



*In comparing these views of the early and the later Lafayette, there is enough similarity to get a correct idea of what he actually looked like. The first, from 1792, is by Joseph-Désiré Court (1797–1865); and the second, from 1825, is by Samuel F. B. Morse.*

## **LAFAYETTE TRIUMPHANT:**

### *His 1824-1825 Tour and Reception in the United States*

Even for the momentous and historic times, in both America and Europe, in which he lived, the Marquis de Lafayette (more properly “La Fayette”) led one of the most singularly adventurous and astounding of lives. His biography reads as much like a story-book or legend as any real person’s life possibly could. Born to nobility, he became one of leading champions for liberty of his era, and managed to be both a companion of enlightened old order aristocrats and new world radicals. His instrumental and distinctly vital role in the American Revolution lies in this simple fact: neither Washington or Rochambeau, for all their honorable amicability, could have jointly coordinated and inspired the Franco-American war effort as smoothly and harmoniously as they did without his assistance.<sup>1</sup> Among other startling occurrences encountered or that befell him that might be enumerated: when as political *moderate* in 1792 he fled Jacobin France for the Netherlands, en route to secure a passage to America, he was taken and made prisoner by the Austrians on grounds that *he was a Revolutionary*.<sup>2</sup> He subsequently spent six years in a Bastille-like dungeon in Olmutz; where due to the unhealthy and peculiarly harsh circumstances of his confinement he lost much of his hair. It was only when in 1797 that the victorious Bonaparte came to power that the latter demanded and obtained his release. In spite of this, Lafayette was no fan of Napoleon, and would not serve under him. Napoleon, for his part, tended to treat the Marquis as an impractical idealist, and did not take him all that seriously. Following the Restoration in 1814-1815, the Marquis then incurred the restrictive, and in some respects deserved (given his involvement in several independence movements at home and elsewhere), ban on his public activities by the Ultra-Royalists.

And yet though largely viewed with suspicion or dissatisfaction by both reactionaries and extreme liberals in his own country, in America his worship as a hero did not fall that very short of Washington himself. In 1824, President James Monroe extended him an invitation to visit the United States, and which he accepted. The ensuing welcome was possibly the greatest celebration -- and that heart felt and sincere -- shown toward a then living person the world has ever seen. And few, if any, in all of history could have experienced such widespread adulation and affection as did Lafayette when, at age 67, he toured all 24 states of the Union. As well as the unprecedented marvel of the event in and of itself and what it says about Lafayette (who for all the excitement in his own life found time to read the romances of Sir Walter Scott),

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<sup>1</sup> Though Chastellux, and who did a superb job, was the formal liaison between Rochambeau and Washington, Lafayette acted as a morale enhancer and, as it were, psychological unifier of the alliance.

<sup>2</sup> Although a supporter of the French king, Lafayette refused, upon asked by the Austrians and Prussians, to join émigré officers fighting France; and it was on this grounds that it was decided to keep him a prisoner.

the accounts of the innumerable receptions and festivities arranged for him serves as an often amusing and touching commentary on the then character of the youthful nation. In them we catch glimpses of groups and individuals on practically all levels of society, and the result is a rare and remarkable portrait of how people were and lived in during the “Era of Good Feeling.”

Two works that are especially helpful as sources on the subject are Frederick Butler’s *Memoirs of the Marquis De La Fayette, Major-General in the Revolutionary Army of the United States of America, Together with His Tour Through the United States* (1825) and Amos Andrew Parker’s *Recollections of General Lafayette on His Visit to the United States in 1824 and 1825* (1879).<sup>3</sup> In the case of Amos Andrew Parker, not only was he present at a number of stops on Lafayette’s visits, but he also had the opportunity to converse with him personally, and a portion of his *Recollections* consists of an interview he had with “The General” (as Lafayette was titled in America) that is startlingly modern in its presentation, and such as we might find on, say, a news show like “60 Minutes.” Here, for instance, is an extract from the same.

“His friendship for Washington, he said, could not be expressed by words. It was the friendship of David and Jonathan repeated. Although double his own age, and more sedate and less impulsive, yet their cordial intimacy, in the long and vexing scenes of the revolution, had never been disturbed. Although unlike, they were in agreement with each other. If he had at any time been a spur to Washington, more often he had been a curb to himself. Washington had been censured for his want of energy in the prosecution of the war, but he thought, wrongfully. He could not do as he would for the lack of means, and could not disclose to the public his destitution without informing the enemy also; and at times, had the enemy known his condition, it would have been fatal.

“Washington did not lack energy, but it was regulated by prudence. He never made long speeches to his army, or boasted of what he had done, or was about to do; and yet, when thoroughly aroused, the stoutest heart would quail before him. He had been his aid, when he mounted his charger on the eve of a battle, rode round the army, took his position in front, while his soldiers passed in review before him, and then wave an adieu with his hat, and not a word spoken; yet his face would glow with emotion, and his appearance and bearing were more powerful than words. His soldiers understood him, and were ready to fight to the utmost; and woe to the foe they encountered.”<sup>4</sup>

Butler’s chronicle on the other hand, evidently taken chiefly from contemporaneous newspaper reports, has its own advantage of being more detailed and thorough with regard to Lafayette’s tour itself; so that it is with this in mind we proffer the following extended excerpts. There is *much* we didn’t which we might well have included from Butler’s text, and it was by no means an easy task choosing what and what not to include. This allowed for, the proceeding will at least serve to give you a general idea of this scarcely paralleled moment in the annals of *humanity*.

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General La Fayette, accompanied by his son, George Washington La Fayette. Mr. Auguste Le Vasseur a companion, and one servant, arrived in the harbour of New York on the morning of the 15th of August, in the ship *Cadmus*, captain Allyn, after a pleasant passage of 31 days from Havre. The fact of his arrival was made known by the *Telegraph* at an early hour, and it spread through the city with electrical rapidity. Broadway was soon thronged, and the Battery crowded with people, who sallied forth with the expectation that the hero and veteran of two revolutions, might come directly to the city. The arrangements of the city authorities, however, for his reception, having been seasonably communicated to him, he landed at Staten Island, and was conducted to the seat of the Vice President, where he remained through the day, and passed the night. Fort La Fayette fired a salute as the ship passed, and a handsome salute was fired as the General landed.

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

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<sup>3</sup> As some supplements to these, see also “Lafayette’s Last Visit to America” by Ella Rodman Church, *The Magazine of American History*, May 1881, vol. 6, no. 5, p. 321-339, and Alexander Garden’s *Anecdotes of the American Revolution* (Second series, 1828).

<sup>4</sup> *Recollections of General Lafayette*, pp. 63-64.

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The Committee of Arrangements of the Corporation having accepted the proffered services of the steam-ship Robert Fulton, and the steam-boats Chancellor Livingston, Oliver Ellsworth, Henry Eckford, Connecticut, Bellona, Olive Branch, Nautilus, &c.; they were all superbly dressed with flags and streamers of every nation, and directed to meet and form an aquatic escort between the south part of the Battery and Governor's Island, and thence proceed in order to Staten Island. The spectacle, as the boats were assembling, was truly interesting and beautiful. The Battery was crowded with respectable people of both sexes; Castle Garden was filled, and every boat that arrived to take its station was completely crowded with elegant dressed ladies and gentlemen. The appearance of the Robert Fulton, as she came down East River, from the Navy Yard, escorted by the Connecticut and Oliver Ellsworth, all superbly decorated, was rich beyond description. Her yards were manned to the round-tops, with about 200 seamen from the Constitution, who made an elegant appearance, and a battalion of marines, under the command of Major Smith, was on board, with a band of music, and many of the Naval Officers upon this station, together with several ladies and private gentlemen.

