

A SKETCH OF THE LIFE AND CHARACTER OF

Charles C. Pinckney.

CIRCUMSTANCES have combined to render the name of General PINCKNEY familiar to the American People.—The two missions to the French Republic, and his present situation as a candidate for the second office in our government, have contributed to produce this effect; and although his public character, and services are sufficiently known to have distinguished him among the authors of our Revolution, and the founders of our government, yet the intimate knowledge of those qualities which conspire to render him a character of peculiar weight and interest is not so widely diffused. It is of importance that this information should be possessed by every description of citizens, and that their minds should be engaged in a close examination of the leading features of the character and the principal incidents in the life of a citizen who is offered to them as a candidate for a high and responsible trust. The writer of this article is encouraged by the hope of furnishing some materials for this examination. Facts shall be given as they have come to the knowledge of the writer; who will not shrink from the support of one of them, if called in question. This strict adherence to fact, is rendered more necessary by the disposition to generally prevail to undermine and destroy great reputations—to confound the claims of private virtue and moral excellence, in the rage of party;—and to determine all merit by the arbitrary and fluctuating standard of political opinion. Happily for the distinguished character who is the subject of this article, he has hitherto secured an exemption from base calumnies and imputed crimes, "by a life devoted to honorable pursuits," and marked in every stage by unshaken rectitude.

The ancestors of General PINCKNEY for three generations (as well as himself) were natives of South-Carolina. His father was Chief Justice of the Colony of Carolina, and a member of the King's Council. General PINCKNEY was born some time in the year 1746. He was educated at the University of Oxford in England;—where he gave early and respectable proofs of scholarship and talents. After finishing his classical education, he commenced, and prosecuted the study of the law at the Temple. He then passed a year at the University of Angers, in France, and made the tour of Europe before his return to his native State. The great length of time which he had spent in accomplishing himself as a scholar, and lawyer, at the best seminaries of Europe, enabled him to commence the practice of law at the bar of South-Carolina, with universal eclat. With industry equal to his talents, his reputation and emoluments continued to increase until the commencement of the revolutionary contest.

The ardent and patriotic mind of Mr. PINCKNEY, induced him to take an early and active part in the proceedings of the General Assembly of South-Carolina, and his energetic character was highly instrumental in the adoption of those decided measures which distinguished that Legislature. He commanded the first volunteer uniform corps that was raised at Charleston, and encouraged the embodying of independent companies throughout the State. When these measures resulted soon after in actual hostility, Mr. Pinckney was appointed a Major in the first State Regiment, of which the present General Gadsden was Colonel Commandant. He was shortly after promoted to the command of the first regiment. After the defeat at Fort Moultrie, in 1776, of the British fleet under Sir Peter Parker, and of the army commanded by Sir Henry Clinton, the project of making an effective impression in the South seemed to have been abandoned, and Colonel Pinckney believing that quarter would not very shortly be the theatre of war, solicited General Washington's permission to leave his regiment, and repair wherever there should be most service to be seen and performed. He was desired to join the General's family, and acted for some time as his Aid-de-Camp. He was in that character at the battles of Brandywine and Germantown.

As soon as it was known that the British contemplated a second invasion of the Southern States, Colonel Pinckney repaired to his appropriate command, headed his regiment in the assault on Savannah, and was distinguished in almost every important action fought in Carolina previously to the fall of Charleston. When Charleston was a second time besieged, General Lincoln (the commanding officer) selected Colonel Pinckney as a fit officer to defend the important pass of Fort Moultrie. The surrender of Charleston gave him a prisoner to the British. His ardor and zeal in the cause of independence had already made him peculiarly obnoxious to them. Their resentment was however sharpened by a new provocation;—Finding that the British were endeavouring to raise among the prisoners a regiment to send to the West Indies by rigorous usage in their confinement, he visited the abodes of misery filled with his captive fellow-soldiers, cheered their dependence, and dissuaded them from enlisting in the British service, by assurances of speedy relief. The British on the discovery of this measure caused Colonel Pinckney to be closely confined about 6

miles from Charleston, and although his only son lay extremely ill in the city, he could not, for some time, obtain permission to visit his family. The interference of a British surgeon ultimately procured him that privilege for a few hours, and during that short period his son died. He was not permitted to remain until his interment, but remanded to his place of confinement immediately, and was not afterwards exchanged until near the close of the war. The vindictive spirit of the British did not stop here:—they laid waste his beautiful farm near Charleston, and burnt all the buildings on it.

