EULOGIUM ON GEN. LAFAYETTE. ORATION

ON THE LIFE AND CHARACTER OF Gilbert Motier De Lafayette: Milipert expected from Message of the Congress of the United States, before them, in the House of Representatives at Washington, on the 31st of December, 1934, by

## JOHN QUINCY ADAMS

A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE. [CONCLUDED FROM OUR LAST.]

In the month of April, 1776, the combined.wisdom of the Count de Vergennes and of M. Turgot, the Prime Minister, and the Financier of Louis the Sixteenth, had bro't him to the conclusion that the event the most desirable to France, with regard to the controversy between Great Britain and her American Colonies, was that the insurrection should be suppressed. This judgment evincing only the total absence of all moral considerations, in the estimate by these emi nent statesmen, of what was desirable to France, had undergone a great change by the close of the year 1777. The Declaration of Independence had changed the question between the parties. The popular feeling of France was all on the side of the Americans. The daring and romantic move ment of Lafavette in defiance of the Government itself, then highly favored by public opinion, was followed by universal admiration. The spontaneous spirit of the people gradually spread itself even over the rank corruption of the court; a suspicious and deceptive neutrality succeeded to an ostensible exclusion of the insurgents from the ports of France, till the capitulation of Burgoyne satisfied the casuats of international law at Versailles that the suppression of the insurrection was no longer the most desirable of events; but that the United States were, de facto, sovereign and independent; and that France might conclude a treaty of commerce with them, without giving just cause of offence to the step mother country. On the 6th of February, 1778, a treaty of Commerce between France and the United States was concluded, and with it, on the same day a Treaty of eventual Defensive Alliance, to take effect only in the event of Great Britain's resenting by war against France, the consummation of the Commercial Treaty. The war immediately ensued. and in the summer of 1778 a French fleet, under the command of Count d'Estaing was sent to co-operate with the forces of the U. States for the maintenance of their Indepen-

By these events the position of the Marquis de Lafavette was essentially change It became necessary for him to remeta himself in the good graces of his Sovereig offended at his absenting himself that his country without reprinted but and more with the distingues calenger had begans

miledge part and accustors and belongers

esimpaign of 1778, with the approbation of his friend and patron the Commander-inchief, he addressed a letter to the President of Congress, representing his then present circumstances, with the confidence of affection and gratitude, observing that the sentithe presence of men who had done so much the British officer, the accomplice and vicfor their own. "As long (continued he) as tim of the detested traitor, Arnold. I thought I could dispose of myself, I made at my pride and pleasure to fight under American colors, in detence of a cause which dare more particularly call ours, because I had the good fortune of bleeding for her. Now, Sir, that France is involved in a war, I am urged by a sense of my duty, as well as before the King, and know in what manner he judges proper to employ my services.-The most agreeable of all will always be such as may enable me to serve the common cause among those whose friendship I had the happiness to obtain, and whose fortune I had the honor to follow in less smiling times. That reason, and others, which I leave to the feelings of Congress, engage me to beg from them the liberty of going home for the next winter.

"As long as there were any hopes of an active campaign, I did not think of leaving the field; now that I see a very peaceable and undisturbed moment, I take this opportunity of waiting on Congress."

In the remainder of the letter he solicited that, in the event of his request being granted, he might be considered as a soldier on furlough, heartily wishing to regain his colors and his esteemed and beloved fellow country.

On the receipt of this letter, accompanied ble to the Marquis, a compliance with his request, that body immediaty passed resolutions, granting him an unlimited leave of United States at his own most convenient time: that the President of Congress should write him a letter, returning him the thanks of Congress for that disinterested zeal which had led him to America, and for the services he had rendered to the United States by the exertion of his courage and abilities on many signal occasions, and that the Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States at the Court of Versailles should be directed to cause an elegant sword, with proper devices, to be made and presented to him in the name of the United States. These resolutions were communicated to him in a letter Monumental City, even then worthy to be expressive of the sensibility congenial to them, from the President of Congress, Hen. | the needed garments.

by Laurens. He embarked in January 1779, in the Frigate Alliance, at Boston, and on the suc- British Commander, exulted in anticipation living in retirement, and traversed ten States

shedding his blood: yet, instead of receiving | Washington. him with open arms, as the pride and orna-

his absence, indemnified him for the indignity of the courtly rebuke.

of Foreign Affairs and of War, urging the employment of a land and naval force in aid Lafayette," savs Dr. Franklin, in a letter of the 4th of March, 1780, to the President France, has been extremely zealous in sup porting our cause on all occasions, returns again to fight for it. He is infinitely esteemed and beloved here, and I am permerit a continuance of the same affection from America."