Arrived at the place of rendezvous, the several vessels comprising the fleet took their station, and proceeded in regular order to the quarantine, as follows: -- First, the Chancellor Livingston, on board of which were the committee of the Corporation, Major General Morton and suite, a number of the members of the Cincinnati, including Colonels Willette, Varick, Trumbull, Platt, and others, together with a few ladies, several officers and professors from West Point, accompanied by the excellent military band attached to that institution. On the right of the Chancellor, and about a length in rear, was the Connecticut, and on the left, to correspond, was the Oliver Ellsworth. Directly in the rear of the Chancellor, was the Robert Fulton, whose lofty masts and wide-spread arms, which literally swarmed with men, towered proudly above her less pretending, but not less gay and beautiful consorts. On the right of the Robert Fulton, about a length in the rear, was the Bellona, and on the left, the Henry Eckford, in a station to correspond; and the squadron was closed by the Olive Branch and Nautilus. The signals exchanged, and the steam-boats having attained their stations, as above stated, the squadron got under weigh, amidst the cheers of thousands of delighted spectators. The view of this fleet will perhaps never be forgotten. It was not only unique, but beyond a doubt, one of the most splendid spectacles ever witnessed on this part of the globe. The squadron, bearing six thousand of our fellow citizens, majestically took her course towards Staten Island, there to take on board our long expected and honoured guest. At 1 o'clock the fleet arrived at Staten Island, and in a few minutes, a Landau was seen approaching the Hotel, near the ferry. The Marquis, the Vice-President, and the Ex-Governor Ogden, of New-Jersey, having alighted, a procession was formed, and the venerable stranger, supported by these gentlemen, followed by all the officers of the Island, and a crowd of citizens, passing through a triumphal arch, round which was tastefully entwined the French and American colours. As soon as the Marquis and suite entered on the broad stairs, connected with, and leading to the steam-boat which was to convey him to the city, he was received by the committee of the Common Council, who conducted him on board the Chancellor Livingston. On entering this splendid vessel, the marines paid him military honours. He was now introduced to the committees from most of our honoured Associations, and the General Officers, representing the Infantry. The West Point band all this time was playing "See the Conquering Hero Comes," "*On pent on etre mieux*," "Hail Columbia," and the "Marseilles Hymn." The steam ship now fired a salute, and the whole squadron got under weigh for the city, in the same order as before, except that the Bellona and Olive Branch, fastened each side of the Cadmus, (the ship which brought the General from France,) decorated with colours, and filled with passengers, majestically moved up the Bay. The sea was smooth and placid, and the breeze cool and agreeable. Decidedly the most interesting sight, was the reception of the General by his old companions in arms: Colonel Marinus Willette, now in his eighty-fifth year, General Van Courtland, General Clarkson, and the other worthies, whom we have mentioned. Colonel Fish, General Lewis, and several of his comrades were absent. He embraced them all affectionately, and Colonel Willette again and again. He knew and remembered them all. It was a re-union of a long separated family.

After the ceremony of embracing and congratulations were over, he sat down along-side of Colonel Willet, who grew young again, and fought all his battles o'er. "Do you remember," said he, "at the battle of Monmouth, I was volunteer aid to General Scott? I saw you in the heat of battle. You were but a

boy, but you were a serious and sedate lad. Aye, aye; I remember well. And on the Mohawk, I sent you fifty Indians, and you wrote me, that they set up such a yell, that they frightened the British horse, and they ran one way and the Indians another.”

No person who witnessed this interview, will ever forget it; many an honest tear was shed on the occasion. The young men retired at a little distance, while the venerable soldiers were indulging recollections, and were embracing each other again and again; and the surrounding youth silently dropt the tear they could no longer restrain. Such sincere, such honest feelings, were never more plainly or truly [sic] expressed. The sudden changes of the countenance of the Marquis, plainly evinced the emotions he endeavored to suppress. He manfully supported this truly trying situation for some time, when a revolutionary story from the venerable Willette, recalled circumstances long passed: the incident, the friend alluded to, made the Marquis sigh; and his swelling heart was relieved, when he burst into tears. The sympathetic feelings extended to all present; and even the hardy tar rubbed away the tear he could no longer restrain. The scene was too affecting to be continued, and one of the Cincinnati, anxious to divert the attention of the Marquis, his eyes floating with tears, announced the near approach of the steam-ship. The Marquis advanced to the quarter railing, where he was no sooner perceived by the multitude, than an instantaneous cheer most loudly expressed the delight they experienced. The other steam-boats in succession, presented themselves, and passed, each giving three enthusiastic cheers. The Marquis was delighted, and especially with the activity and quickness, with which 200 of our gallant seamen manned the yards of the steam frigate, previous to the salute. About 2 o'clock P. M. the fleet arrived off the Battery. What an impressive scene -- 3000 men, making a splendid appearance, formed in line with a battering train. The ramparts and parapets of the Castle, were lined with ladies and gentlemen. The flag-staff, the windows, and even the roofs of the houses facing the Bay, were literally crowded with spectators. Hundreds of boats and wherrys surrounded the Battery. The Marquis left the Chancellor Livingston in a barge, commanded by Lieutenant Mix, of the Navy, accompanied by the committee of the Corporation, and the Cincinnati, the Generals of Infantry, &c.; and landed amidst the cheers and acclamations of 30,000 people, who filled the Castle, Battery, and surrounding grounds within sight. The Marquis now entered the Castle, which was tastefully carpeted from the landing place to the receiving rooms. He then partook of some refreshment, and was introduced to some distinguished citizens. Perceiving the restless anxiety of nearly 3000 persons in the Castle, to see the General, the Marquis advanced to the centre of the area [sic] of the Castle, and was greeted with loud cheers, expressive of as honest and generous feelings, as were ever spontaneously manifested by any people on the face of the earth. From Castle Garden he proceeded with the appointed committee, and the military and naval officers, to review the line of troops from the division of state artillery, under the command of Brigadier General Benedict. The muster was, on this occasion, unusually numerous and splendid, each corps vying with the others in paying a tribute of respect to the soldier of the revolution, the friend and companion of Washington. After the review, the General entered a barouche, drawn by four horses, accompanied at the request of the committee, by General Morton.

The committee of the Corporation, accompanied by the General's son, George Washington La Fayette, and his secretary, Mr. La Vasseur, followed the carriages. The General was escorted by a corps of cavalry, and at the head of the column of the troops, proceeded up Broadway to the City Hall. The crowds which had assembled to pay honour to the respected visitor, and to be gratified with a view of his person, were such as almost to prevent the passage of the carriages and the troops, The scene could not but have afforded to the General the most delightful gratifications. -- The houses to the very roofs were filled with spectators, and to the incessant cheers of the multitude, graceful female signified their welcome by the silent, but not less graceful and affecting testimony of the waving of handkerchiefs...

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To the affectionate address of the French gentlemen [i.e., French residents of New York City], the Marquis La Fayette replied as follows:

“It is a great happiness for me, on my arrival in this land of liberty, to receive the address of my countrymen.

“At the moment of my departure, the testimonials of affectionate attachment of many of my fellow citizens, the parting accents from the shores of France, left in my heart the most grateful emotions. I delight

to participate with you, the feelings which I experienced in this happy American land, to which I am bound by so many ties. We also, patriots of 1789, sought to establish the national dignity, the security of property, and the happiness of our beautiful France, upon the sacred foundations of liberty and equality. Notwithstanding our misfortunes, the cotemporaries of that epoch will inform you, that the revolution of '89, has greatly ameliorated the condition of an immense majority of the people. Do not let us despair of the cause of liberty: it is still dear to the hearts of Frenchmen; and we shall one day have the felicity of seeing it established in our beloved country.”

At 12 o'clock, the Nautical Society, chiefly composed of our most respectable masters of vessels, assembled on board the ship Cadmus, Captain Allyn, where they were formed in regular order, and proceeded through some of our principal streets, to the City Hall. Here they were severally introduced to the General, who received them in his usual frank and cordial manner. -- Many of the members he recognized as old acquaintances, and expressed his gratification at meeting them, in the warmest terms...

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The interesting and impressive visit at New York, thus being closed -- at an early hour on Friday morning, a scene of general bustle and activity commenced, preparatory to the departure of the General for Boston. His suite consisted of his son, and M. La Vasseur, who accompanied him on his voyage from France, and four of the Alderman of N. York. The city corporation had provided an elegant carriage; to accommodate him on his journey to Boston, and deputed four of their number to attend him on his route. At 7 o'clock, the Horse Artillery, commanded by Colonel Arcularius, paraded in Broadway, in front of Washington Hall; and at 8 o'clock, they took up their line of march to Harlaem [sic], where they superceded the escort which accompanied him to that place. This escort consisted of a squadron of cavalry, the Corporation in carriages, the Fayette Guards, the General, Field, and Staff officers of the Artillery and Infantry of the city, and a number of citizens mounted. The General breakfasted with Philip Hone, Esq. at half past 7, and repaired immediately afterwards to his lodgings at the City Hotel, whence the whole cavalcade moved up Broadway, to Bond-street; and thence up the Third Avenue. The streets were thronged with people, and the General, who rode uncovered, repeatedly returned their expressions of kindness and attachment, by bowing...

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The following extract of a letter from a young Lady at Greenwich, bearing date Friday evening, August 20th, will further illustrate the reception of the Marquis on his route:

“The news that the Marquis de La Fayette was to pass through this town to-day, was received yesterday afternoon. Nothing however was done, and I began to fear that old Connecticut would disgrace itself; but this morning, the spirit of '76 appeared to animate all ranks and descriptions. Orders were given for the troops to proceed to Byram, and escort the General to Norwalk, where, it was understood, the New-Haven troop would be in waiting. Fortunately, it entered into the heads of a few, that an arch, erected over Putnam's Hill, would have a fine effect. A number of ladies volunteered their services in erecting and adorning it; and the Reverend Doctor Lewis, who was himself a chaplain in the revolutionary army, was requested to write a short inscription. The inscription which was hung in the centre, surrounded by a wreath of sweet briar and roses, was as follows: -- “This arch, on the hill rendered memorable by the brave General Putnam, is erected in honor of the illustrious, the Marquis De La Fayette -- the early and distinguished champion of American liberty, and the tried friend of Washington.” The arch was very tastefully enwreathed, and from its top waved the flag which the regiment of this place carried in the battle of Whiteplains [White Plains].