At the return of peace, with a fortune entirely broken down by the storm of war, he was obliged again to have recourse to the profession of law for a subsistence, and very shortly stood at the head of that profession, unrivalled in talents, and unsurpassed in professional rectitude.

He continued thus in the gradual accumulation of a fortune which is now ample, until 1777, when he was chosen one of the delegates of the State of South Carolina in the Federal Convention, and signed the Constitution which was the result of their deliberations.

No sooner was this Constitution adopted and in operation, than a new and powerful impulse was given to public sentiment by the French Revolution. The sentiments of General Pinckney were highly favorable to the principles and conduct of the revolution down to a late period, when their multiplied crimes and follies had forfeited the confidence of all reasonable men, and where the great body of the American people withdrew from it their admiration and esteem.

In 1794 he was appointed Major General and commander in Chief of the militia of South Carolina, and by great activity and attention very soon placed them on a respectable footing. At the time of his appointment there were but four troops of uniformed horse in the State, and when he left his command, in consequence of his appointment in the national army, the cavalry amounted to 200 in complete uniform. On all reasonable occasions he has unequivocally expressed his opinion that the Militia is the natural and efficient defence of this country and in the legislature of South Carolina contributed much to the formation and adoption of the present militia law of that State.

In the discussions which took place respecting the British treaty, General Pinckney took no part. He was elected one of a Committee for the city of Charleston to remonstrate against it, but declined serving, and never expressed any opinion on its merits; confining himself to the business of his profession, and the discharge of his official duties.

The next important incident in the life of Gen. Pinckney and that on which the future History of America will dwell with the most pride and satisfaction, is his embassy to the French Republic. Previously to his appointment to that embassy, he was often solicited by Gen. Washington to accept some federal appointment. When Mr. Jefferson declared his intention of resigning the office of Secretary of State, it was offered to Gen. Pinckney, but declined; and on the resignation of Judge Blair or Johnson (the writer does not recollect with certainty which) he was again solicited by Gen. Washington to accept a seat on the bench of the Supreme Court, but again declined. On the recall of Mr. Munroe from Paris, for misconduct in office, Gen. Washington (who knew that measure would be a fruitful theme for clamour) deemed it of importance to select a citizen as his successor who should unite splendid talents and correct judgment with discretion and intrepidity of character; it was also a desirable circumstance that he should be from one of the Southern States.—To Gen. Pinckney, whom he had so often endeavoured to allure to the first offices in government, Gen. Washington again addressed himself in a style which forbade refusal, and at the notice of three days he embarked from Charleston, where by his great and lucrative practice as a lawyer he had received within the preceding year four thousand guineas.

The history of this celebrated embassy is in the recollection of every American. The treatment experienced by General Pinckney at Paris, when the power and arrogance of the French Republic were at their height, the personal dangers which he braved while unprotected by the Law of Nations, and abandoned by a profligate government to the regulations of their own police against foreigners; the failure of the first embassy, and his return to Holland, are too well known to require that they should be particularly dwelt upon. The nomination of the second embassy, at the head of which Gen. Pinckney was placed by President Adams with the progress and ultimate failure of that attempt to negotiate through the arrogance, profligacy and corruption of the French rulers, are still better known, and will be remembered to the honor of General Pinckney as long as the gratitude of a just and generous people shall be the reward of exalted virtue and eminent services.

This reward he has in part had by the reception he experienced on his return to America; by the flattering approbation which his conduct received from his own government; and even by his praises extorted from his political enemies. In a speech in the House of Representatives, Mr. Giles (of Virginia) confessed that General Pinckney had conducted himself (alluding to the first embassy) "with discretion and ability."