Immediately after his arrival in the U States, it was, on the 16th of May, 1780, nis return to America to resume his comwith pleasure a tender of the further services

of so gallant and meritorious an officer. signalised by military talents unsurpassed, all his own; not cheaply earned: poand by a spirit never to be subdued. At the bly won. His fall. time of the treason of Arnold, Lafayette was accompanying his Command.

an important

that it france in rach. At the close of the promote and secure that harmony and mutual good understanding indispensable to the with the vizor down, enters the ring to con- a solitary exception, even while I sp. ultimate success of the common cause. His tend with the assembled flower of Knightposition, too, as a foreigner by birth, a European, a volunteer in the American service, and a person of high rank in his native away, and disappears from the astonished country, pointed him out as peculiarly suit-

over the Southern portion of the Union, we land, in the hour of her deepest calamityfind Lafayette, with means altogether inad baring his bosom to her foes; and not at the peal to them to testify for your fathers of cutions of the Protestants had become uni equate, charged with the defence of the transient pageantry of a tournament, but for the last generation, that, so far as has dependence of the transient pageantry of a tournament, but for the last generation, that, so far as has dependence of the transient pageantry of a tournament, but for the last generation, that, so far as has dependence of the transient pageantry of a tournament, but for the last generation, that, so far as has dependence of the transient pageantry of a tournament, but for the last generation, that, so far as has dependence of the transient pageantry of a tournament, but for the last generation, that, so far as has dependence of the transient pageantry of a tournament, but for the last generation, that, so far as has dependence of the transient pageantry of a tournament, but for the last generation, that, so far as has dependence of the transient pageantry of a tournament, but for the last generation, that, so far as has dependence of the transient pageantry of a tournament, but for the last generation at the last gene by the lowe of my country, to present myself emergencies in which circumstances placed cissitudes of her fortunes; always eager to has been prophecy. Yes! this immensity wielded them. There was none to defend him, his expedients for encountering and appear at the post of danger—tempering the Temple of Freedom still stands, a lesson to them. surmounting the obstacles which they cast glow of youthful ardor with the cold caution oppressors, an example to the oppressed, and in his way are invariably stamped with the of a veteran commander; bold and daring in a sanctuary for the rights of mankind. Yes! of Virginia. were chiefly taken from the retreat; often exposed, but never surprised, United States have illustrated the blessings Eastern regiments, unseasoned to the climate of the South, and prejudiced against it as unfavorable to the health of the natives of with irresistible sway when of force to cope ened the very dissolution of the corps. Inretain his men, he appeals to the sympathies ing from his wound, to the storming of the of honor. He states, in general orders, the redoubt at Yorktown? great danger and difficulty of the enterprise. upon which he is about to embark; represents the only possibility by which it can promise success, the faithful adherence of longer in their service as an officer. So the soldiers to their chief, and his confidence that they will not abandon him. He then mon cause, that, to reward them, the rule of soldiers. And he closes with a tender of adds, that if, however, any individual of the any services which he might be enabled to detachment was unwilling to follow him, a render to the American cause in his own passport to return to his home should be from the Minister of War a notification that forthwith granted him upon his application. It is to a cause like that of American Indeby one from General Washington, recommending to Congress, in terms most honora- genial. After these general orders, nothing more was heard of desertion. The very date from the day of the capitulation of Lord cripples of the army preferred paying for their own transportation, to follow the corps, absence, with permission to return to the rather than to ask for the dismission which