“After waiting till nearly 5 o'clock, our ears were glad[d]ened with the sound of their approach. The cannon which had been previously sent on, fired, the church bell rang a merry peal, and hundreds of spectators, of both sexes, stationed on and about the hill, welcomed the General with loud huzzas, and waving of hats and handkerchiefs. When the Marquis arrived at Tracy's Hotel, (within 40 rods of the arch,) he dismounted, and was there introduced to the venerable Doctor Lewis, who took him by the hand, and (as near as I can recollect,) addressed him as follows:

“‘Sir, -- With the millions of America, I welcome you to this land of freedom, and rejoice that God has spared my life to see that veteran General, who so eminently distinguished himself in procuring her liberties.’

“The Marquis then advanced to the arch, supported by the Reverend Doctor Lewis, and his son, the present minister of the parish. The inscription was read to him by the latter. He appeared much pleased and affected, advanced a few steps, bowed to the gentlemen who were stationed on one side of the hill, turned to the ladies on the other side, and said, -- ‘My friends, I am very much obliged to you for the attention you have paid to me, and feel happy to find myself among you.’

“He then walked down the hill, took his carriage, and proceeded on his journey, expecting to lodge at Norwalk, or Bridgeport to night. On parting with him, Doctor Lewis said, ‘Sir, America loves you’ -- ‘And, Sir,’ said the Marquis, ‘I truly love America’”...

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At Saugatuck the militia were prepared throughout the day, to fire a salute; but owing to the lateness of the hour when the cavalcade approached, it being 10 at night, the villagers could do no more than give their loud huzzas, as the General passed. Mill River Bridge was handsomely decorated with colours, by the captains of the coasting vessels at anchor in the harbour...<sup>5</sup>

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It would have been impossible to have travelled through the towns of Connecticut without feeling a part of the enthusiasm which pervaded all classes. Even the poor lads who drove the carriages entered fully into the common feeling, and seemed proud of their honours. They wore silk ribbons fastened to the button holes of their waistcoats, by way of distinction; and while waiting to receive their illustrious passenger, usually became persons of no inconsiderable interest and attention with the hundreds who stood around. “Behave pretty now, Charley,” said the driver of La Fayette’s coach, to one of his horses, “behave pretty, Charley -- you are going to carry the greatest man in the world”...

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The Marine Artillery, stationed on the Dexter Training Ground, pealed their welcome as he passed, and the General soon entered the populous part of the town. In passing through High and Westminster-streets, and until he arrived at the court-house, he was welcomed by that most expressive token of affectionate interest, the waving of white handkerchiefs by the fair hands of the ladies, who crowded every building from which they could obtain a view of this distinguished personage.

Many females, we observed, in the excess of their feelings, suspended this token of welcome, to gaze more intently at the object whom they appeared alone to see in the whole procession, and many a fine eye was wet with the gush of a tear, which the rush of so many sublime and sympathetic emotions sent warm from the heart.

On arriving in front of the State-House, the General alighted, and was received in a peculiarly interesting manner. The poplar avenue, leading to the building, was lined on each side with nearly two hundred misses, arrayed in white, protected by a file of soldiers on each side, and holding in their hands bunches of flowers, which (as the General proceeded up the avenue, supported by the Governor’s Aids) they strewed in his path, at the same time waving their white handkerchiefs. The General was afterwards pleased to express the peculiar and high satisfaction he took in this simple and touching arrangement.

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<sup>5</sup> [Edit. Note. Nathaniel Hawthorne in his short story “The Bald Eagle” (1832) gives a sarcastic account of one Connecticut town that went to elaborate lengths to celebrate Lafayette’s visit; only to learn too late, and to their drunken disappointment, that the Marquis would not be able to attend their patriotic festivities.]

On reaching the landing of the stairs, the General turned towards the multitude, and at the same moment, the veteran Captain Stephen Olney, (who served under the General repeatedly, and was the first to force the enemy's works at Yorktown, in which he was seconded, at another point, almost simultaneously, by La Fayette) approached the General, who instantly recognized his old companion in arms, and embraced and kissed him in the most earnest and affectionate manner. A thrill went through the whole assembly, and scarcely a dry eye was to be found among the spectators, while the shouts of the multitude, at first suppressed, and then uttered in a manner tempered by the scene, evinced tie deep feeling and proud associations it had excited...

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The dwelling houses and stores on the streets [of Boston] through which the procession was conducted, were crowded with inhabitants in every part. The ladies thus situated, caught the enthusiasm of the occasion, waved their white handkerchiefs, and, with smiles and gladness, greeted the veteran hero, who appeared affected and delighted by these demonstrations of a joyful welcome. The moment La Fayette arrived at the line of the city, the bells struck and rang merry peals, while the procession was passing through the streets.

Excepting the cavalcade, the procession passed through the Common from Boylston to Park-street, on the eastern margin, and between two lines of children, of both sexes, belonging to the several schools in the city. Their ages were from about eight to twelve, and nearly three thousand in number. Their dress was neat and uniform; the misses in white, and the masters in white pantaloons and blue spencers. They also wore ribbands on their breasts, stamped with a miniature likeness of La Fayette. As the carriage in which the General rode was passing, one of the misses darted from the line where she was standing, and begged to speak with him. She was handed into the carriage, and by the Mayor presented to La Fayette, who pressed an affectionate kiss on her blooming, yet blushing cheek. She had confidence, however, to address him, and place a wreath of flowers which she held, on his head. He made her a short but affectionate reply, and placed the wreath on the seat of the carriage. Attached to the wreath of flowers was a small piece of paper, carefully folded, which contained these lines; said to be composed by the mother of the child.

“An infant hand presents these blushing flowers,  
Glowing and pure as childhood's artless hours,  
Where roses bloom, and buds of *promise* smile,  
Repaying with their charms the culturer's toil.

Oh! *take them* Father, they were culled *for you!*  
(Still bright with warm *affection's* sacred dew --)  
O let them live in thy benignant smile,  
And o'er thy *brow of glory* bloom awhile!

'Twined with the *laurel* Fame on thee bestowed,  
When thy *young heart* with patriot ardour glow'd;  
Self *exiled* from the charms of *wealth* and *love*,  
And *home*, and *friends*, thou didst our *champion* prove.  
And, by the side of Glorious Washington,  
Didst make our grateful country *all thine own!*

Go, fragile offering, speak the ardent joy  
Our bosoms feel, which *Time* can ne'er destroy!”

Arches were thrown across several of the principal streets, through which La Fayette was conducted, covered with evergreens and flowers, and containing appropriate mottos. There were two in Washington-street, the largest and part of the distance, the widest street in the City. -- On one of these was very legibly written -- “1776--Washington and La Fayette. *Welcome La Fayette -- A Republic not ungrateful.*” On the other

“WELCOME LA FAYETTE.”  
“The Fathers in glory shall sleep,  
Who gather’d with thee to the fight!;  
But the sons will eternally keep  
The tablet of gratitude bright.  
We bow not the neck  
And we bend not the knee,  
But our hearts, La Fayette.  
We surrender to thee.”

The lines were from the pen of a citizen of Boston, whose poetic talents had often delighted the public, and who had received the highest praise from those capable of appreciating the productions of genius.

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[Lafayette to the Pres. of the Mass. Society of Cincinnati, in Roxbury]:

“Amidst the inexpressible enjoyments which press upon my heart, I could not but feel particularly eager and happy to meet my beloved brothers in arms. Many, many, I call in vain; and at the head of them, our matchless paternal Chief, whose love to an adopted son, I am proud to say, you have long witnessed -- But while we mourn together, for those we have lost, while I find a consolation in the sight of their relations and friends, it is to me a delightful gratification to recognize my surviving companions of our revolutionary army -- that army so brave, so virtuous, so united by mutual confidence and affection. That we have been the faithful soldiers of independence, freedom, and equality, those three essential requisites of national and personal dignity and happiness; that we have lived to see those sacred principles secured to this vast Republic, and cherished elsewhere by all generous minds, shall be the pride of our life, the boast of our children, the comfort of our last moments. -- Receive, my dear brother soldiers, the grateful thanks, and constant love of your old companion and friend.”

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At about half past 8 o'clock, he arrived at the bridge, (over the draw of which was thrown a handsome arch,) under the escort of the Boston company of cavalry, which immediately joined the other battalion; when the whole moved towards the Hotel.

On the arrival of the procession at the Hotel, which was very handsomely decorated with flags and ever-greens, the following address was delivered to the General by John White, Esq. the Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements:

“General -- The inhabitants of this town have chosen me their organ, to greet you with a sincere and hearty welcome, on this joyful occasion. A duty on which I enter with mingled emotions of profound veneration, gratitude and affection towards you, Sir, our nation’s early, disinterested and unvarying friend and benefactor.

“The deep, intense, and indelible feelings of this free and happy republic towards you, General, whose eminently and successfully contributed to raise her to her present proud and powerful attitude among the nations of the earth, can be no more forcibly illustrated, than in that spontaneous homage of the heart, which you see displayed around you, on your arrival upon our favoured shores; and which, like a halo of glory, encircles you in your progress through our country. This, General, is a language not to be misunderstood, compared with which the most laboured declamation must be faint and powerless.

