

1686 wind

When General La Fayette visited
 America in 1824 - Virginia with open arms
 117 extended him a welcome worthy of his service
 to the cause of American Liberty and of
 his gratitude. - His passage along the
 sea - board of the State was that of a
 Royal Progress, or such as the Nations
 of Antiquity accorded to conquering Heroes.
 Triumphant arches and columns were
 thrown up at York Town - The Garrison
 Point of Rocks, a ^{manned} redoubt held by the
 British and stormed and taken by
 the French, was appropriately marked
 with symbols of victory. United States
 Troops, Virginia Militia, the foremost
 men of the Town and Country met at York
 Town to do Honour to the French Chieftain

Regimental bands played National
 Anthems. Sail to the Chief - Sail
 Columbia, while a thousand women
 seated on tiers of benches waved hand
 -kerchiefs and parasols amid much
 cheering. But it is out of the pageant at
 118 York Town, striking as was the display of
 Steamers in the offing, where an hundred
 sails dotted the blue waters of the beautiful
 York river, that this article has to treat, but of
 the visit of La Fayette to Williamsburg
 here during the Revolution. La Fayette had
 had his head quarters before he marched
 to victory at York Town. His soldiers
 occupied the house of the President of
 William & Mary College and the building
 was at that time accidentally burned.
 When peace was declared Louis VI.
 contributed from his private purse to its

restoration. This building is probably the only one in the Country built by royal authority & still left standing - An anecdote of that period though a digression, may not be out of place at this point -

115^u The approach of Washington along the Richmond road being announced the French Troops were drawn up in front of their quarters to receive him -

When Washington drew near the color of the Frenchman could not be restrained and rushing forward to meet him embraced him, and says an eye-witness, "kissed the cold and stately Commander - in Chief from ear to ear!"

But *serenus a nos moultis* - On Wednesday afternoon October twentieth & 1824 Genl. LaFayette set out from

Work Town to accept the invitation accorded
 him by the Town Council and Citizens
 to visit Williamsburg - Here preparations
 for his suitable reception had been in
 progress since September, all classes
 entering into a friendly competition to do him
 honors. A Committee of arrangements
 was formed - on the part of the Common
 Hall ~~Assess~~ ^{Mr Isaac Cole and} Robert Anderson, Dr Thomas
 Griffin Peachy, and on the part of the citizens
 Messrs Tunstall Banks, John Blair Peachy,
 and Dr Samuel Thurst Griffin, acting
 in unison might nobly did they perform
 their mission - Mrs Mary Mansor Peachy
 had offered her house for the occasion, other
 patriotic women begged to contribute to
 the adornment of his sleeping apartment.
 One sent a new and handsome Embroidery
 bed -stead, another a dressing table

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and so on, used for a night, they have
been handed down as precious relics of
the Nations guest -

116 ~~Escorted by the Governor~~ Accompanied
by the Governor, the Executive Council of
the State the principal Judges of the State
and Chief Justice Marshall - The
Minister of War, John C. Calhoun,
Officers of the War and Army and
Navy and escorted by the Cavalry Companies
of Richmond, Petersburg, New Kent and
Williamsburg - The cavalcade reached
its destination in a rain - The intended
illumination of the Town and some minor
parts of the programme were necessarily
~~abandoned~~ - The crowd assembled
on the Court House Green had to seek
shelter in the neighbouring houses, The
addresses of welcome were made
not on the Green as originally intended,

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But from the porch of Mrs Peachy's
house - After LaFayette had made a
suitable and appreciative reply to the
expressions of good will and admiration
which met him on every hand, the whole
party adjourned to the spacious drawing
room with its wainscotted walls and
shelf-like mantel over the capacious
fire place, there under the light of an
hundred candles, which softened the
smiles of the beautiful women. Genl.
LaFayette took a reception - "Abundant
refreshments were served around," but
this character has not come down to us -
At ten o'clock the guests dispersed
and left the weary travellers to seek
refuge in the high ^{road} - ahead, almost as
difficult to scale as the redoubt at
York Town -

The next morning was spread for him an
 old Virginia breakfast, with its variety
 of breads, its oysters and its game. Most
 of the strangers in the City partook of this
 "feast of fat things" - At twelve o'clock
 the party visited William & Mary College
 where they were received by the President
 and Dr. Augustine Smith, and the Professors.
 An elegant address of welcome was delivered
 by the President, so says the chronicler
 of the time - It was intended that even the
 Sunday School children should take
 part in the pageant, a poem written by
 Miss Elizabeth Griffin Gatliff was to have
 been spoken ^{by} the ten year old daughter of
 Dr. Smith - But Miss Mary J. Smith,
 recently of New York - says, "I was but a
 shy child and at the last my heart
 failed me" and the poem was left
 unsung - She also adds that her sister

and herself were introduced to the General by Col. Burwell Bassett a nephew of Mrs Washington, "Genl! Lafayette shook hands with us, an honor I more fully appreciated in after years than I did at the time" - She also adds, that the appearance of the United States Troops at York Town in their white uniforms made a great impression on my childish fancy -

