

EULOGIUM ON GEN. LAFAYETTE.

ORATION

ON THE LIFE AND CHARACTER OF Gilbert Motier De Lafayette: Delivered at the request of both Houses of the Congress of the United States, before them in the House of Representatives at Washington, on the 31st of December, 1834, 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 brought 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 eminent 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 movement of Lafayette 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 casuists 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 resorting 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 Independence.

By these events the position of the Marquis de Lafayette was essentially changed. It became necessary for him to re-arrange himself in the good graces of his Sovereign, and to assume a position which he occupied, in the eyes of his country, without having any other title than that of a private citizen. At the close of the campaign of 1778, with the approbation of his friend and patron the Commander-in-chief, he addressed a letter to the President of Congress, representing his then present circumstances, with the confidence of affection and gratitude, observing that the sentiments which bound him to his country could never be more properly spoken of than in the presence of men who had done so much for their own. "As long (continued he) as I thought I could dispose of myself, I made it my pride and pleasure to fight under American colors, in defence of a cause which I 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 by the love of my country, to present myself 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 soldiers. And he closes with a tender of any services which he might be enabled to render to the American cause in his own country.

On the receipt of this letter, accompanied by one from General Washington, recommending to Congress, in terms most honorable to the Marquis, a compliance with his request, that body immediately passed resolutions, granting him an unlimited leave of absence, with permission to return to the 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 expressive of the sensibility congenial to them, from the President of Congress, Henry Laurens.

He embarked in January 1779, in the frigate Alliance, at Boston, and on the succeeding 12th day of February, presented himself at Versailles. Twelve months had already elapsed since the conclusion of the Treaty of Commerce and the Alliance between France and the United States. They had, during the greater part of that time, been deeply engaged in war with a common cause against Great Britain, and

it was the cause in which Lafayette had been shedding his blood: yet, instead of receiving him with open arms, as the pride and ornament of his country, a cold and hollow-hearted order was issued to him not to present himself at Court, but to consider himself under arrest, with permission to receive visits only from his relations. This ostensible mark of the Royal displeasure was to last eight days, and Lafayette manifested his sense of it only by a letter to the Count de Vergennes, inquiring whether the interdiction upon him to receive visits was to be considered as extending to that of Doctor Franklin. The sentiment of universal admiration which had followed him at his first departure, greatly increased by his splendid career of service during the two years of his absence, indemnified him for the indignity of the courtly rebuke.

He remained in France through the year 1779, and returned to the scene of action early in the ensuing year. He continued in the French service, and was appointed to command the King's own regiment of dragoons, stationed during the year in various parts of the Kingdom, and holding an incessant correspondence with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and of War, urging the employment of a land and naval force in aid of the American cause. "The Marquis de Lafayette," says Dr. Franklin, in a letter of the 4th of March, 1780, to the President of Congress, "who, during his residence in France, has been extremely zealous in supporting our cause on all occasions, returns again to fight for it. He is infinitely esteemed and beloved here, and I am persuaded will do every thing in his power to merit a continuance of the same affection from America."

Immediately after his arrival in the U. States, it was, on the 16th of May, 1780, resolved in Congress, that they considered his return to America to resume his command, as a fresh proof of the disinterested zeal and persevering attachment which have justly recommended him to the public confidence and applause, and that they received with pleasure a tender of the further services of so gallant and meritorious an officer.

From this time until the termination of the campaign of 1781, by the surrender of Lord Cornwallis and his army at Yorktown, his services were of incessant activity, always signalled by military talents unsurpassed, and by a spirit never to be subdued. At the time of the treason of Arnold, Lafayette was accompanying his Command-

ing the war, it was, on the 16th of May, 1780, resolved in Congress, that they considered his return to America to resume his command, as a fresh proof of the disinterested zeal and persevering attachment which have justly recommended him to the public confidence and applause, and that they received with pleasure a tender of the further services of so gallant and meritorious an officer. From this time until the termination of the campaign of 1781, by the surrender of Lord Cornwallis and his army at Yorktown, his services were of incessant activity, always signalled by military talents unsurpassed, and by a spirit never to be subdued. At the time of the treason of Arnold, Lafayette was accompanying his Command-

ing the war, it was, on the 16th of May, 1780, resolved in Congress, that they considered his return to America to resume his command, as a fresh proof of the disinterested zeal and persevering attachment which have justly recommended him to the public confidence and applause, and that they received with pleasure a tender of the further services of so gallant and meritorious an officer. From this time until the termination of the campaign of 1781, by the surrender of Lord Cornwallis and his army at Yorktown, his services were of incessant activity, always signalled by military talents unsurpassed, and by a spirit never to be subdued. At the time of the treason of Arnold, Lafayette was accompanying his Command-