“Although your present appearance among us, like the transit of a brilliant and beneficent planet, commissioned to proclaim good will to man, in its rapid career among innumerable worlds, is short and fleeting, the emanations of the bright and joyous light which it sheds around you, will continue with us to guide our steps, and cheer our hearts to the latest moment of our existence.



“Permit me now, General, to express my individual joy at the happy consummation of those ardent wishes, which I had the honour to express to you twelve years since, in your native country -- for you have re-visited us, and you see that ‘all hearts and arms are open to receive you.’”

To this the General made a very affectionate reply.

The General was then conducted to the Hall, where he was introduced by the chairman to the ladies, committee of arrangements, municipal officers, revolutionary soldiers, clergy, and many citizens, but being engaged to breakfast at Marblehead, his stay was restricted to thirty minutes. On leaving the Hotel, the General ascended the barouche, with the chairman of the committee, and the procession proceeded through the town. At the western end of the common was erected a beautiful civic arch, most elegantly decorated with ever-greens, surmounted by a wreath enclosing the following inscription:

“Welcome La Fayette! Conqueror of hearts;”

on the top of which was perched a beautiful gilt Eagle. Suspended under the arch by festoons of evergreens was a wreath, surrounding this inscription.

“Washington and La Fayette.”

After passing this arch, the procession entered between two lines of children of the town, neatly and prettily dressed, who threw bouquets of flowers before the General, and into his carriage. Next in order were two long lines of the citizens, reaching to another very handsome arch of evergreen, under which was suspended a wreath surrounding these words: “October 19th, 1781.” The procession continued over the common towards Market-street, through which he passed, and at its entrance passed under a beautiful canopy, formed on one side by a majestic elm, and on the, other by large trees planted for the occasion, united at the top, and tastefully hung with wreaths and garlands of flowers. At this place was the following inscription:

“Welcome La Fayette, to thee we owe the sweets of Liberty.”

On the entrance of the procession to Front-street, another beautiful arch was presented, to which was suspended, under thirteen sun flowers, representing stars, this inscription: “Thou gavest to us thirteen talents. Lo! we have gained eleven more. -- Receive our gratitude.” Under this inscription were eleven other sun flowers. In Broad-street was another handsome arch, made entirely of trees, wreaths and garlands, on which was the following inscription:

“The voice of ten millions welcome.”

The procession then passed into Chesnut-street, and through part of Fayette-street, into Essex-street, where another magnificent arch was erected, most beautifully decorated, on the centre of which was inscribed “1776,” and below this, was inscribed these words:

“The man whom the people delight to honour. -- Welcome La Fayette. -- Yorktown. -- Monmouth.”

On the reverse, being the last arch, was this inscription: “Tho’ lost to sight, to memory dear.”

The procession moved in fine style through this arch, and proceeded to the eastern boundary line of the town, where the Lynn escort delivered their illustrious guest to the authorities of Marblehead. A salute of 13 guns was fired by the Lynn and Danvers Artillery, on the entrance of the General upon the lines of the town, and another of 24 guns when he passed over the Common. All the bells of the town were rung while he was in it...

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The General and his suite arrived at Middletown, Upper Houses, about 6 o'clock. -- When the Boat first appeared, a salute of 13 guns was fired. -- At the landing place, he was received by a deputation, composed of thirteen distinguished citizens of Middletown, with the first Marshal; and escorted by a squadron of cavalry, commanded by Colonel R. Wilcox. proceeded to the bridge which crosses the northern line of the city. -- He was here received by the corps of Artillery. Riflemen and Light Infantry, under the command of Colonel Walter Boothe, of the 10th Regiment of Infantry, who joined in escorting him to the large and elegant building occupied by Mr. Charles Francis, where preparations had been made for giving him an elegant dinner. The windows and tops of houses were thronged with females, who were constantly waving their handkerchiefs, as expressive of their feelings at seeing him. On his arrival at the house, he was addressed by the Mayor, to which he made an appropriate reply. After which the Mayor presented him to the several members of the Common Council, gentlemen of the Clergy, and the veterans of the Revolution. He was then persuaded to take a seat in the Barouche, and was escorted through the principal streets in the city; the houses were brilliantly illuminated, and added much to the magnificence of the scene. On his arrival at the Boat, he was cheered by the multitude who had followed him. At 7 o'clock he again embarked on the beautiful Connecticut, and though the evening was lowering, all the villages on the river were illuminated, bands of music were playing, and cannon firing. Mr. Ellsworth, one of the liberal proprietors of the Boat, had also provided a band which answered the salutes from the shore. Before reaching Saybrook, the weather cleared, the moon burst forth in its calm and serene splendour, to witness the enthusiasm of the ladies of that and the neighboring towns, who, though it was late at night, were drawn up dressed in white, on a platform, and music, cannon and brilliant illuminations were prepared to honor the Guest of the Nation. He then tranquilly and safely descended the Sound...

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General La Fayette returned from his Eastern tour, and landed in New-York, from on board of the Steam-Boat Oliver Ellsworth, September 5, about 1 o'clock, P. M. A national salute was fired from the Franklin 74, at the Navy Yard, as he passed. The citizens along the shores and wharves of East River, for two miles, kept up a continued acclamation for the whole distance. The Oliver Ellsworth was decorated with flags, and had on board a fine band of music. He was received at the Fulton-street wharf by the Committee of the Corporation, and conducted to his lodgings at the City Hotel. The streets were filled with people, whose anxiety to see him was unabated.

The anniversary of the birth day of La Fayette, the 6th September, when he attained his 67th year, having been selected by the Cincinnati veterans, to give him a dinner, he was escorted at the appointed hour to Washington Hall, by the La Fayette Guards. The room was splendidly and tastefully decorated: over the head of the General was sprung a triumphal arch of laurels and evergreens, in the centre of which appeared a large American eagle, with a scroll in its beak bearing the words "September 6th, 1757," (the day and year in which he was born.) On its right, a scroll bearing, "Brandywine, 11th September 1777"; on its left. "Yorktown, 19<sup>th</sup> October, 1781." In the rear of the General's chair was planted the grand standard of the Society, entwined with the national color of thirteen stripes. On the right was a shield, bearing a rising sun; on the left, a shield with the State Arms. In the centre of the room, there was a splendid star, studded with others of less magnitude. From this star two broad pendants from the Franklin 74, were crossed and carried to the four corners of the room. At the lower end of the room was a most exquisite transparency, executed by Childs, representing the Goddess of Liberty, with an eagle holding a wreath of laurels. In her left hand was a scroll with the word "Welcome." On its right was a column, on which was placed forty muskets, forty pistols, and forty swords; on its left a similar one; beneath it a shield with thirteen American stripes, and thirteen stars supported by two six-pounders, as likewise a coat of mail of steel, such as were worn by Napoleon's cuirassiers; and on the right and left ten field drums. Around the room were tastefully displayed 60 banners, bearing the names of distinguished officers of the revolution, who had fallen in battle. together with the regimental standards of the corps of artillery, and a number of trophies of our navy, which were handsomely tendered by Captain Rogers, and Lieutenant Goldsborough...

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On Thursday the Fire Department mustered to the utmost of their strength, and paraded in the park, where the General, (after returning from the Oratorio given by the Choral Society in St. Paul's Church,) viewed their engines, and the other apparatus belonging to the dauntless guardians of the city.

All the Fire Engines in the city, amounting to 44, with hook and ladder companies, and two engines from Brooklyn, were arranged in a line around the park, and all the Firemen stood a little in advance, holding their drag ropes. After passing round the line, the General returned to the hall, and made his appearance on the piazza, where he remained in company with Thomas Franklin, Chief Engineer, and many ladies and gentlemen, to witness the exhibition.

In the centre of the Park, the ladders of the company were erected in the form of a Pyramid, on the top of which was placed a miniature house, filled with combustibles. The Engines having all approximated the centre, to within a suitable distance, and having been charged with water, at a signal the house was fired, and forty-six powerful water spouts were all directed at the object in an instant. The spectacle for the moment was beautiful beyond description. Such was the skill of the engineers that every spout seemed to strike the common centre, and a mighty fountain in the form of a colossal column, or cone, was thus, as if by enchantment, in the twinkling of an eye, beheld rushing up and descending like a shower of liquid silver. When the sun shone out the fountain sparkled all over like a palace of ice, or a magnificent dome of crystal; and the wind now and then blew upon the spray and carried off a cloud of vapour: the arch of a rainbow appeared above, with all its brilliant colours. The engines appeared to great advantage; they were all in the finest order.

On Friday, in pursuance of an invitation from the Trustees of the Free Schools of New-York, the General visited some of the Schools, and afterwards reviewed the whole collected for that purpose in the Park.