had been made so easily accessible to all. But how shall the deficiencies of the military chest be supplied? The want of money was heavily pressing upon the service in of profound peace followed the great trievery direction. Where are the sinews of umph of Freedom. The desire of Lafayette was? How are the troops to march without once more to see the land of his adoption and shoes, linen, clothing of all descriptions, and other necessaries filife! Lafayette has found who had become to him as brothers, and the them all. From the patriotic merchants of friend and patron of his youth, who had be-Baltimore he obtains, on the pledge of his own personal credit, a loan of money ade- their desire once more to see him-to see quate to the purchase of the materials: and from the fair hands of the daughters of the to them in their affliction, induced him, in so called, he obtains the toil of making up

The details of the campaign, from its unpromising outset, when Cornwallis, the friend at Mount Vernon, where he was then seeding 12th day of February, presented that the boy could not escape him, till the of the Union, receiving every where from himself at Versailles. Twelve months had storming of the twin redoubts, in emulation their Legislative Assemblies, from the Mualready elapsed since the conclusion of the of gallantry by the valiant Frenchmen of nicipal Bodies of the cities and towns thro' Treaties of Commerce and of eventual Alli- Viomesnil, and the American fellow-soldiers which he passed, from the officers of the arance between France and the United States. of Lafayette, led by him to victory at York my, his late associates, now restored to the They had, during the greater part of that town, must be left to the recording pen of virtues and occupations of private life, and time, been deeply engaged in war with a History. Both redoubts were carried at even from the recent emigrants from Ire-

This was the last vital struggle of the war.

under arrest, with permission to receive vistown, Lafayette asked and obtained again a Congress assembled at Trenton. departure, greatly increased by his splendid marked by a grant of virtual credentials for He remained in France through the year the favor of his King. The ensuing year 1779. and returned to the scene of action was consumed in preparations, for a formidaearly in the ensuing year. He continued ble combined French and Spanish expediin the French service, and was appointed tion against the British Islands in the West to command the King's own regiment of Indies, and particularly the Island of Jamaidragoons, stationed during the year in va | ca; thence to recoil upon New York, and to rious parts of the Kingdom, and holding an | pursue the offensive war into Canada. The ncessant correspondence with the Ministers | fleet destined for this gigantic undertaking was already assembled at Cadiz; and Lafavette, appointed the chief of the Staff, was of the American cause. "The Marquis de there ready to embark upon this perilous adventure, when, on the 30th of November, 1782, the preliminary treaties of peace were of Congress, "who, during his residence in concluded between his Britannic Majesty on bled entertain of the zeal, talents, and merione part and the Allied Powers of France, Spain, and the United States of America, on the other. The first intelligence of this patronage of his Majesty. event received by the American Congress suaded will do every thing in his power to was in the communication of a letter from Lafavetto.

The war of American Independence is closed. The People of the North American Confederation are in union, sovereign and resolved in Congress, that they considered independent. Lafayette, at twenty-five vears of age, has lived the life of a patrimand, as a fresh proof of the disinterested arch, and illustrated the career of a hero. zeal and persevering attachment which have Had his days upon earth been then number. instly recommended him to the public confi ed, and had he then slept with his fathers, dence and applause, and that they received illustrious as for centuries their names had ed out the great interests which he believed have transcended them all. Fortunate should cultivate and cherish. In the follow-From this time until the termination of youth! fortunate beyond even the measure ing memorable sentences the ultimate obhe campaign of 1781, by the surrender of of his companions in arms with whom he jects of his solicitude are disclosed in a tone Lord Cornwalls and his army at Yorktown, had achieved the glorious consummation of deeply solemn and impressive. his service was of incessant activity, always | American Independence. His fame was