Previous to his return to America he had been appointed a Major-General in the newly raised army. Immediately on his arrival he repaired to his command; where his attention was directed with success to the im-

provement of military discipline, until the army was disbanded by a resolution of Congress at the late session; when he retired with cheerfulness to the walks of private life, and distinguished by civil or military rank from the mass of his fellow-citizens.

Important as the public services of Gen. Pinckney will appear by this brief sketch, they will derive additional lustre and merit from the patriotic motives which have produced them. As he has never been known to solicit any other than the post of danger for which his intrepid character peculiarly qualified him; and in the course of a life, exposed by the nature of his two professions to personal altercation, his courage was often tried, and never questioned. High as his character stood at the bar of South Carolina for legal knowledge, displayed to great advantage by a masculine, nervous and impressive oratory; he deserved still higher praise for his incorruptible integrity, and the undeviating rectitude of his moral and professional conduct, by which he merited and established the reputation not only of a good citizen in all the social and domestic relations, but that so highly prized, and so seldom admitted, of an HONEST LAWYER.

His disinterestedness and intrepidity have entitled him to a character equally high as a soldier and patriot. In the regiment that he commanded at the commencement of the revolution were a number of near relations, none of whom were ever promoted or preferred by him on any occasion, and in all his appointments he was careful to select those exclusively who were distinguished by merit. A remarkable instance of his attachment to this correct principle occurred in his promotion of a private soldier of the name of Hamilton: whose daring valor, heroic spirit and military enterprise seemed to define him to command.—He was rapidly advanced; appointed to the command of a company, and soon after a Brigade Major.

Descended from a line of pious ancestors, Gen. Pinckney inherits from them a belief in the christian faith and a strict observance of its duties and ceremonies.—For many years previous to his mission to France he was a member of the vestry of a congregation in Charleston.

Nothing can more strongly demonstrate the solidity of his worth and talents than the great respect they have always commanded from his political opponents, more especially in the State where he resides. The democratic printer at Charleston, in republishing from the (Philad.) Aurora, all ways omits such passages as relate to General Pinckney.

The political ground on which he now stands is that of a firm but moderate Federalist. Unshackled by foreign influence or attachments, and possessing at the same time a complete knowledge of foreign politics and manners, derived from actual observation, he is anxious only to support the character of a True American. As the friend of Washington he reveres the memory of that great man, and supports his principles of policy and of administration.

The person and manners of Gen. Pinckney are peculiarly formed to give dignity and effect to an elevated public situation. Conversant with the world from his earliest years, he has none of that affected gravity which has often made great men ridiculous; and though the frankness of his character leads him to be communicative and unreserved on all subjects (not excepting politics) yet on all occasions a discretion seems to cover him with her mantle. Superior to the artifice which affects to make a secret of state affairs, he is limited in the discussion of political topics by no other consideration than that of prudence and propriety. To those who may be disposed to consider this sketch as the language of blind, undistinguished panegyric, it is a sufficient answer to say, that plain facts and sober reason will furnish no other result than that which is here given. The friends of a great man safely praise him, when his enemies have not dared to impeach him.

Col. Gen.

The American, who recollects the important services, as well as the eminent public and private virtues of General Washington—who has used to contemplate this illustrious hero as the glory and safe-guard of his country, must now be astonished at the impudence of the Jacobin writers, who endeavour to attach to their party the name of Washington, when it is remembered that since he has retired from the presidential chair, these wretches with the cruelty of United Irishmen, and the audacity of foreign mercenaries attempted to brand our American hero with the epithets MONOCRAT, MURDERER and TRAITOR; and from the press of the Aurora in 1797, they declare that "Mr. Washington has at length become TREACHEROUS even to his own fame." After much other abuse, equally false and virulent, levelled at General Washington, the jacobins proceed to unfold the views of the party.

And now all you, who love peace and abhor anarchy and civil war, all you who prefer the present settled order of things to Mr. Jefferson's "political convulsions" and "tempestuous sea of liberty" ATTEND to the following extract which issued from the Aurora press, for this declares the designs of the faction, and you may profit by it on the election ground.

EXTRACT.