A large class of the scholars in the female school recited the following lines:

Welcome Hero, to the West,  
To the land thy sword hath blest!  
To the country of the *Free*,  
Welcome, *Friend of Liberty!*

Grateful millions guard thy fame,  
Age and youth revere thy name,  
Beauty twines the wreath for thee,  
Glorious *Son of Liberty!*

Years shall speak a nation's love,  
Wheresoe'er thy footsteps move,  
By the choral paeon met --  
Welcome, welcome, *La Fayette!*

At 1 o'clock, the General, by particular invitation, visited the African Free School, which embraces 7 or 800 scholars; about 450 were present on the occasion. Here it was announced to him that under the Presidency of the Honorable John Jay in 1788, he was elected an Honorary member of this Society, which the Marquis well recollected.

The General then retired to his lodgings for a few moments, until the children of all the schools could be assembled in the Park; he then returned and reviewed the whole, to the number of about 5000, arranged by their teachers in regular order, and surrounded by at least 5000 spectators. The scene was truly interesting, and afforded a peculiar gratification to the General, who well knew that the schools of America were the nurseries of freedom, and the basis of American liberty...

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Immediately in front of the gate which forms the first entrance to the Garden, was erected a pyramid of the height of seventy-five feet, brilliantly illuminated, and surmounted by a double triangle, likewise illuminated, presenting the appearance of a star encircling the letter F. The Bridge leading to the Castle [in New York City], which stands off from the Battery, into the bay 250 feet, was this evening an immense covered way, carpeted the entire distance, hung with numerous lamps, and decorated with ever-greens. Through this magnificent entrance, the company found their way into the interior of the Garden.

The Castle, which is a circle, and covers a surface of about 600 feet, was enclosed with an awning at an altitude of seventy-five feet, the dome of which was supported in the centre by a column dressed with pale blue and white, and inscribed with the names of men immortalized with that of La Fayette, in the cause of freedom. This column was encircled with an immense cut glass chandelier [sic], composed of thirteen separate ones, representing the thirteen original states; while it formed at its summit, the centre, whence hung the flags, signals and standards of various nations, looped and festooned with much good taste, making a covering for the company, and a splendid military and naval dress for the coarser canopy above.

This object, which was the first that met the eye, and formed at the base but a slight obstruction, had a very imposing appearance, and produced a fine effect. The whole seemed to operate like a charm upon the visitor, as he entered, who, with elevated and sparkling eyes, and with looks of enraptured admiration, came forward from the massy and low-browed entrance, with increased grace in his step, and airy lightness in his feelings. Every one seemed to feel at home, and to appropriate the scene and its pleasures to his individual enjoyment and use.

The roof was supported by thirteen transparent columns, capped with a circle of light, and based with the armorial insignia of the several states, under a shield of the Union, to denote their dependence on the same, and richly flanked with a falling drapery. Between the columns were to be seen the names of the original states, in gilded letters, encircled by laurel wreaths, and suspended between American ensigns, and a profusion of "striped bunting."

The General made his appearance about 10 o'clock. Immediately the dance and the song was at an end. The military band struck up a military air, and La Fayette was conducted through a column of ladies and gentlemen, to a splendid pavilion, immediately opposite to the great entrance. Not a word was spoken of gratulation -- so profound and respectful, and intellectual, was the interest which his presence excited; nothing but a subdued and universal clap broke the general silence, and that but for a moment.

The interior of the pavilion, which was composed of white cambric, festooned, and otherwise varied with sky blue, and surmounted with an American Eagle, over the letter F, was richly furnished. Among other interesting objects, we noticed a bust of Hamilton, placed under a Corinthian pillar, and illuminated with a beautiful lamp.

But the most interesting of all the exhibitions were those presented in front of the pavilion, and seen from it, immediately over the entrance to the Garden. A triumphal arch of about ninety feet space, adorned with laurel, oak, and festoons of flags, &c. was seen, based upon pillars of cannon fifteen feet high. A bust of Washington, supported by a golden eagle, was placed over the arch, as the presiding deity. Within the arch was a painting, nearly 25 feet square, of a fine colossal figure, representing the Genius of our country, rising in her native majesty and strength, supported by the American Eagle, and exhibiting a scroll inscribed to Fayette, with the words -- "Honoured be the faithful patriot."

Soon after the General entered, the painting just alluded to, was slowly raised, which exhibited to the audience a beautiful transparency, representing La Grange, the mansion of La Fayette. The effect was as complete as the view was unexpected and imposing. Another subdued clap of admiration followed this tasteful, and appropriate, and highly interesting display...

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After a brief and pertinent reply, the General accepted of an invitation to visit the seat of Edward P. Livingston, Esq. which is situated but a short distance to the north, upon the same elevated and beautiful

plain. His reception was equally cordial and flattering as before. An excellent cold collation, together with refreshments of every suitable kind, were served up. And while the company were partaking of these, the steam-boat Richmond, Captain William Wiswall, came gaily down, and anchored alongside of the James Kent, having on board Major-General Jacob Rutsen Van Rensselaer, and suite, Brigadier-General Fleming, and suite, the Mayor of Hudson, (Rufus Reed, Esq.) Dr. Tallman, late Mayor, and Colonel Strong, as delegates from the city of Hudson, together with the Hudson Band, and two elegant uniform companies, under the command of Colonel Edwards. This formidable addition to the company already on the ground, repaired immediately to the seat of Mr. E. P. Livingston, from whence, after refreshments were served out to them by Mr. L. and Commodore Wiswall in person, General La Fayette was escorted back to the seat of his liberal entertainer. As night came on, the troops and crowd from the country dispersed, and the Hudson troops were taken on board of the steam-boat James Kent, where refreshments were ordered, and the forward deck and cabin assigned to them for the night. In the evening the whole of Mr. L's. splendid suite of apartments were brilliantly lighted up, and an elegant ball was given in honor of the General's company. The assemblage was very numerous, and a brilliant circle of ladies, arrayed in all the charm of health, beauty, and rich and elegant dresses, were contributing to the festivity and joy of the occasion, by "tripping the light fantastic toe," or by conversation sparkled with wit, or adorned by the graces of polished manners and education. Among the guests this evening, in addition to those already named, were the Honorable Edward Livingston, of New Orleans, the Honorable Walter Patterson, Captain Ridgeley, of the Navy, the Honorable Peter R. Livingston, A. Vanderpool, Esq. of Kinderhook, Mrs. Montgomery, (widow of the gallant General who fell at Quebec,) and many others whose names are not recollected. During the evening a sumptuous supper was served up in a style of magnificence rarely, if ever equalled in this country. The room selected for this part of the fete, was an extensive Greenhouse, or Orangery, and the effect was indescribably fine. The tables had been made and fitted for this occasion, and were spread beneath a large grove of Orange and Lemon trees, with bending branches of fruit, and many other species of exotic shrubs and plants. Flora also, had profusely scattered her blossoms; and the whole scene seemed to partake of enchantment. The beholder stood Sizing, as if bound by the wizzard spell of the Magician. The night was dark and rainy; but this contributed to the general effect of the fete, inasmuch as the darkness heightened the effect of the thousand lamps by which the surrounding groves were illuminated. There was also a fine exhibition of fireworks, which had been prepared and brought from New-York for the occasion. It having been found inconvenient to provide suppers for so many on board of the boat, the whole detachment of troops were invited by Mr. L. to supper in the Green house, which invitation was accepted. At 10 o'clock, General La Fayette retired from this scene of gaiety and beauty, and at two the hall was closed, and the company separated, not only highly gratified with the entertainment, but with the manner in which it was got up and imparted to his guests, by Mr. L. whose style of living closely approximates that of the real English gentleman, and whose wealth is equalled by his kindness and liberality...

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General La Fayette briefly replied to the address, after which the members of the Common Council were severally presented to him. A most interesting and affecting spectacle was then presented; sixty-eight veterans of the revolution, who had collected from the different parts of the county, formed a part of the procession, and were next presented; and it so happened that several of them were officers, and many of them soldiers who had served with La Fayette. Notwithstanding that they were admonished that the greatest haste was necessary, yet every one had something to say; and when they grasped his friendly hand, each seemed reluctant to release it. One of them came up with a sword in his hand, which, as he passed, he remarked was "given to him by the Marquis," at such a place, "in Rhode Island." Another, with a tear glistening in his eye, as he shook the hand of the General, observed -- "You, Sir, gave me the first guinea I ever had in my life -- I shall never forget that"...

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On Sunday morning, the General stopped at Red-Hook and visited Mrs. Montgomery, widow of General Montgomery, who fell in storming the city of Quebec, December 1775, where he met a numerous collection of friends, and partook of a sumptuous dinner. About 2 o'clock, the General took an affectionate leave of Mrs. Montgomery and guests, and retired on board of the steam-boat, on his way to New-York. At 7 o'clock the boat came to at Fishkill landing, and the General called on Mrs. Dewitt, grand-daughter of the

former President Adams, where he was courteously as well as splendidly received, amidst a numerous collection of friends assembled to greet their country's guest. To add to the enjoyments of this interview, the General had the pleasure of shaking cordially by the hand another of his brave Light Infantry, adding, "the Light Infantry were a brave corps, and under my immediate command." "Yes," returned the old soldier, "and you gave us our swords and plumes." The General made but a short stay, took leave of his friends, and returned to the boat under a salute of three hearty cheers...