oscerity to the latest ., me rewards of their dangers and their bles. .... war, it toils. Lafayette had watched, and labored, and fought, and bled, not for himself, not for personal character, his individual rela- his family, not, in the first instance, even for ons with Washington, with the officers of his country. In the legendary tales of th the allied armies, and with the armies | Chivalry we read of tournaments at which a | the years of the existence mselves, had been specially ordered to foreign and unknown Knight suddenly pre- founders of this immense sents himself, armed in complete steel, and dom have all departed, save here hood for the prize of honor, to be awarded where, but in the life of Lafayette, has been from his lips fifty years ago was at once a seen the noble stranger, flying, with the parting blessing and a prophecy; for, were In the early part of the campaign of 1781, I tribute of his name, his rank, his affluence when Cornwallis, with an overwhelming his ease, his domestic bliss, his treasure, his breathing the breath of life, to be assembled perhaps, at the time, no deep impression on force, was spreading ruin and devastation blood, to the relief of a suffering and distant Territory of Virginia. Always equal to the a succession of five years sharing all the vipeculiarities of his character. The troops action; prompt in execution; rapid in purplaced under his command for the defence suit; fertile in expedients; unattainable in the splendor and prosperity of these happy you ask for the States General? Yes, Sir. never disconcerted; eluding his enemy when within his fancied grasp; bearing upon him the more rigorous regions of the North. with him in the conflict of arms? And what Desertions became frequent, till they threat is this but the diary of Lafayette, from the day of his rallying the scattered fugitives of stead of resorting to military execution to the Brandywine, insensible of the blood flow-

> Henceforth, as a public man, Lafayette is to be considered as a Frenchman, always active and ardent to serve the U.States, but no transcendent had been his merits in the comprogressive advancement in the armies of France was set aside for him. He received from the day of his retirement from the service of the United States as a Major General, at the close of the war, he should hold the same rank in the armies of France, to Cornwallis.

Henceforth he is a Frenchman, destined to perform in the history of his country a part, as peculiarly his own, and not less glorious than that which he had performed in the war of Independence. A short period the associates of his glory, the fellow-soldiers come to him as a father; sympathizing with in their prosperity him who had first come the year 1784, to pay a visit to the U.States. On the 4th of August, of that year, he landed at New York, and in the space of five

months from that time, visited his venerable withou cause against Great Britain, and the point of the sword, and Cornwallis, with land, who had come to adopt for their coun- same with that from which the American and then the People of the Colonies renoun-

ment of his country, a cold and hollow-heart- which, however, lingered through another for the possession of which they had been so accustomed to levy taxes upon the People by fabric of Government for themselves, and ed order was issued to him not to present year rather of aegotiation than of action - largely indebted to his exertions - and, final Royal Ordinances. But it was necessary held the people of Britain as foreigners himself at Court, but to consider himself Immediately after the capitulation at York- ly, from the United States of America in that these Ordinances should be registered friends in peace—enemies in war.

its only from his relations. This ostensible leave of absence to visit his family and his On the 9th of December it was resolved these Parliaments claimed the right of re- implied in the convocation of the States Genmark of the Royal displeasure was to last country, and with this closed his military by that body that a committee, to consist of monstrating against them, and sometimes eral, was a virtual surrender of absolute eight days, and Lafarette manifested his service in the field during the Revolutionary one member from each State, should be apprefused the registry of them itself. The power -an acknowledgement that, as exersense of it only by a letter to the Count de War. But it was not for the individual en- pointed to receive, and in the name of Con- members of the Parliaments held their officered by himself and his predecessors, it had Vergennes, inquiring whether the interdict joyment of his renown that he returned to gress take leave of the Marquis. That they cos by purchase, but were appointed by the been usurped. It was, in substance, an abtion upon him to receive visits was to be France. The resolutions of Congress ac- should be instructed to assure him that Con- King, and were subject to banishment or im- dication of his Crown. There was no powconsidered as extending to that of Doctor companying that which gave him a discre- gress continued to entertain the same high prisonment, at his pleasure. Louis the Fif- er which he exercised as King of France, Franklin. The sentiment of universal ad | tionary leave of absence, while honorary in | sense of his abilities and zeul to promote the miration which had followed him at his first the highest degree to him, were equally welfare of America, both here and in Eu-bohshed the Parliaments, but they had been on the same principle which denied him the rope, which they had frequently expressed restored at the accession of his successor. career of service during the two years of neg tiation, and by the trust of confidential and manifested on former occasions, and powers, together with a letter of the warm- which the recent marks of his attention to est commendation of the gallant soldier to their commercial and other interests had perfectly confirmed. "That as his uniform and unceasing attachment to this country the amount and need of which he was with they were not sparing in the use of it. The has resembled that of a patriotic citizen, the lavish hand daily increasing, bethought him- Representatives of the Third Estate, double United States regard him with particular self at last of calling for the counsel of othaffection, and will not cease to feel an interest in whatever may concern his honor and not the States General, but an Assembly of prosperity, and that their best and kindest Notables. There was something ridi wishes will always attend him."