ing the war, it was, on the 16th of May, 1780, resolved in Congress, that they considered his return to America to resume his command, as a fresh proof of the disinterested zeal and persevering attachment which have justly recommended him to the public confidence and applause, and that they received with pleasure a tender of the further services of so gallant and meritorious an officer. From this time until the termination of the campaign of 1781, by the surrender of Lord Cornwallis and his army at Yorktown, his services were of incessant activity, always signalled by military talents unsurpassed, and by a spirit never to be subdued. At the time of the treason of Arnold, Lafayette was accompanying his Command-

ing the war, it was, on the 16th of May, 1780, resolved in Congress, that they considered his return to America to resume his command, as a fresh proof of the disinterested zeal and persevering attachment which have justly recommended him to the public confidence and applause, and that they received with pleasure a tender of the further services of so gallant and meritorious an officer. From this time until the termination of the campaign of 1781, by the surrender of Lord Cornwallis and his army at Yorktown, his services were of incessant activity, always signalled by military talents unsurpassed, and by a spirit never to be subdued. At the time of the treason of Arnold, Lafayette was accompanying his Command-

ing the war, it was, on the 16th of May, 1780, resolved in Congress, that they considered his return to America to resume his command, as a fresh proof of the disinterested zeal and persevering attachment which have justly recommended him to the public confidence and applause, and that they received with pleasure a tender of the further services of so gallant and meritorious an officer. From this time until the termination of the campaign of 1781, by the surrender of Lord Cornwallis and his army at Yorktown, his services were of incessant activity, always signalled by military talents unsurpassed, and by a spirit never to be subdued. At the time of the treason of Arnold, Lafayette was accompanying his Command-

averted face, surrendered his sword to Washington.

This was the last vital struggle of the war, which, however, lingered through another year rather of negotiation than of action.—Immediately after the capitulation at Yorktown, Lafayette asked and obtained again a leave of absence to visit his family and his country, and with this closed his military service in the field during the Revolutionary War. But it was not for the individual enjoyment of his renown that he returned to France. The resolutions of Congress accompanying that which gave him a discretionary leave of absence, while honorary in the highest degree to him, were equally marked by a grant of virtual credentials for negotiation, and by the trust of confidential powers, together with a letter of the warmest commendation of the gallant soldier to the favor of his King. The ensuing year was consumed in preparations, for a formidable combined French and Spanish expedition against the British Islands in the West Indies, and particularly the Island of Jamaica; thence to recoil upon New York, and to pursue the offensive war into Canada. The fleet destined for this gigantic undertaking was already assembled at Cadix; and Lafayette, appointed the chief of the Staff, was there ready to embark upon this perilous adventure, when, on the 30th of November, 1782, the preliminary treaties of peace were concluded between his Britannic Majesty on one part and the Allied Powers of France, Spain, and the United States of America, on the other. The first intelligence of this event received by the American Congress was in the communication of a letter from Lafayette.

The war of American Independence is closed. The People of the North American Confederation are in union, sovereign and independent. Lafayette, at twenty-five years of age, has lived the life of a patriarch, and illustrated the career of a hero. Had his days upon earth been then numbered, and had he then slept with his fathers, illustrious as for centuries their names had been, his name, to the end of time, would have transcended them all. Fortunate youth! fortunate beyond even the measure of his companions in arms with whom he had achieved the glorious consummation of American Independence. His fame was all his own; not cheaply earned.

ing the war, it was, on the 16th of May, 1780, resolved in Congress, that they considered his return to America to resume his command, as a fresh proof of the disinterested zeal and persevering attachment which have justly recommended him to the public confidence and applause, and that they received with pleasure a tender of the further services of so gallant and meritorious an officer.

