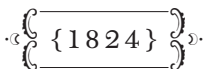


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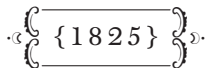
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Volume 22

1 November 1824 to 3 May 1825

JEFFERSON CHRONOLOGY

1743 • 1826

- 1743 Born at Shadwell, 13 April (New Style).
1760–1762 Studies at the College of William and Mary.
1762–1767 Self-education and preparation for law.
1769–1774 Albemarle delegate to House of Burgesses.
1772 Marries Martha Wayles Skelton, 1 January.
1775–1776 In Continental Congress.
1776 Drafts Declaration of Independence.
1776–1779 In Virginia House of Delegates.
1779 Submits Bill for Establishing Religious Freedom.
1779–1781 Governor of Virginia.
1782 Martha Wayles Skelton Jefferson dies, 6 September.
1783–1784 In Continental Congress.
1784–1789 In France on commission to negotiate commercial treaties and then as minister plenipotentiary at Versailles.
1790–1793 Secretary of State of the United States.
1797–1801 Vice President of the United States.
1801–1809 President of the United States.

RETIREMENT

- 1809 Attends James Madison's inauguration, 4 March.
Arrives at Monticello, 15 March.
1810 Completes legal brief on New Orleans batture case, 31 July.
1811 Batture case dismissed, 5 December.
1812 Correspondence with John Adams resumed, 1 January.
Batture pamphlet preface completed, 25 February; printed by 21 March.
1814 Named a trustee of Albemarle Academy, 25 March.
Resigns presidency of American Philosophical Society, 23 November.
1815 Sells personal library to Congress.
1816 Writes introduction and revises translation of Destutt de Tracy, *A Treatise on Political Economy* [1818].
Named a visitor of Central College, 18 October.
1817 Cornerstone laid for first structure at Central College (later Pavilion VII, University of Virginia), 6 October.
1818 Attends Rockfish Gap conference to choose location of proposed University of Virginia, 1–4 August.
Visits Warm Springs, 7–27 August.
1819 University of Virginia chartered, 25 January; named to Board of Visitors, 13 February; elected rector, 29 March.
Debts greatly increased by bankruptcy of Wilson Cary Nicholas.
1820 Likens debate over slavery and Missouri statehood to "a fire bell in the night," 22 April.
1821 Writes memoirs, 6 January–29 July.
1823 Visits Poplar Forest for last time, 16–25 May.
1824 Lafayette visits Monticello, 4–15 November.
1825 University of Virginia opens, 7 March.
1826 Writes will, 16–17 March.
Last recorded letter, 25 June.
Dies at Monticello, 4 July.

THE PAPERS OF THOMAS JEFFERSON



From Thomas W. Gilmer and Horace W. Bramham

DEAR SIR

Charlottesville 1st October [Nov.] 1824

By a resolution of the Standing Committee for the county of Albemarle, we have been deputed in the name of our fellow-citizens, to solicit your attendance on friday next at a public dinner to be given to general La Fayette at the university of Virginia. We trust you will do us the honor to attend and unite with us in manifesting to this distinguished benefactor of our country, every evidence of gratitude.¹

With great respect and esteem we have the honor to be your very obedient humble servants

THOMAS. W. GILMER }
HORACE. W. BRAMHAM— }

RC (MHi); entirely in Gilmer's hand; misdated; endorsed by TJ as a letter from Gilmer and Bramham dated (brackets in original) "Oct. 1. [for Nov.]" received 2 Nov. 1824 and so recorded in SJL.

Thomas Walker Gilmer (1802–44), attorney and public official, was born in Albemarle County, a nephew of TJ's correspondents Francis W. Gilmer and Peachy R. Gilmer. He studied law locally and began practicing in the courts of Albemarle, Buckingham, and Fluvanna counties by 1822. Gilmer became the editor of the Charlottesville *Central Gazette* in 1825, purchased the newspaper two years later in partnership with John A. G. Davis and renamed it the *Virginia Advocate*, and sold it the year after that. He supported Andrew Jackson until the Nullification crisis, when Gilmer's strong states' rights stance led him to switch his political allegiance to the Whigs. For five terms between 1829 and 1836 he represented Albemarle County in the Virginia House of Delegates. Re-elected for two additional ses-