And it was further resolved, that a letter be written to his Most Christian Majesty, to be signed by his Excellency the President of Congress, expressive of the high sense which the United States in Congress assemtorious services of the Marquis de Lafayette, and recommending him to the favor and

The first of these resolutions was, on the next day carried into execution. At a solemn interview with the Committee of Congress, received in their Hall, and addressed by the Chairman of their Committee, John Jay, the purport of these resolutions was communicated to him. He replied in terms of fervent sensibility for the kindness manifested personally to himself; and, with allusions to the situation, the prospect, and the duties of the People of this country, he point-

"May this immense Temple of Freedom." vid he, "ever stand, a lesson to oppressors, example to the oppressed, a sanctuary for oths of mankind! and may these hap- His views were more comprehensive. 1 States attain that complete splenwrity which will illustrate the

departed souls of its founders." Fellow-citizes. since these words we the point of taking wing. The prayer Lafayette is not yet consummated. Ages by the hand of Beauty; bears it in triumph upon ages are still to pass away before it tion, can have its full accomplishment; and, for multitude of competitors and spectators of its accomplishment, his spirit hovering over ments which bound him to his country could ed to the painful duty of deciding upon the the feats of arms. But where, in the rolls our heads, in more than echoes talks around never be more properly spoken of than in character of the crime, and upon the fate of of History, where, in the fictions of Romance, these walls. It repeats the prayer which Personal Liberty—Religious Liberty—and order, and the protection of persons and pro-

possible for the whole human race, now within this Hall, your Orator would, in your the Assembly, nor upon the public. Arbiname and in that of your constituents, ap- trary imprisonment, and the religious perseded upon them, the blessings of Lafayette struments even in the hands of those who with the smiles of a benignant Providence, of their Government, and, we may humbly hope, have rejoiced the departed souls of its founders. For the past, your fathers and you have been responsible. The charge of the States General has been made by the the future devolves upon you and your chil. Marquis de Lafayette? "Yes,Sir," and the dren. The vestal fire of Freedom is in your name of Lafayette was accordingly reported custody. May the souls of its departed to the King. founders never be called to witness its ex-

rity of its keepers! With this valedictory, Lafayette took, as He returned to France, and arrived at Paris on the 25th of January, 1785.

He continued to take a deep interest in the concerns of the United States, and exer- vernment in France was in progress. It has ted his influence with the French Govern-been a solemn, a sublime, often a most painment to obtain reductions of duties favorable ful, and yet, in the contemplation of great reto their commerce and fisheries. In the sults, a refreshing and cheering contemplasummer of 1786, he visited several of the tion. I cannot follow it in its overwhelming German Courts, and attended the last great | multitude of details, even as connected with review by Frederick the Second of his ve- the Life and Character of Lafayette. A seteran army—a review unusually splendid, cond Assembly of Notables succeeded the and especially remarkable by the attendance first; and then an Assembly of the States of many of the most distinguished military General, first to deliberate in separate orders commanders of Europe. In the same year the Legislature of Virginia manifested the finally, constituting itself a National Assemcontinued recollection of his services ren-bly, and forming a Constitution of limited dered to the People of that Commonwealth Monarchy, with a hereditary Royal Execuby a complimentary token of gratitude not tive, and a Legislature in a single Assembly less honorable than it was unusual. They representing the People. resolved that two busts of Lafayette, to be executed by the celebrated sculptor, Hou- General first assembled. Their meeting the same doctrine which played upon the don, should be procured at their expensethat one of them should be placed in their own Legislative Hill, and the other presented, which resulted in breaking them all down large majority of the National Assembly, ted, in their name, to the municipal authori- into one National Assembly. ties of the city of Paris. It was accordingly presented by Mr. Jefferson, then Minister had, in one respect, operated, in the pro-Plenipotentiary of the U. States, in France, and, by the permission of Louis the Sixteenth was accepted and, with appropriate solemnity placed in one of the Halls of the Hotel de Ville of the Metropolis of France.