ing the war, it was, on the 16th of May, 1780, resolved in Congress, that they considered his return to America to resume his command, as a fresh proof of the disinterested zeal and persevering attachment which have justly recommended him to the public confidence and applause, and that they received with pleasure a tender of the further services of so gallant and meritorious an officer. From this time until the termination of the campaign of 1781, by the surrender of Lord Cornwallis and his army at Yorktown, his services were of incessant activity, always signalled by military talents unsurpassed, and by a spirit never to be subdued. At the time of the treason of Arnold, Lafayette was accompanying his Command-

ing the war, it was, on the 16th of May, 1780, resolved in Congress, that they considered his return to America to resume his command, as a fresh proof of the disinterested zeal and persevering attachment which have justly recommended him to the public confidence and applause, and that they received with pleasure a tender of the further services of so gallant and meritorious an officer. From this time until the termination of the campaign of 1781, by the surrender of Lord Cornwallis and his army at Yorktown, his services were of incessant activity, always signalled by military talents unsurpassed, and by a spirit never to be subdued. At the time of the treason of Arnold, Lafayette was accompanying his Command-

ing the war, it was, on the 16th of May, 1780, resolved in Congress, that they considered his return to America to resume his command, as a fresh proof of the disinterested zeal and persevering attachment which have justly recommended him to the public confidence and applause, and that they received with pleasure a tender of the further services of so gallant and meritorious an officer. From this time until the termination of the campaign of 1781, by the surrender of Lord Cornwallis and his army at Yorktown, his services were of incessant activity, always signalled by military talents unsurpassed, and by a spirit never to be subdued. At the time of the treason of Arnold, Lafayette was accompanying his Command-

ing the war, it was, on the 16th of May, 1780, resolved in Congress, that they considered his return to America to resume his command, as a fresh proof of the disinterested zeal and persevering attachment which have justly recommended him to the public confidence and applause, and that they received with pleasure a tender of the further services of so gallant and meritorious an officer. From this time until the termination of the campaign of 1781, by the surrender of Lord Cornwallis and his army at Yorktown, his services were of incessant activity, always signalled by military talents unsurpassed, and by a spirit never to be subdued. At the time of the treason of Arnold, Lafayette was accompanying his Command-

try the self-emancipated land, addresses of gratulation and of joy, the effusions of hearts for the possession of which they had been so largely indebted to his exertions—and, finally, from the United States of America in Congress assembled at Trenton.

On the 9th of December it was resolved by that body that a committee, to consist of one member from each State, should be appointed to receive, and in the name of Congress take leave of the Marquis. That they should be instructed to assure him that Congress continued to entertain the same high sense of his abilities and zeal to promote the welfare of America, both here and in Europe, which they had frequently expressed and manifested on former occasions, and which the recent marks of his attention to their commercial and other interests had perfectly confirmed. "That as his uniform and unceasing attachment to this country has resembled that of a patriotic citizen, the United States regard him with particular affection, and will not cease to feel an interest in whatever may concern his honor and prosperity, and that their best and kindest 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 assembled entertain of the zeal, talents, and meritorious services of the Marquis de Lafayette, and recommending him to the favor and patronage of his Majesty.

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 pointed out the great interests which he believed it indispensable to their welfare that they should cultivate and cherish. In the following memorable sentences the ultimate objects of his solicitude are disclosed in a tone deeply solemn and impressive.

"May this immense Temple of Freedom," said he, "ever stand, a lesson to oppressors, an example to the oppressed, a sanctuary for the rights of mankind! and may these happy States attain that complete splendor and glory which will illustrate the Government, and for ages departed souls of its founders."

ing the war, it was, on the 16th of May, 1780, resolved in Congress, that they considered his return to America to resume his command, as a fresh proof of the disinterested zeal and persevering attachment which have justly recommended him to the public confidence and applause, and that they received with pleasure a tender of the further services of so gallant and meritorious an officer. From this time until the termination of the campaign of 1781, by the surrender of Lord Cornwallis and his army at Yorktown, his services were of incessant activity, always signalled by military talents unsurpassed, and by a spirit never to be subdued. At the time of the treason of Arnold, Lafayette was accompanying his Command-

ing the war, it was, on the 16th of May, 1780, resolved in Congress, that they considered his return to America to resume his command, as a fresh proof of the disinterested zeal and persevering attachment which have justly recommended him to the public confidence and applause, and that they received with pleasure a tender of the further services of so gallant and meritorious an officer. From this time until the termination of the campaign of 1781, by the surrender of Lord Cornwallis and his army at Yorktown, his services were of incessant activity, always signalled by military talents unsurpassed, and by a spirit never to be subdued. At the time of the treason of Arnold, Lafayette was accompanying his Command-

ing the war, it was, on the 16th of May, 1780, resolved in Congress, that they considered his return to America to resume his command, as a fresh proof of the disinterested zeal and persevering attachment which have justly recommended him to the public confidence and applause, and that they received with pleasure a tender of the further services of so gallant and meritorious an officer. From this time until the termination of the campaign of 1781, by the surrender of Lord Cornwallis and his army at Yorktown, his services were of incessant activity, always signalled by military talents unsurpassed, and by a spirit never to be subdued. At the time of the treason of Arnold, Lafayette was accompanying his Command-