sions, 1839–40, Gilmer served as Speaker until he was elected governor in the latter year. His brief gubernatorial term was marked by a dispute with New York governor William H. Seward over Seward's refusal to extradite three Black sailors who assisted an enslaved man's escape from Norfolk. Gilmer resigned abruptly in March 1841 after concluding that the General Assembly had given him inadequate support in this controversy. He was elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1841 and 1843. A supporter of John Tyler, the president appointed Gilmer secretary of the navy in 1844. He served for less than two weeks before he was killed when a cannon exploded on the USS *Princeton*. Gilmer owned five slaves in 1840 (*ANB*; *DAB*; Robert A. Brock and Virgil A. Lewis, *Virginia and Virginians* [1888], 1:184–94; *Richmond Enquirer*, 8 Mar. 1822, 3 May 1825, 23 Mar. 1841; Leonard, *General Assembly*; *JHD* [1839–40 sess.], 229 [14 Mar. 1840]; DNA: RG 29, CS, Albemarle Co., 1840; *Journal of the Senate of the*

1 NOVEMBER 1824

State of New-York, at their Sixty-Third Session [1840], 36; *JEP*, 6:235, 236 [15 Feb. 1844]; *JHR* [28th Cong., 1st sess.], 511 [29 Feb. 1844]; *Alexandria Gazette*, 29 Feb. 1844; Albemarle Co. Circuit Court Will Book, 1:35, 92).

Gilmer and Bramham sent a similar letter to James Madison on the same date (Madison, *Papers, Retirement Ser.*, 3:422).

¹Manuscript: “gratidue.”

To James Madison

MY DEAR SIR

Monticello Nov. 1. 24.

I recieved yesterday from La Fayette a letter confirming his movements as stated in the *Enquirer* of Friday last. he says he will be here on Thursday next, and expresses his hope to meet you here. I presume you also have heard from him, but hope, at any rate, this will reach you in time to be with us on Wednesday. if mrs Madison will accompany you it will be the more welcome to us all.¹ there is a scarcity of carriages here. yours will be a convenience if you can come in it. I know nothing certain² of his subsequent movements, but the understanding³ is that he goes hence to Montpellier and thence to Fredsburg.—nothing more from Gilmer. Yours affect^{ly}

TH: JEFFERSON

RC (John Skelton Williams, Richmond, 1946; photocopy in ViU: TJP). Dft (DLC); on verso of reused address cover to TJ; endorsed by TJ as a letter to “Madison James.”

indicated that he would proceed to Albemarle by way of Goochland and Fluvanna counties; and reported that he was expected to arrive at Monticello “by 3 o'clock on Thursday.”

The *Richmond Enquirer* of FRIDAY, 29 Oct. 1824, described Lafayette’s visits to Norfolk, Richmond, and Williamsburg;

¹Dft: “to all parties.”

²Word not in Dft.

³Dft: “belief.”

From Bernard Peyton

D^R SIR,

Rich^d 1 Nov^r 1824

Above I hand $\frac{3}{4}$ sales your Flour on hand, at best prices going, which hope will be satisfactory—

I deliv^d your letter to Gen^l La Fayette, who leaves here tomorrow, for Monticello, & will dine with you on Thursday next—I sincerely regret that I cannot accompany him, as I had intended, M^r Roane of the council, & son of the late Judge Roane, substitutes me—

Yours very Truly

B. PEYTON

RC (MHi); subjoined to enclosure; date-line at foot of text; endorsed by TJ as re-

ceived 4 Nov. 1824 and so recorded in SJL. RC (MHi); address cover only; with

2 NOVEMBER 1824

Dft of TJ to Charles Willson Peale, 15 “M^r Jefferson Monticello Charlottesville”;
 Sept. 1825, on recto and verso; addressed: franked; postmarked Richmond, 1 Nov.

E N C L O S U R E

Account with Bernard Peyton for Flour Sales

Sales of Two hundred Barrels flour by Bernard Peyton
 1824 Rich^d for $\frac{3}{4}$. Thomas Jefferson Esq^r
 29 Octo: To Capt: Beecher for Cash in Store
 100 Barrels Superfine flour at $\$4\frac{5}{8}$ \$462.50
 99 do. do. do. at $4\frac{11}{16}$ 464.06
 1 do. Fine do. at $4\frac{31}{100}$ 4.31
 \$930.87

Charges.