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On the arrival of General La Fayette upon the shore of New-Jersey, he was waited upon by General Dayton, Colonel Kinney, and Major Kean, of the suite of Governor Williamson, and conducted to Lyon's Hotel, where he was received by the Governor himself, and introduced to a number of distinguished citizens of New-Jersey. While here, a foil basket of large and delicious peaches were presented to the General, from the extensive fruitery of Mr. Taphagan. The General was accompanied to Jersey by the Mayor, Recorder, Members of the Common Council, the Society of Cincinnati, and several other gentlemen, all of whom were politely invited to visit and join in the festivities at Newark, and dine with the company at Elizabethtown. After remaining a five minutes, the General, with his Excellency Governor Williamson entered a superb carriage, drawn by four beautiful bay horses, and a cavalcade was formed, which proceeded leisurely towards Newark, escorted by a squadron of New Jersey cavalry, and two companies which had been invited from N. York. Arrived at Bergen, it was found that the inhabitants of that little town had assembled at the Inn, and were so anxious to pay their respects to the General that he was constrained to alight for a moment. Here, unexpectedly, he was formally addressed by a delegation from the town, and presented with a superb cane made from an apple-tree under which Washington and La Fayette dined, when passing through that town, during the revolution, and which was blown down by the violent gale of the 3d of September, in 1821, The cane is richly mounted with gold, and bears the following inscription: -- "La Fayette," on the top, and round the head the words -- "Shaded the hero and his friend Washington, in 1779 -- Presented by the Corporation of Bergen, in 1824"...

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To which [i.e., the address of Pennsylvania Gov. Schultze at Morrisville, outside Philadelphia] General La Fayette made the following reply:

"Sir -- On the happy moment, long and eagerly wished for, when I once more tread the soil of Pennsylvania, I find in her affectionate welcome, so kindly expressed by her first magistrate, a dear recollection of past favours, and a new source of delightful gratifications. The very names of this State and her Capitol, recall to the mind those philanthropic and liberal sentiments, which have marked every step of their progress.

"Pennsylvania has been the theatre of most important events; a partaker in the arduous toils and meritorious sacrifices, which insured the success of our glorious and fruitful revolution. I particularly thank you, Sir, for your gratifying mention of my personal obligation to the Pennsylvania line, nor will I ever forget, that on Pennsylvania ground, not far from this spot, I enjoyed, for the first time, the delight to find myself under American tents, and in the family of our beloved Commander in Chief. Now, Sir, Pennsylvania is in full possession, and reaps all the prosperities, and happy consequences of that great national union, of those special institutions, which, by offering in a self-governed people the most perfect example of social order that ever existed, have reduced to absurdity and ridicule the anti-popular arguments of pretended statesmen in other countries. In whatever manner I may be disposed of, by the duties and feelings in which you have been pleased to sympathize, I shall ever rank this day among the most fortunate in my life; and while I beg your excellency personally to accept my cordial acknowledgements, I have the honour to offer to him, as Governor of the State, a tribute of profound gratitude, and respected devotion, to the citizens of Pennsylvania."

Having ascended his barouche and six, the General proceeded on his way; and did not reach Frankford until seven o'clock in the evening -- such being the throngs which lined the roads, and the number of the welcomes offered, and which he could not refuse. He passed the night at Frankford...

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The whole appearance of this truly Grand Procession [in Philadelphia] was, august and imposing. As it passed, La Fayette! La Fayette! sprang from the voices of a multitude that rolled on, and on, and on, like wave after wave of the ocean, in numbers we shall not presume to name, [but which were estimated at 200,000,]<sup>6</sup> -- La Fayette beat in every heart -- La Fayette hung on every tongue -- La Fayette glowed in every cheek -- La Fayette glistened in every swimming eye -- La Fayette swelled on every gale. The whole city and country appeared to have arrayed themselves in all their glory, and beauties and strength, at once to witness and adorn the majesty of the spectacle; and the fashionable part of the community seemed determined to exhibit the perfection of taste in the beauty of the decoration of their persons, and the richness of their attire. In Chesnut street, wreaths were cast into the barouche, as it passed, and many of them were from the fair hands of the Quakeresses.

After the procession had passed through the principal streets, the front halted at the old State House, which contains the Hall in which the Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776.

Here the General alighted, passed under a most magnificent triumphal arch, and was conducted to the Hall, which is forty feet square, and was decorated in a most splendid manner. Among the decorations was a Statue of Washington, and Portraits of William Penn, Franklin, Robert Morris, Francis Hopkinson, Greene, Wayne, Montgomery, Hamilton, Gates, Rochambeau, Charles Carrol, M'Kean, Jefferson;<sup>7</sup> Hancock, Adams, Madison, Monroe, and Charles Thompson. The portrait of Washington, by Peale, occupied the first place, and was most splendidly decorated. Here were assembled the City authorities, the Society of Cincinnati, the Judges, Officers of the Army and Navy, and the Committee of Arrangements, all seated on superb sofas. The Governor of the State having been presented, General La Fayette, Judge Peters, and George Washington La Fayette were introduced, the company all standing. The Mayor of the city then welcomed the Guest...

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[In Baltimore]

“Welcome, thrice welcome, General, to the soil of Maryland. Nothing that we can do, can too strongly express to you the affection and respect which we entertain for your person and your principles, or the joy with which we receive you among us, as a long absent Father upon a visit to his children.”

The Governor then conducted him to the Tent, where he found the Society of the Cincinnati, the patriarchs of the revolution -- here he was received and embraced by all of them -- the scene was one of the most impressive and heart-touching, that was ever witnessed -- all were convulsed into tears, but they were tears of the most heart-felt joy and gratulation.

Colonel John E. Howard, the hero of Cowpens, and President of the Cincinnati Society, when the first emotion had subsided, addressed the General in the name of the Society, who in his reply, declared that “language could not express his feelings with meeting with his brothers in arms, in the Tent of their common friend, the beloved Washington.” He then most affectionately embraced his old friends, Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, General Beeson, General Striker, Colonel Howard, and all the aged members of the association, while tears rolled down their venerable cheeks. He shook hands with the younger members in the most cordial manner, looked frequently with an enquiring eye round the Tent, and seemed deeply affected. On discovering part of Washington’s camp equipage, he said in an under voice, “I remember!” There was not a dry eye in the Tent.

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<sup>6</sup> *Edit.* Comment in square brackets is contained in the original text.

<sup>7</sup> Although many are no doubt acquainted with his sojourn of a week at Monticello, less known perhaps is that Lafayette also visited and or stayed at the homes of John Adams, James Madison, and Joseph Bonaparte.

The General and invited guests then retired to an adjoining Marquee, to an excellent breakfast prepared for the occasion, when many recollections of former days were brought forcibly to mind; and when this repast closed, the General was conducted to his barouche, accompanied as before by all the civil and military authorities present. When, he had taken his seat, Charles Carroll, General Smith, and Colonel Howard, were handed into the same barouche, which was followed by another containing George Washington La Fayette, whose warm reception we should have noticed before, Colonel Bentalou and two other gentlemen, and other carriages followed...

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His reception by Mr. Monroe President of the United States, was most cordial and honorable. He called on the President, the day of his arrival in Washington, as before mentioned. The next day he was with Mr. Monroe both at breakfast and dinner, and on Thursday, the President gave a public dinner in honor of La Fayette, at which were present, the Heads of Departments, many distinguished public characters from various parts of the United States, and the principal officers of the army and navy. While in Washington, he also visited the Secretaries of State, of the Treasury, and of War, and Major General Brown, of the United States army.

General La Fayette rode over to Georgetown on Thursday, having been earnestly invited by the Mayor and corporation to visit that city; and the citizens demonstrated their gratitude and joy on the occasion, by a military escort, and a respectable procession. But the most acceptable offering was such as he had received in all other places, the spontaneous and cordial salutations of the whole people. On Friday, he visited the navy yard, by invitation of the veteran Commodore Tingey. His reception here was remarkably brilliant and impressive; he was accompanied by many distinguished citizens and public functionaries; and the attentions of the naval veteran were honorable to himself and highly gratifying to General La Fayette. He dined again on Friday with President Monroe; and on Saturday proceeded on his proposed visit to Alexandria, and Yorktown. He was accompanied as far as the Potomac by the Mayor and committee of arrangements from Washington, escorted by the Georgetown cavalry. On the south side of the river, he was received by the deputation of Alexandria, attended by many other citizens, and several officers of the army and navy of the United States...