General Lafayette charmed his hearers by his encomiums on the College - There he held another reception and at two o'clock visited Col. Bassett at Bassett Hall - which still retaining the old name is now the interesting and picturesque home of Mrs Isaac Smith, formerly Miss Rebecca Kenton - of New York -

At five o'clock the party sat down

to dinner in the Apollo Hall of the
historic Raleigh Tavern - Besides
the citizens about forty strangers were
entertained on this occasion - The same

worthy chronicler says of this dinner,
"Morally and physically considered ^{it} was
perhaps the richest and most delightful
ever enjoyed in Williamsburg" The

96 dessert was uncommonly rich and elegant,
the fruits and wines the best that could be had
procured". The entertainment was enlivened

by a variety of airs from the band of the
Petersburg Volunteers - ~~Probably the~~
haunch of Venison, the saddle of mutton

and loin of beef were a startling revelation
to the frugal Frenchman of ~~the~~ ^{eating} ~~the~~
France -

Some of the toasts drunk amid much
joking and ^{display of} sentiment may not be without
interest -

As being first in importance for such
an occasion -

"Our illustrious guest - Genl: La
Fayette - who in the morn of life em-
-barked upon the tempestuous sea of
106 American Liberty, and unappalled by
the vivid lightning of British wrath,
and the awful thunders of her power,
magnanimously aided in conducting the
almost shipwrecked ark of our newly
constructed National Independence into
the secure ~~haven~~ and tranquil haven
of peace and happiness."

Genl: La Fayette immediately after
gave the following -

"The City of Williamsburg. May her happi-
-ness become equal to the grateful remem-
-brance of an American patriot and the
affectionate wishes of an old friend".
Then followed a Toast the United

States Militia, which at this particular time may have a point.

"The Militia of the United States.

The deeds of a M'Comb and a Jackson have proclaimed to Europe and to the World that free-born citizens, animated by the intrepid spirit of liberty, are armed with a force mighty and irresistible when disciplined and controlled by military genius, intelligence and bravery"

Another

"The Volunteers of Virginia. The 19th of October 1824 shows they know how to honour the virtuous, the brave and the friend of the rights of man"

General Macomb replied - The perfect organization of the militia. The illustrious great La Fayette can testify to their gallantry in war of Independence, while others owe their reputation to their exploits in the late War of 1812 -

"The Chief Justice of United States
as distinguished for his legal abilities
as for possession of pre-eminent genius
unblemished integrity, and the gilded
confidence of his Country"

Chief Justice Marshall's Toast in
reply.

"The City of Williamsburg. Long the seat
of government, it still remains the seat
of science, of hospitality and good feeling."

Am. John Tyler's Toast - Afterwards
President of the United States

"Our fellow Citizen Genl! La Fayette
Adopted by Virginia, he revisits the home
won by his valour!"

By John C. Calhoun Secretary of War

"The College of William and Mary
and her illustrious sons"

Another regular Toast

"The Spanish patriots of Louth"

119 America. May their glorious efforts at emancipation from the enormous yoke of degenerate Spain terminate in complete success, thus evincing to the World that there resides in man an elastic principle, which may be kept down for a period of oppression and tyrant power, but which will ultimately rebound in the full majesty and energy of its strength."

In those days of chivalry no public occasion was perfect without a toast to woman the fellow may here find a place.

"The American Fair. Freemen as we are we delight in the soft fetters which their native charms impose, and kiss the light and tender pressure of the chains we wear.

The World was said the garden was a wild

And man the hermit sighed, Till woman
smiled!"

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The entertainment of Genl. La Fayette
Fayette in Williamsburg closed with
a ball in the Apollo Hall which
was opened by the gallant Frenchman
with the wife winsome and fascinating
wife of Dr. Thomas Griffin Peckay. ~~one~~
~~of the committee of arrangements and~~
~~the son of Mrs Mary Anne Peckay.~~

The next morning a deputa-
-tion of gentlemen from Norfolk
met Genl. La Fayette at James town
where two Naval Barges and the
Steam boat - Petersburg under command
of Capt. Morgan awaited the embarkation
-tion of Genl. La Fayette and his suite
on the broad waters of the historic
James river —

In 1824 Lafayette revisited the shores of America, In no part of the country was his reception warmer than at York Town and Williamsburg. The newspapers of the period are every full in their accounts. While the pageant at York Town has nothing to do with the Annals of Williamsburg - the temptation is too strong to be resisted to make the following statement -

At York Town Genl. Lafayette received the unusual honor - indeed one greater than any previously paid in modern times - of having as his quarter guard sixty military officers from different parts of Virginia associated for the purpose, at least thirty of whom had the rank of full Colonel.

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never appropriating one to herself.
A wit once said that when the blessed
Lord cast out the seven evil spirits from
Mary Magdalene they were suffered to come
to Williamsburg

b1 Fort. notes -

James Hatfield Pleasants was
Governor of Virginia

William T. Galt, Mayor of Williams
= burg

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Cynthia B. T. Coleman

Williamsburg

Virginia