Cash p^d freight at 43¢. $\text{\textcircled{P}}$ bll: \$86—Canal
 Toll \$20.84— \$106.84
 Storage, Drayage & cooperage at 8¢. \$16—
 Inspection \$4.— 20.00
 Commission at $2\frac{1}{2}$ $\text{\textcircled{P}}$ Cent 23.26 \$150.10
 Nett Prcd^s at c^r T.J.— \$780.77

E.E.
 BERNARD PEYTON
 $\text{\textcircled{P}}$ N. N. WILKINSON
 Rich^d 1 Nov^r 1824

MS (MH_i); entirely in N. N. Wilkin-
 son's hand; with covering letter subjoined.

E.E.: “Errors Excepted.”

From Bernard Peyton

DEAR SIR,

Rich^d 2^d Novem^r 1824

My particular friends M^r W^m H. Roane & Jn^o Campbell of the Executive, both of whom you already know personally, have the happiness to be the particular attendants & escort of Gen^l La Fayette to Monticello, and altho their high character and official stations would ensure them the usual attentions at your hands, I have tho't that you would be glad to be apprised of the particular functions they were discharging on the present occasion, and it is for that reason that I trouble you with this—

I regret much that it is not in my power to be with you on the present occasion, as I promised, other pressing duties forbid it—

With sincere regard D^r sir Yours very Truly

BERNARD PEYTON

2 NOVEMBER 1824

RC (MHi); endorsed by TJ as received 4 Nov. 1824 “by Roane & Campbell” and so recorded in S.JL.

William Henry Roane (1787–1845), attorney and public official, was born in Hanover County, the eldest son of TJ’s correspondent Spencer Roane and a grandson of Patrick Henry. He attended the College of William and Mary in 1804. Roane began practicing law in 1808 and owned a 1,000-acre plantation in King and Queen County three years later. He represented that county for three terms in the Virginia House of Delegates, 1812–15, served in the United States House of Representatives as a Republican, 1815–17, and sat on the Virginia Council of State from 1824 until 1826. Roane returned to the House of Delegates for three more terms, 1831–34, this time representing Hanover County. He declined a nomination by Andrew Jackson as deputy postmaster of Richmond in 1837, accepting election instead to complete a term in the United States Senate that ended in 1841. Roane supported Jack-

son during the 1828 presidential election, was an elector for him in 1832 and for Martin Van Buren in 1836, and played an important role in the nomination of James K. Polk at the 1844 Democratic national convention. He owned fifty-four slaves in Hanover County in 1830 and thirty in Henrico County a decade later. Roane died at Tree Hill, his Henrico County plantation (“Roane Family,” *VMHB* 5 [1897]: 89; *William and Mary Provisional List*, 34; *Richmond Enquirer*, 8 Apr. 1808, 21 June 1811; DNA: RG 29, CS, King and Queen Co., 1810, Richmond City, 1820, Hanover Co., 1830, Henrico Co., 1840; Leonard, *General Assembly; Norfolk American Beacon and Commercial Diary*, 12 May 1817; Vi: RG 75, Journals of the Council of State, 9 Jan. 1824; *JHD* [1826–27 sess.], 22 [9 Dec. 1826]; *Richmond Enquirer*, 19 Jan. 1828, 31 Aug. 1832, 8 Dec. 1836, 13 May 1845; *JEP*, 4:610, 5:24 [16 Feb., 9 Mar. 1837]; Polk, *Correspondence*, 7:160–1; Henrico Co. Will Book, 12:27–8).

From William Short

DEAR SIR

Philad^a Nov: 2. 1824

I had this pleasure on the 3^d ult^o. I do not write this in order to add to the burthen of correspondence with which I know you are already overloaded, but merely to ask you to send me one line by the ministry of one of the young Ladies, that I may know how your health is, what news you have from M^r Gilmer, & whether M^{de} d’Epinay arrived safe. I sent her in three divisions by three different mails. The Telescope of Platina¹ for the University has been forwarded by M^r Vaughan, who sent the bill of lading to Co^l B. Peyton, Richmond.

Since I left you I have had the pleasure of recieving the agreeable account of the continuance of your health & spirits, from M^r Harris. There was one item on which I could not question him as to your health, but as to which I should be very glad indeed to hear one word from yourself. Although such cases are, if taken in their early stage, perfectly within the control of art in its present improved state, yet when neglected they often become very inconvenient. For your own satisfaction I would take the liberty of urging you to write to D^r Physick on the subject. He would understand you well & might perhaps

[6]

be of great service if there were need, & if not, no inconvenience could arise from consulting with him.

