could not do otherwise than to declare to all concerned that I know of no young gentleman whose conduct throughout my knowledge of him, has been better, or more worthy of the highest commendation. It is, I know, but a commendable precaution on the part of a father or friend to make such enquiries in cases in which information is needed, and it will afford me great pleasure to respond as above stated, being fully persuaded that the truth of the statement will be confirmed by time.

I am still in the public service, and shall in a few days be off again for Frankfort, etc., etc. We have nothing new in Nicholas.

Yours truly and respectfully,

THOMAS METCALFE.

MR. JESSE E. PEYTON.

The following letter from the French Minister and the Marquis de Chambrun were in response to an invitation to accompany a committee to Yorktown, Va., to inspect semi-officially the monument and have it photographed. It was inspected and photographed, and the report and photographs sent to the de-

scendants of the French officers who commanded on the field at Yorktown. The pictures and report were very kindly received.

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 12, 1880.

COLONEL PEYTON,

Care of Ebbitt House, Washington, D. C. :

DEAR SIR,—I was sorry to have missed your visit this morning, as I greatly desired to thank you in person for your very kind invitation to attend next week the unveiling of the monument at Yorktown.

To my sincere regrets, however, I will be unable to avail myself of your invitation, as I have to go to New York on Monday.

Please accept the renewed expression of my regrets and of my high appreciation of your kind thought.

Respectfully yours,

THEO. ROUSTAN,

Minister of France.

COLONEL J. E. PEYTON :

DEAR SIR,—It is a matter of great regret for me to be compelled to decline your kind invitation, and the pleasure to see once again, in your company, the fields of Yorktown, where my ancestor fought.

It is urgent that I should leave this week for France.

With many heartfelt thanks, I hope you will believe me very truly and gratefully yours,

COMTE PIERRE LE CHAMBRUN.

June 15, 1890.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES, LONDON, July 8, 1878.

MY DEAR COLONEL PEYTON :

I am glad to hear from you, because I may assume that you and your family are well, and next that I may congratulate you and Mrs. Peyton for the very just appreciation in which it seems you are held by our New

York friends, whose delicate attention to Mrs. Peyton has given to you and to her a perpetual remembrance of their kind feeling towards you.

It is really charming, and I have little doubt, like most generous actions, has given both to the donors and to the receivers a like pleasure.

Your note of the 24th reached me a few minutes since, and I acknowledge it at once. For here, as in all other places in which you have ever known me, I have no spare moments, and should it be postponed until to-morrow it would be difficult to do that which gives me much pleasure to do now. I trust this will find you in health, with those around you whom you love, and the same kind feelings welling up in your heart which give to life its zest and to the future its joy and hopes.

Hurriedly, but sincerely,

JNO. WELSH.





WERT
BOOKBINDING
Cranbury, N.J., Pa.
May - June 1986
We're Quality Bound