"To prevent any other man from availing himself of a like dangerous ascendancy, as Mr. Washington, to do mischief, it is necessary to revise the federal and several of the state constitutions without delay. Until this is effected, America must remain a prey of internal factions, in consequence of her governments being separated too much from the people; her foreign politics also

must fluctuate with the fluctuations of her administrations. The same experience which tells us, that America ought not to place confidence in individuals, tells us nevertheless that she is too prone to do it. To remove therefore the double defect of a deceiving individual, and a credulous or indolent people; it is indispensably necessary to perfect by legitimate means the federal government, as well as others: Virginia, which first founded the alarm bell with respect to the stamp act, which never fails to exhibit respectable public men; and whose chief regret, since it has seen him become retrograde, is the having given birth and countenance to Mr. Washington; Virginia has again signalized herself by four wise resolutions at the present crisis. These should immediately be carried into effect. What regards the head of the federal executive, is, however, most pressing, since there is no imminence of controul existing over it in the Senate. If evil once in fifty years results from having an exclusive President in a country, it is sufficient reason for changing the present institution of a solitary President; and what reason is there per contra; what evil in a plural Directory, gradually renewed? The person at present chosen as Vice-President, would, in this case, no longer as now, be an inert personage. The executive government would no longer exhibit the fluctuating character of an individual, but approach nearer to the fixed abstract of the American nation. The French Directory, consisting of five persons, of which one is yearly replaced, has exhibited vigor, fecundity, and celerity, in a sufficient proportion, to make it more than a match for any monarchy, or for any aristocratical republic in Europe. It has succeeded as rapidly in uniting the French Republic as the monarch at Washington has succeeded in dividing that of America.

TENCH COXE—

REVISED.

MR. WAYNE,

A reference having been made by Tench Coxe to me in the Aurora of the 9th instant, upon the subject of Mr. Adams's political opinions, I conceive it my duty to publish the following occasion of it.

During an evening Mr. Coxe spent with me a few weeks ago, in the course of conversation, he spoke of the monarchical principles which were held by some people in this country. I replied by saying, "if I were to mention all the opinions, and wishes I had heard upon that subject, I should be persecuted out of our Country." These opinions, and wishes came chiefly from private citizens. As they were uttered in private conversation, the authors of them were not mentioned, and shall never be known. None of them came from Mr. Adams. I declare I never heard him express any other opinions on government than those contained in his defence of the American Constitution, and that I never heard him express a wish for a monarchy in the United States. On the contrary, I have uniformly heard him say in conversation, as he has done in his works, that our present government was best calculated for our country.

BENJAMIN RUSH.

October 11, 1800.

To the People of Pennsylvania,

TO those who have anxiously viewed and deplored the course of administration pursued in those parts of the Union in which our political opponents wield the rod of power, it is needless to paint the dreadful consequences to be apprehended should the general government also fall into their hands. That their hopes look confidently to this event and that it will not be prevented by the utmost exertion on the part of the friends of the government is indubitably true. At the ensuing election of a President and Vice President, the great effort will be made and its issue involves all that is dear to us.

The importance of the vote of Pennsylvania in deciding this momentous question in known and acknowledged by both parties, and we may rest assured that our enemies are not at this moment idle in plotting measures and intrigues to procure her weight and influence in their favour. Their present silence and apparent inaction should not lead us to believe that they have abandoned their purpose, but rather that they cover some desperate project, and that they are preparing to seize by surprise what they cannot obtain by regular proceeding.

Among other things we have understood that it is intended by them to use every effort to obtain favorable changes in the Senators to be chosen at the next election, and if a small majority should then remain attached to the Federal interest, either artful measures will be attempted to keep them out of the way, or the Legislature will be suddenly convened that the members not before apprized to hold themselves in readiness will not have time to arrive at Lancaster before the mischief is done.

Against these two things then we beg leave to put you on your guard, and earnestly to exhort you to leave nothing undone to secure a favorable return of Senators, and to advise those who are now in the Senate or shall be elected to hold themselves in readiness at moment's warning to proceed to the seat of Government.