From the papers I see that la Fayette must be at this moment on his way to Monticello—There he may hope to have some repose, of which indeed he must have great need. Indeed I cannot conceive how he has been able to survive the campaign of bustle, confusion & excitement through which he has gone. To him on the contrary it seems to give new life & vigor. His residence in this country is a *beau rêve*, but I fear the *reveil* will be dreadful, because I fear that nothing efficient will be done. I was glad to see that the good people of Albemarle touched another key, but I do not perceive that the other parts of the State have followed it as I had expected. I am sorry also to see that Ritchie has not come out as he seemed to promise—And I fear a little therefore, that he has discovered it would not be on the popular side.

The most favorable symptom that I have discovered was in what was mentioned to me by a friend a few days ago. He said he had rec^d letters from the South which mentioned to him that something effective would certainly be done by Congress for the Nation's guest—that is, they would pay off his present debts in France amounting to \$50,000—& would give him during his life the pay & emoluments of a Maj^r General in the U.S. service—& w^{ch} he said would be about \$6000 a year. To mere letters from the South on this subject I should have paid little attention—but I have reason to believe that these letters are from one of their Matadors in Maryland & who is now in Congress, so that his opinion would be entitled to consideration. If indeed I were certain these letters were from him I should have great confidence in them, but I have only a conjecture as to that.

Since my return to this City I have been longer & more unwell than I am accustomed to be—but at this moment I consider myself in my *statu quo ante*—My indisposition I attribute to collecting an overstock of bile from my imprudence in travelling in the lower country during the month of August—It was my residence in the pure air of Monticello, which probably checked the progress of the bile & prevented its effect² at that time.³—I was after that, a whole night out on the Potomac & this renewed the quantity & the effects of the bile, so that I had for some time every symptom of a bilious disease of some sort. I was induced at length to take a certain quantity of medicine, by way of precaution (which is contrary both to my principles & my practise) & this relieved me by carrying off the overstock of bile. My next visit to Monticello shall be earlier in the season & by the way of Fredericksburgh, which will avoid the danger I imprudently & unnecessarily encountered this year. M^r Harris tells me he found the road

2 NOVEMBER 1824

very fine from Fredericksburgh to Monticello. I on the contrary found it the worst road I have travelled—This was occasioned by the ten days incessant rain previous to my departure, & also by the weakness of the horses which were hired to me, so that they could with great difficulty draw the carriage through the clay.

Many & minute enquiries have been, & continue to be made of me as to the University—Several of which I was sorry not to be able to answer, from having too much neglected to inform myself of details whilst with you. I was happy to be able to correct some errors which prevailed as to the subject of Religion—such as that all Religion was to be discouraged &c. The statement I gave seemed at the moment to be satisfactory, but whether it was really so I cannot say, for “He that’s convinced against his will &c.”— By this time you probably know whether M^r Gilmer will be able to bring his bataillon to the charge in time to open the fire on the day appointed—I should fear from the delays he met with on his arrival that he could not.

Be pleased to bring me to the recollection of the Ladies of your family, & with my best wishes for the continuance of your health & happiness, believe me

dear sir Your friend & servant

W: SHORT

RC (MHi); endorsed by TJ as received 7 Nov. 1824 and so recorded in SJL; with TJ’s checked notations beneath endorsement relating to his 9 Nov. 1824 reply: “my health Epinay Hall telescope Gilmer La Fayette his health affect^d by his journey University.” RC (DLC); address cover only; with Dft of TJ to Arthur S. Brockenbrough, 20 Sept. 1825, on verso; addressed: “Thomas Jefferson Monticello by Mail to Charlottesville Virginia”; stamp canceled; franked; postmarked Philadelphia, 3 Nov.

BEAU RÊVE: “beautiful dream.” REVEIL: “awakening.”

ONE OF THEIR MATADORS IN MARYLAND: probably George E. Mitchell, a United States representative from that

state who was soon appointed to the committee considering a federal appropriation of money and land to Lafayette (*JHR* [18th Cong., 2d sess.], 28 [8 Dec. 1824]).