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He entered the Ancient Dominion at Alexandria, at noon on the 16th, every where accompanied, escorted, and welcomed with the offerings of all hearts, hands, and voices. The parade of military exceeded 1500. In the procession was a car with "the tent of Washington.[]" The procession passed through thronged streets, by crowded houses, under splendid arches, and amidst the roar of welcome, and shouts of transport. On the apex of a magnificent arch was perched a live mountain Eagle, of extraordinary size, who spread his wings when the General passed, and seemed to unite to their welcome. On his way he was met by another of those interesting and affecting sights -- a body of two hundred young boys and misses, who, while one of the latter chanted a beautiful paean, strewed flowers in his path. He was here addressed by the Mayor, the Common Council, his brother Masons and others. Salutes of artillery were fired at intervals. At the public dinner given to him, Mr. Secretary Adams, Commodores Rodgers and Porter, General Macomb and other distinguished citizens, were guests. The toasts were good and the volunteers numerous. "Our distinguished Guest -- the People's prisoner," was one of them. The General held a levee in the evening. The public buildings and many private houses were brilliantly illuminated.

On the Sabbath General La Fayette proceeded to Mount Vernon, and visited the tomb of Washington, his revered Father and Friend. While here, he was presented, by Mr. Custis, with a ring containing a portion of the hair of the Sainted Hero, together with the masonic sash and jewel formerly belonging to the Great Mason, accompanied with the following address:

"Last of the Generals of the army of Independence! At this awful and impressive moment, when, forgetting the splendour of a triumph greater than Roman consul ever had, you bend with reverence over the remains of Washington, the child of Mount Vernon presents you with this token, containing the hair of



him, whom while living you loved, and to whose honored grave you now pay the manly and affecting tribute of a patriot's and a soldier's tear.

"The ring has ever been an emblem of the union of hearts from the earliest ages of the world; and this will unite the affections of all the Americans to the person and posterity of La Fayette, now and hereafter. And when your descendants of a distant day shall behold this valued relic, it will remind them of the heroic virtues of their illustrious sire, who received it, not in the palaces of princes, or amid the pomp and vanities of life, but at the laurelled grave of Washington.

"Do you ask -- Is this the Mausoleum befitting the ashes of a Marcus Aurelius, or the good Antonius? I tell you, that the father of his country lies buried in the hearts of his countrymen; and in those of the brave, the good, the free, of all ages and nations. Do you seek for the tablets which are to convey his fame to immortality? They have long been written in the freedom and happiness of their country. These are the monumental trophies of Washington the great; and will endure when the proudest works of art have "dissolved and left not a wreck behind."

"Venerable man! Will you never tire in the cause of freedom and human happiness Is it not time that you should Test from your labours, and repose on the bosom of a Country, which delights to love and honor you, and will teach her children's children to bless your name and memory? Surely, where liberty dwells, there must be the country of La Fayette.

"Our fathers witnessed the dawn of your glory, partook of its meridian splendour; and oh, let their children enjoy the benign radiance of your setting sun. And when it shall sink in the horizon of nature, here, here with pious duty, we will form your sepulchre; and, united in death as in life, by the side of the great chief you will rest in peace, till the last trump awakes the slumbering world, and calls your virtues to their great reward.

"The joyous shouts of millions of freemen hailed your returning foot-print on our sands. The arms of millions are opened wide to take you to their grateful hearts; and the prayers of millions ascend to the throne of the Eternal, that the choicest blessings of heaven may cheer the latest days of La Fayette."

General La Fayette having received the ring, pressed it to his bosom, and replied --

"The feelings, which at this awful moment oppress my heart, do not leave the power of utterance. I can only thank you, my dear Custis, for your precious gift. I pay a silent homage to the tomb of the greatest and best of men, my paternal friend"...

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On this day, Monday 18th, the reception was purely civic, not a soldier appeared under arms. But on the 19<sup>th</sup>, the military spectacle was imposing and brilliant. Soon after breakfast, La Fayette walked from his quarters, to the tent of Washington surrounded by the Committee of Arrangements and others. Numbers were then introduced to him -- many ladies, the veteran soldiers of the revolution, citizens from other states, and all quarters of Virginia. The classic ground of Yorktown was converted into a camp; and the harbor was filled with vessels, steam-boats, &c. In the midst of the camp the tent of Washington had a conspicuous situation, near the House where its illustrious owner had his Head Quarters in 1782. -- To this the General repaired, and received the visits of the Ladies, strangers, &c. -- after which he was introduced to Col. Win. I. Lewis, of Campbell, who delivered an address suitable to the occasion.

Leaving this he passed under a splendid triumphal arch, erected on the spot where once stood the redoubt, which La Fayette stormed, and which bore the names of La Fayette, Hamilton, and Laurens. The other redoubt stormed by the French troops, bore an Obelisk, bearing the names of Viomenil, Dupont, Dumas, De Noailles, Rochambeau, and De Grasse. On every part of the battle ground were to be found balls, shells, and fragments of bombs, the interesting evidences of the ardor and peril with which the capture of York was characterized. -- The General, in his splendid barouche, accompanied by the Governor

of Virginia, Chief Justice Marshal, and Mr. Secretary Calhoun, proceeded to the arch, where he was received by General Taylor, and addressed as follows:

“General -- On behalf of my comrades, I bid you welcome. They come to greet you, with no pageantry, intended to surprise by its novelty, or dazzle by its splendour. But they bring you, General, an offering which wealth could not purchase, nor power constrain. On this day, associated with so many thrilling recollections; on this spot, consecrated by successful valour, they come to offer you this willing homage of their hearts.

“Judge, General, of their feelings at this moment by your own. Every thing around them speaks alike to their senses and sensibilities. These plains, where the peaceful ploughshare has not yet effaced the traces of military operations, these half decayed ramparts, this ruined village, in which the bomb’s havoc is still every where visible, tell us of past warfare: and remind us of that long, arduous and doubtful struggle, on the issue of which depended the emancipation of our country.

“On yonder hillock, the last scene of blood was closed by the surrender of an army; and the liberty of our nation permanently secured. With what resistless eloquence does it persuade our gratitude and admiration for the gallant heroes, to whose noble exertions we owe the countless blessings which our free institutions have conferred upon us?

“The spot on which we stand, was once a redoubt occupied by our enemy. With how rapid a pencil does imagination present the blooming chieftain, by whom it was wrested from his grasp. Can we be here, and forget that superior to the prejudices which then enchained even noble minds, he perceived in the first and almost hopeless struggles of a distant and obscure colony, the movement of that moral power, which was destined to give a new direction and character to political institutions, and to improve human happiness. Can we forget, that, deaf to the solicitations of power, of rank, and of pleasure, with a noble prodigality, he gave to our country his sword, his treasure, and the influence of his example.

“And when in the aged warrior who stands before us, we recognize that youthful chieftain, with what rapidity does memory retrace the incidents of his eventful life? With what pleasure do we see his manhood realize the promise of his youth? In senates or in camps, in the palaces of kings, or in their dungeons, we behold the same erect and manly spirit. At one time, tempering the licentiousness of popular feeling; at another restraining the extravagance of power, and always regardless of every thing but the great object of his life, the moral and political improvement of mankind.

“General -- In the brightest days of antiquity, no artificial stimulus of rank, or power, or wealth, was required to excite noble minds to acts of generous daring. A wreath of laurel, or of oak, was at once the proof and the reward of illustrious merit. For this, statesmen meditated, warriors bled, and eloquence soared to its sublimest heights. The prize was invaluable; for, it was won only by merit. It detracted, however, somewhat from its worth, that it was conferred by the partiality of compatriots, and in the fervor of admiration, inspired by recent success.

“Your life, General, illustrious throughout, in this also is distinguished. -- Time, which dims the lustre of ordinary merit, has rendered yours more brilliant. After a lapse of nearly half a century, your triumph is decreed by the sons of those who witnessed your exploits.

“Deign then, General, to accept the simple but expressive token of their gratitude and admiration. Suffer their leader to place upon your veteran brow, the only crown it would not disdain to wear, the blended emblems of civic worth and martial prowess. It will not pain you. General, to perceive some scattered sprigs of melancholy cypress, intermingled with the blended leaves of laurel and oak. Your heart would turn from us with generous indignation, if on an occasion like this, amid the joyous acclamations which greet you every where, were heard no sighs of grateful recollection for those gallant men who shared your battles, but do not, cannot, share your triumph. The wreath which our gratitude has woven, to testify our love for you, will lose nothing of its fragrance, or its verdure, though time hang upon its leaves some tears of pious recollection of the friend of your early youth: in war the avenger, in peace, the father of his country.

“In behalf then, of all the chivalry of Virginia; on this redoubt, which his valour wrested from the enemy at the point of the bayonet; I place on the head of Major General La Fayette this wreath of double triumph: --won by numerous and illustrious acts of martial prowess, and by a life devoted to the happiness of the human race. In their names, I proclaim him alike victorious in arms and acts of civil polity. In bannered fields, a hero -- in civil life, the benefactor of mankind.”

La Fayette was deeply affected. There was a solemn earnestness in his manners, a touching sensibility in his whole countenance, which most deeply impressed every observer. Many wept all were moved. When General Taylor had closed his address, he was about to fix the civic wreath upon the General's head. But the considerate veteran, always himself, always attentive to the slightest proprieties of word and action, caught the hovering wreath as it approached his brow with his right hand, and respectfully bowing, dropt it to his side, when he thus replied:

“I most cordially thank you, my dear general, and your companions in arms, for your affectionate welcome, your kind recollections, and the flattering expressions of your friendship. Happy I am to receive them on these already ancient lines, where the united arms of America and France have been gloriously engaged in a holy alliance, to support the rights of American Independence, and the sacred principle of the sovereignty of the people. Happy also to be so welcomed on the particular spot where my dear Light Infantry comrades acquired one of their honourable claims to public love and esteem.