ing the war, it was, on the 16th of May, 1780, resolved in Congress, that they considered his return to America to resume his command, as a fresh proof of the disinterested zeal and persevering attachment which have justly recommended him to the public confidence and applause, and that they received with pleasure a tender of the further services of so gallant and meritorious an officer. From this time until the termination of the campaign of 1781, by the surrender of Lord Cornwallis and his army at Yorktown, his services were of incessant activity, always signalled by military talents unsurpassed, and by a spirit never to be subdued. At the time of the treason of Arnold, Lafayette was accompanying his Command-

ing the war, it was, on the 16th of May, 1780, resolved in Congress, that they considered his return to America to resume his command, as a fresh proof of the disinterested zeal and persevering attachment which have justly recommended him to the public confidence and applause, and that they received with pleasure a tender of the further services of so gallant and meritorious an officer. From this time until the termination of the campaign of 1781, by the surrender of Lord Cornwallis and his army at Yorktown, his services were of incessant activity, always signalled by military talents unsurpassed, and by a spirit never to be subdued. At the time of the treason of Arnold, Lafayette was accompanying his Command-

Revolution had sprung—Taxation of the People without their consent. For nearly two centuries the Kings of France had been accustomed to levy taxes upon the People by Royal Ordinances. But it was necessary that these Ordinances should be registered in the Parliaments or Judicial Tribunals; and these Parliaments claimed the right of refusing against them, and sometimes refused the registry of them itself. The members of the Parliaments held their offices by purchase, but were appointed by the King, and were subject to banishment or imprisonment, at his pleasure. Louis the Fifteenth, towards the close of his reign, had abolished the Parliaments, but they had been restored at the accession of his successor.

The finances of the Kingdom were in extreme disorder. The Minister, or Comptroller General, De Calonne, after attempting various projects for obtaining the supplies, the amount and need of which he was with lavish hand daily increasing, betought himself at last of calling for the counsel of others. He prevailed upon the King to convoke, not the States General, but an Assembly of Notables. There was something ridiculous in the very name by which this meeting was called, but it consisted of a selection from all the Grandses and Dignitaries of the Kingdom. The two brothers of the King—all 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 People. They were appointed by the King—were members of the highest Aristocracy, and were assembled with the design that their deliberations should be confined exclusively to the subjects submitted to their consideration by the Minister. These were certain plans devised by him for replenishing the insolvent Treasury, by assessments upon the privileged classes, the very Princes, Nobles, Ecclesiastics, and Magistrates exclusively represented in the Assembly itself.

Of this meeting the Marquis de Lafayette was a member. It was held in February, 1787, and terminated in the overthrow and banishment of the Minister by whom it was convened. In the fiscal concerns which absorbed the care and attention of others, Lafayette took comparatively little interest.—His views were more comprehensive. The Assembly consisted of one hundred and thirty-seven persons, and divided itself into seven sections or bureaux, each presided by a Prince of the blood. Lafayette was allotted to the division under the Presidency of the Count d'Artois, the younger brother of the King, and since known as Charles the Tenth. The propositions made by Lafayette were—

1. The suppression of Lettres de Cachet, and the abolition of all arbitrary imprisonment.

2. The abolition of the Parliaments, and their replacement by a National Assembly, representing the People of France—Personal Liberty—Religious Liberty—and a Representative Assembly of the People.

These were his demands. The first and second of them produced, perhaps, at the time, no deep impression on the Assembly, nor upon the public. Arbitrary imprisonment, and the religious persecutions of the Protestants had become universally odious. They were worn-out instruments even in the hands of those who wielded them. There was none to defend them.

But the demand for a National Assembly startled the Prince at the head of the Bureau. What! said the Count d'Artois, do you ask for the States General? Yes, Sir, 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 States General has been made by the Marquis de Lafayette? "Yes, Sir," and the name of Lafayette was accordingly reported to the King.

The Assembly of the Notables was dissolved—De Calonne was displaced and banished, and his successor undertook to raise the needed funds, by the authority of Royal Edicts. The war of litigation with the Parliaments recommenced, which terminated only with a positive promise that the States General should be convoked.