We have gone through with one stage of of its principles to his own country.

gratulation and of joy, the effusions of hearts People without their consent. For nearly with the King and Parliament, but with the grateful in the enjoyment of the blessings two centuries the Kings of France had been British Nation. They re-constructed the in the Parliaments or Judical Tribunals; and The concession by Louis the Sixteenth,

> The finances of the Kingdom were in exers. He prevailed upon the King to convoke, culous in the very name by which this meeting was called, but it consisted of a selection from all the Grandees and Dignitaries of the Kingdom. The two brothers of the Kingall the Princes of the blood, Arch-bishops

and Bishops, Dukes and Peers—the Chancellor and Presiding Members of the Parliaments; distinguished Members of the Noblesse and the Mayors & Chief Magistrates of a few of the principal cities of the Kingdom, constituted this assembly. It was a representation of every interest but that of the -were members of the highest Aristocratheir deliberations should be confined exclusively to the subjects submitted to their con- chy, and while the Assembly was surroundsideration by the Minister. These were ceried by armed soldiers. Lafavette presented the insolvent Treasury, by assessments upon declaration of human rights ever proclaimed the privileged classes, the very Princes, No. in Europe. It was adopted, and became bles, Ecclesiastics, and Magistrates exclu- the basis of that which the Assembly probeen, his name, to the end of time, would it indispensable to their welfare that they sively represented in the Assembly itself. Of this meeting the Marquis de Laf yette

was a member. It was held in February, favette took comparatively little interest.

The Assembly consisted of one hundred and thirty-seven persons, and divided itself Government, and for ages into seven sections or bureaux, each preside popular commotion, a deputation of sixty ed by a Prince of the blood. Lafayette was allotted to the division under the Presidency of the Count d'Artois, the younger brother ages are of the King, and since known as Charles the occasion of the institution of the National The Tenth. The propositions made by Lafay. Guard throughout the Realm and of the ette were-

> 1. The suppression of Lettres de Cachet, abolition of all arbitrary imprison-

3. The c These were his demands.

The first and second of them produced.

But the demand for a National Assembly startled the Prince at the head of the Bureau. What! said the Count d'Artois, do was the answer of Lafayette, and for something yet better. You desire, then, replied the Prince, that I should take in writing, and report to the King, that the motion to convoke

The Assembly of the Notables was dissolved-De Calonne was displaced and bantinction by neglect, nor a soil upon the puished, and his successive undertook to raise the needed funds, by the authority of Royal he and those who heard him then believed. Edicts. The war of litigation with the Para final leave of the People of the U. States. liaments recommenced, which terminated that even to his last had he ever abandoned only with a positive promise that the States

General should be convoked. From that time a total revolution of Goof Clergy, Nobility, and Third Estate; but

Lafayette was a member of the States was signalized by a struggle between the fancy, and crept upon the kind-hearted beseveral orders of which they were compos-

The convocation of the States General gress of the French Revolution, like the controversy. It was on the part of the King all aftertime. of France, a concession that he had no lawful power to tax the People without their meeting of the States General, and while the life of Lasayette; we are now to see him consent. The States General, therefore, they were in actual conflict with the expiring acting upon another theatre-in a cause still met with this admission already conceded energies of the Crown, and with the excluessentially the same, but in the application by the King. In the American conflict the sive privileges of the Clergy and Nobility, British Government never yielded the con- another portentous power had arisen, and The immediate originating question which cession. They undertook to maintain their entered with terrific activity into the conoccasioned the French revolution was the supposed right of arbitrary taxation by force; troversies of the time. This was the pow-