You know, Sir, that in this business of storming redoubts, with unloaded arms and fixed bayonets, the merit of the deed is in the soldiers who execute it; and to each of them, I am anxious to acknowledge their equal share of honour. Let me, however, with affection and gratitude, pay a special tribute to the gallant name of Hamilton, who commanded the attack, to the three field officers who seconded him, Gimat, Laurens and Fish, the only surviving one, my friend now near me. In their name, my dear General, in the name of the Light Infantry, those we have lost, as well as those who survive, and only in common with them, I accept the crown with which you are pleased to honour us, and I offer you the return of the most grateful acknowledgements.”

The General was not apprized of the address or the offering of the wreath; but with his never-ceasing readiness he turned round, and drawing Colonel Fish to the front, said, “*Here, half of this wreath belongs to you.*” “No, Sir,” replied the Colonel “it is all your own.” “Then,” rejoined La Fayette, putting it into the Colonel's hand, “take it, and preserve it as our common property.” The whole scene was strongly marked with the moral sublime...

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To which address, General La Fayette replied, in a tone in which energy of character and sensibility of feeling were most interestingly blended, to the following effect:

“Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the [U.S.] House of Representatives:

“While the people of the United States, and their honorable Representatives in Congress have deigned to make choice of me, one of the American veterans, to signify in his person, their esteem for our joint services and their attachment to the principles for which we have had the honour to fight and bleed, I am proud and happy to share those extraordinary favours with my dear revolutionary companions yet, it would be, on my part, uncandid and ungrateful not to acknowledge my personal share in those testimonies of kindness, as they excite in my breast emotions which no adequate words could express.

“My obligations to the United States. Sir, far exceed any merit I might claim. They date from the time when I had the happiness to be adopted as a young soldier, a favoured son of America. -- They have been continued to me during almost half a century of constant affection and confidence, and now, sir, thanks to your most gratifying invitation, I find myself greeted by a series of welcomes, one hour of which would more than compensate for the public exertions and sufferings of a whole life.

“The approbation of the American people and their Representatives, for my conduct during the vicissitudes of the European Revolution, is the highest reward I could receive. Well may I stand, “firm and erect,” when, in their names, and by you, Mr. Speaker, I am declared to have, in every instance, been faithful to those American principles of liberty, equality, and true social order, the devotion to which, as it has been from my earliest youth, so shall it continue to be to my latest breath.

“You have been pleased, Mr. Speaker, to allude to the peculiar felicity of my situation, when, after so long an absence, I am called to witness the immense improvements, the admirable communications, the prodigious creations of which we find an example in this city, whose name itself is a venerated palladium; in a word, all the grandeur and prosperity of these happy United States, which, at the same time they nobly secure the complete assertion of American Independence, reflect on every part of the world the light of a far superior political civilization.

“What better pledge can be given of a persevering national love of liberty, when those blessings are evidently the result of a virtuous resistance to oppression, and the institutions founded on the rights of man and the Republican principle of self-government. No, Mr. Speaker, posterity has not begun for me -- since in the sons of my companions and friends, I find the same public feelings, and permit me to add the same feelings in my behalf, which I have had the happiness to experience in their fathers.

“Sir, I have been allowed, forty years ago, before a Committee of a Congress of thirteen States, to express the fond wishes of an American heart. -- On this day I have the honor, and enjoy the delight, to congratulate the Representatives of the Union, so vastly enlarged, on the realization of those wishes, even beyond every human expectation, and upon the almost infinite prospects we can with certainty anticipate.

“Permit me, Mr. Speaker, and gentlemen of the House of Representatives, to join, to the expression of those sentiments, a tribute of my lively gratitude, affectionate devotion, and profound respect.”

After the General and the Members had resumed their seats, and a short pause ensued, Mr. Mitchell, the organ of the Committee of reception, moved an adjournment.

The motion was agreed to, and the House was adjourned to Monday.

The Speaker then descended from the Chair, and most affectionately saluted the General. His example was followed by the Members of the House, individually, and some time was spent in this agreeable manner before the General retired.

The sublime and touching realities of this whole scene surpass the powers of imagination; every eye, every ear and every heart were wholly engrossed by the magnitude of the object before them. Nothing is to be found in the whole field of Grecian or Roman story, as a parallel to this. Of all the proud triumphs through which the veteran hero has passed since he first landed upon the shores of America, this was not only the most glorious, but must have been the most interesting to his feelings.

The scene in the Senate was not less interesting and imposing than that of the House; and it is well understood, that General La Fayette is the only public character that has ever been received by the Senate of the United States. This virgin honor was reserved for the man who was truly the most deserving.

On Monday, December 20th, Mr. Hayne, from the committee to whom was referred the subject of making provision for General La Fayette, reported to the Senate a bill, providing, that the sum of 200,000 dollars be granted to Major General La Fayette; also, one complete and entire township of land, to be located upon any of the public lands that remain unsold.

On Tuesday, December 21st, this bill passed the Senate, and on Wednesday, December 22d, the bill passed the House of Representatives.

Some slight objections were made to the bill while Under discussion in Congress, which were remarks by way of inquiry for information, rather than serious opposition, which led one of the members, in a conversation with General La Fayette, to offer a delicate apology; but the General with great *naivete* interrupted him, by adding -- "*I too Sir am of the opposition. The gift is so munificent, so far exceeding the services of the individual, that had I been a member of Congress, I must have voted against it*"...

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General La Fayette commenced his tour from Washington, through the southern and western states, about the first of March.

In his course he visited the principal towns in the states of North and South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Missouri, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio. He visited Pittsburg[h], and returned to Albany, by the way of Buffalo and the western canal. From Albany he proceeded directly to Boston, through Springfield, where he arrived on the 16th of June...

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The author regrets extremely that the limits of this work will not permit him to give a particular description of the interesting scenes that awaited the General throughout this whole tour. It must however, be remembered, that descriptions of scenes the most interesting, of feelings the most sublime and touching, and of characters the most exalted, loose their intended effect, by being too minutely dwelt upon, or too often repeated, and become irksome and tedious. A general sameness necessarily prevails throughout the whole; as in the Atlantic so in the western tour of General La Fayette, all classes of citizens vied with each other in expressing the grateful emotions of their hearts to the guest of the nation, the veteran hero, and the patriot benefactor of America.

The orators of the country, the surviving heroes of the revolution, the patriots and sages, the fair daughters of Columbia, with their numerous, offspring, and the whole mass of citizens, all with one acclaim welcomed the man whom their united hearts delight to honor. The same military parades, civic feasts, cordial and affectionate addresses, triumphal arches, splendid balls, and soldiers tears, that shewed the joys of kindred souls, greeted the arrival of La Fayette in every place he visited, throughout this extensive route, from Washington to Charleston, to New Orleans, to St. Louis, to Cincinnati, to Pittsburg, to Buffalo, to Albany, and to Boston, a distance of more than 4000 miles.

These were not the momentary triumphs of a conqueror, who returns flushed with some recent victory; but the triumphs of the hearts of other generations, who rise up to bless the patriot hero of their country, who took their fathers by the hand, led them to victory and glory; and when he had given them an exalted rank among the nations of the earth, stepped aside, and left them to pursue their enjoyments of freedom, happiness and honor. Again, after a lapse of nearly fifty years, he comes, at the united voice of more than 10,000,000 of people, as free, as happy, and as independent, as the nature of man can possibly become, to receive the welcome plaudits of the nation.

More than 3000 miles of the western tour of General La Fayette were a pathless desert when he last visited America; now they can proudly boast of nine new and valuable states, covered with rich and flourishing cities, towns and villages; possessing a free, a virtuous, and an intelligent population; richly enjoying all that is essential to the happiness of man. Throughout this vast interior, the forests have bowed to the ax of the wood-man, cities, towns and villages, roads, canals, manufactures, commerce, and the arts and sciences, have risen into being, as by the wand of the magician; and the all-propelling power of steam has greatly facilitated the social and commercial intercourse throughout the vast circuit of this western route.

The changes throughout the eastern or Atlantic tour, in a period of forty or fifty years, far surpass every thing of the kind, either in ancient or modern story, and must have been almost incredible to the patriot hero; but the changes of the west are far greater, and must have appeared to bins like so much of the

section of a new creation. The sublime realities of this whole scene, when taken collectively, surpass the powers of the pen or the pencil, and are vast beyond the stretch of imagination.

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For the complete text of *Memoirs of the Marquis De La Fayette, Major-General in the Revolutionary Army of the United States of America, Together with His Tour Through the United States* (1825) by Frederick Butler, see <http://www.archive.org/details/memoirsofmarquis00butl>

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