William Rawle, Levi Hollingsworth, John Inskip, Robert Wharton, Thomas Fitzsimons, Joseph Hopkinson, John Caldwell

A committee of correspondence appointed by the Federal Citizens of Philadelphia.

CITIZENS—ATTEND

To the following extracts from the Election Law.

Qualification of Voters.

No person shall be permitted to vote at any General or Special Election, or for Inspectors thereof, other than citizens of this State of the age of twenty-one years or more, and who have resided therein two years next before the election, and within that term, paid a state or county tax, which shall have been assessed at least six months before the election; provided, that the sons of citizens, qualified as aforesaid, between the ages of twenty-one and twenty-two years, shall be entitled to vote, although they shall not have paid taxes; and every citizen having paid taxes and resided as aforesaid, and claiming a right to vote, shall make due proof thereof as follows, viz.

First, That he is a natural born citizen of this State, or was settled therein on the 28th of September, 1776; or having been a Foreigner, who since that time came to settle therein, he hath taken an oath, or affirmation of allegiance to the same on or before the 26th day of March 1790, agreeably to the then existing Constitution and Laws; or,

Secondly, That he is a natural born citizen of some other of the United States, or had been lawfully admitted or recognized as a citizen of some one of the said States on or before the 26th of March 1790; or

Thirdly, That having been a foreigner or alien he hath been naturalized conformably to the laws of the United States.

Non-qualified persons interfering.

If any person who is not qualified to vote in this State, agreeably to the provisions of this act (except the sons of qualified citizens) shall appear at any place of election, for the purpose of influencing tickets, or of influencing the citizens qualified to vote, every person interfering in the manner aforesaid, shall forfeit and pay any sum not exceeding thirty dollars for every such offence.

At a meeting of the citizens of Philadelphia, held pursuant to a public notice at Mr. Dunwoody's Tavern, on Thursday evening the 18th September.

JOHN MILLER, jun. was appointed

Chairman, and

THOMAS B. ADAMS, Sec'y.

A list of the members proposed for the Select and Common Councils was read, and a number of alterations being proposed as substitutes for persons who declined serving.

Whereupon, Resolved unanimously, That this meeting will support the following Tickets at the ensuing election for members of the Select and Common Councils.

Resolved, That the names of the members of both councils, agreed upon this evening be published, together with the names of those who have heretofore been agreed upon as candidates for the several offices of Members of Assembly.

Congress.

Francis Gurney,

Senator.

Nathaniel Newlin.

Assembly.

William Hall

George Fox

Godfrey Haga

Samuel W. Fifer

John Bleakley

H. K. Helmuth.

Select Council.

Henry Pratt

William Pointell

Thomas Parker

Andrew Bayard

William Dawson, in the room of

Thomas Crompton, resigned.

Common Council.

Robert Ralston

John Morrell

George Krebs

Isaac Snowdun, jun.

George Dougherty

Kearney Wharton

Jacob Cresler

Malcom McDonald

Pascal Hollingsworth

Timothy Paxton

William Young

Jacob Lawerfwyler

Jonathan W. Condy

Charles W. Hare

John Carrol

Daniel Smith

Lawrence Herbert

Alexander Henry

Thomas P. Cope

James Milnor.

Bookellers, Printers, and private Gentlemen, holding subscription papers for the publication of THE FARRAGO and LAY PREACHER, will please, on, or before the middle of November next, to forward them to Philadelphia, in a cover, open at the ends, in the manner in which newspapers are usually transmitted. It is requested that they be addressed to ASBURY DICKINS, Bookseller, Philadelphia. Gentlemen, in different parts of the United States, and in British America, who have not had an opportunity to subscribe to both, or either of the above performances, may address as above their letters, if paid; their wishes shall be complied with, and their names, if sent seasonably, shall be added to the list of subscribers, to be prefixed to the volumes.

Lost or Stolen,

A white Spaniel DOG, marked with large liver coloured spots, large ears and short tail, and answers to the name of Carlo. Two dollars reward will be given, if returned to No. 27, north Front Street, or if stolen, Ten Dollars for Thief and Dog. October 10 434