it was the cause in which Lafayette had been laverted face, surrendered his sword to try the self-emuncipated land, addresses of Revolution had sprung-Taxation of the ced all community of Government, not only

teeuth, towards the close of his reign, had a- the lawfulness of which was not contestable right of taxation. When the Assembly of the States General met at Versailles, in treme disorder. The Minister, or Comptrol. May, 1769, there was but a shadow of the ler General, De Calonne, after attempting Royal authority left. They felt that the various projects for obtaining the supplies, power of the Nation was in their hands, and in numbers to those of the Clergy and the Nobility, constituted themselves a National Assembly, and, as a signal for the demolition of all privileged orders, refused to deliberate in separate Chambers, and thus compelled the Representatives of the Clergy and Nobility to merge their separate existence in the general mass of the popular Representation.

Thus the edifice of society was to be reconstructed in France as it had been in America. The King made a feeble attempt to overawe the Assembly, by calling regiments of troops to Versailles, and surrounding with them the half of their meeting.-But there was defection in the army itself; People. They were appointed by the King and even the person of the King soon ceased to be at his own disposal. On the 11th of cy, and were assembled with the design that July, 1789, in the midst of the fermentation which had succeeded the fall of the Monartain plans devised by him for replemshing to them his Declaration of Rights—the first mulgated with their Constitution.

It was in this hemisphere, and in our own country, that all principles had been imbibed. 1787, and terminated in the overthrow and At the very moment when the Declaration banishment of the Minister by whom it was was presented, the convulsive struggle beconvened. In the fiscal concerns which ab. tween the expiring Monarchy and the newsorbed the care and attention of others, La- born but portentous anarchy of the Parisian populace was taking place. The Royal Palace and the Hall of the Assembly were surrounded with troops, and insurrection was kindling at Paris. In the midst of the members, with Lafayette at their head, was sent from the Assembly to tranquilize the People of Paris, and that incident was the appointment, with the approbation of the King, of Lafayette as their General Commander-in-Chief.

This event, without vacating his seat in

---- or the reational As- | Guard was the armed militia of the whole sembly, representing the People of France- | Kingdom, embodied for the preservation of Representative Assembly of the People. | perty, as well as for the establishment of the liberties of the People. In his double caand of a Representative in the Constituent Assembly, his career, for a period of more than three years, was beset with the most imminent dangers, and with difficulties beyond all human power to surmount.

The ancient Monarchy of France had

crumbled into ruins. A National Assembly, formed by an irregular Representation of Clergy, Nobles, and Third Estate, after melting at the fire of a revolution into one body, had transformed itself into a Constituent Assembly representing the People, had assumed the exercise of all the powers of Government, extorted from the hands of the King, and undertaken to form a Constitution for the French Nation, founded at once upon the theory of human rights, and upon the preservation of a royal hereditary Crown upon the head of Louis the Sixteenth. Lafayette sincerely believed that such a system would not be absolutely incompatible with the nature of things. An hereditary Monarchy, surrounded by popular institutions, presented itself to his imagination as a practicable form of government; not is it certain this persuasion. The element of hereditary Monarchy in this Constitution was indeed not congenial with it. The prototype from which the whole fabric had been drawn, had no such element in its composition. A feeling of generosity, of compassion, of commiseration with the unfortunate Prince then upon the throne, who had been his Sovereign, and for his ill-fated family, mingled itself, perhaps unconsciously to himself, with his well-reasoned faith in the abstract principles of a republican creed. The total abolition of the monarchical feature undoubtedly belonged to his theory, but the family of Bourbon had still a strong hold on the affections of the French People; History had not made up a record favorable to the establishment of elective Kings-a strong Executive Head was absolutely necessary to curb the impetuosities of the People of France; and nevolence of Lafayette, was adopted by a sanctioned by the suffrages of its most intelligent, virtuous, and patriotic members, and was finally embodied in that royal democracy, the result of their labors, sent forth to Declaration of Independence in that of North | the world, under the guaranty of number-America. It had changed the question in less oaths, as the Constitution of France for

But during the same period, after the first

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