From that time a total revolution of Government in France was in progress. It has been a solemn, a sublime, often a most painful, and yet, in the contemplation of great results, a refreshing and cheering contemplation. I cannot follow it in its overwhelming multitude of details, even as connected with the Life and Character of Lafayette. A second Assembly of Notables succeeded the first; and then an Assembly of the States General, first to deliberate in separate orders of Clergy, Nobility, and Third Estate; but finally, constituting itself a National Assembly, and forming a Constitution of limited Monarchy, with a hereditary Royal Executive, and a Legislature in a single Assembly representing the People.

Lafayette was a member of the States General first assembled. Their meeting was signalled by a struggle between the several orders of which they were composed, which resulted in breaking them all down into one National Assembly.

The convocation of the States General had, in one respect, operated, in the progress of the French Revolution, like the Declaration of Independence in that of North America. It had changed the question in controversy. It was on the part of the King of France, a concession that he had no lawful power to tax the People, without their consent. The States General, therefore, met with this admission already conceded by the King. In the American conflict the British Government never yielded the concession. They undertook to maintain their supposed right of arbitrary taxation by force; and then the People of the Colonies renou-

ced all community of Government, not only with the King and Parliament, but with the British Nation. They re-constructed the fabric of Government for themselves, and held the people of Britain as foreigners—friends in peace—enemies in war.

The concession by Louis the Sixteenth, implied in the convocation of the States General, was a virtual surrender of absolute power—an acknowledgment that, as exercised by himself and his predecessors, it had been usurped. It was, in substance, an abdication of his Crown. There was no power which he exercised as King of France, the lawfulness of which was not contestable on the same principle which denied him the right of taxation. When the Assembly of the States General met at Versailles, in May, 1789, there was but a shadow of the Royal authority left. They felt that the power of the Nation was in their hands, and they were not sparing in the use of it. The Representatives of the Third Estate, double 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 re-constructed 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 hall of their meeting.—But there was defection in the army itself; and even the person of the King soon ceased to be at his own disposal. On the 11th of July, 1789, in the midst of the fermentation which had succeeded the fall of the Monarchy, and while the Assembly was surrounded by armed soldiers, Lafayette presented to them his Declaration of Rights—the first declaration of human rights ever proclaimed in Europe. It was adopted, and became the basis of that which the Assembly promulgated with their Constitution.

It was in this hemisphere, and in our own country, that all principles had been imbibed. At the very moment when the Declaration was presented, the convulsive struggle between the expiring Monarchy and the newborn 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 popular commotion, a deputation of sixty members, with Lafayette at their head, was sent from the Assembly to tranquilize the People of Paris, and that incident was the occasion of the institution of the National Guard throughout the Realm and of the appointment, with the approbation of the King, of Lafayette as their General Commander-in-Chief.

This event, without vacating his seat in

Guard was the armed militia of the whole Kingdom, embodied for the preservation of order, and the protection of persons and property, as well as for the establishment of the liberties of the People. In his double capacity of Commander General of this force, and 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; no is it certain that even to his last had he ever abandoned 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 impetuosity of the People of France; and the same doctrine which played upon the fancy, and crept upon the kind-hearted benevolence of Lafayette, was adopted by a large majority of the National Assembly, 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 the world, under the guaranty of numberless oaths, as the Constitution of France for all after time.

But during the same period, after the first meeting of the States General, and while they were in actual conflict with the expiring energies of the Crown, and with the exclusive privileges of the Clergy and Nobility, another portentous power had arisen, and entered with terrific activity into the controversies of the time. This was the pow-

er, and the same doctrine which played upon the fancy, and crept upon the kind-hearted benevolence of Lafayette, was adopted by a large majority of the National Assembly, 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 the world, under the guaranty of numberless oaths, as the Constitution of France for all after time.

er, and the same doctrine which played upon the fancy, and crept upon the kind-hearted benevolence of Lafayette, was adopted by a large majority of the National Assembly, 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 the world, under the guaranty of numberless oaths, as the Constitution of France for all after time.

er, and the same doctrine which played upon the fancy, and crept upon the kind-hearted benevolence of Lafayette, was adopted by a large majority of the National Assembly, 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 the world, under the guaranty of numberless oaths, as the Constitution of France for all after time.

er, and the same doctrine which played upon the fancy, and crept upon the kind-hearted benevolence of Lafayette, was adopted by a large majority of the National Assembly, 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 the world, under the guaranty of numberless oaths, as the Constitution of France for all after time.

er, and the same doctrine which played upon the fancy, and crept upon the kind-hearted benevolence of Lafayette, was adopted by a large majority of the National Assembly, 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 the world, under the guaranty of numberless oaths, as the Constitution of France for all after time.