HE THAT’S CONVINCED AGAINST HIS WILL derives from the third part of Samuel Butler, *Hudibras* (London, 1678, and later eds.; Sowerby, no. 4505; Poor, *Jefferson’s Library*, 12 [no. 785]): “He that complies against his Will, Is of his own opinion still.” BATAILLON: French for “battalion,” referring here to the professors hired from Europe for the University of Virginia.

¹Preceding two words interlined.

²Manuscript: “efect.”

³Preceding seven words interlined.

To James Leitch

Nov. 3. 24.

2 pr handirons, smallest size

1. pr middle sized

TH:J.

RC (ViCMRL, on deposit ViU: TJP-NJL); written on a small scrap; date-line beneath signature; at foot of text: "M^r Leitch." Not recorded in SJL. HANDIRONS: an obsolete variant of "andirons" (*OED*).

To Lafayette

Monticello Nov. 4. 24.

This, my dear friend, will be handed you by Tho^s Jefferson Randolph who goes with his fellow citizens to welcome y[o]u among us. he is my grandson and as such I am sure you wil[l] recieve him kindly, and the more so for his moral merit and the high veneration with which from his cradle he has been taught to entertain for you. — I am just recovered from an illness of some weeks, have been able to ride out twice, and am become¹ strong enough to embrace you, after our five and thirty years of separation, which I hope to do now within a few hours, and with all² the affection with which I have ever been yours

TH:J.

FC (DLC); on verso of reused address cover of Francis Glass to TJ, 16 July 1822; in TJ's hand; two words faint; at foot of text: "Gen^l La Fayette"; endorsed by TJ. Not recorded in SJL.

¹Word interlined.

²Word interlined.

Lafayette's Visit to Monticello and Charlottesville

- I. CHARLES DOWNING'S ACCOUNT OF LAFAYETTE'S VISIT TO MONTICELLO AND CHARLOTTESVILLE, [4–5 NOV. 1824]
- II. ANDRÉ NICOLAS LEVASSEUR'S ACCOUNT OF A VISIT TO MONTICELLO AND CHARLOTTESVILLE, [4–15 NOV. 1824]
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- X. THOMAS JEFFERSON'S ADDRESS AT RECEPTION FOR LAFAYETTE AT UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA, [5 NOV. 1824]
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E D I T O R I A L N O T E

During its 1823–24 session, members of the United States Congress learned that the Marquis de Lafayette, the celebrated French hero of the American Revolution, intended to visit the nation once more before he died. They requested President James Monroe extend him an official invitation to come, preferably in an American naval vessel “with suitable accommodation.” Monroe promptly complied, and on 11 July 1824 Lafayette left Paris for Le Havre, where two days later he embarked for the journey across the Atlantic in the *Cadmus*, an American merchant vessel. He was accompanied by his son, Georges Washington de Lafayette, and his private secretary, André Nicolas Levasseur. The *Cadmus* reached Staten Island on 15 Aug. With their arrival heralded by a cannon salute from Fort Lafayette, a flotilla escorted the visitors to shore. After spending their first evening in the home of Vice President Daniel D. Tompkins, Levasseur reported that the “acclamations of 200,000 voices” greeted Lafayette when he proceeded to New York City the next day. Accompanied by guards, each wearing his portrait, he encountered streets adorned with flags, and decorations and flowers thrown from windows. At public receptions Lafayette was greeted by Revolutionary War veterans, mothers asking that he bless their babies, “men of Color” thanking him for his “philanthropic efforts at various times in order to remove them from the

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ranks of those whom frightful prejudices still oppress in some regions,” and groups of young artisans. Deputations from neighboring cities and states invited him to visit. Lafayette divided his time in New York between receiving citizens and public officials and attending meetings of learned societies (*U.S. Statutes at Large*, 4:78 [4 Feb. 1824]; Levasseur, *Lafayette in America in 1824 and 1825*; *Journal of a Voyage to the United States*, trans. Alan R. Hoffman [2006; 3d printing, 2016], 1–8).

Similarly elaborate receptions were repeated again and again during a tour that ultimately extended to fourteen months and took Lafayette to all twenty-four states then in the Union. Jefferson congratulated him on his safe arrival in America and “restoration to those who love you more than any people on earth,” but he expressed a fear that his countrymen would “kill you with their kindness, so fatiguing and exhausting must be the ceremonies they force upon you.” Levasseur confirmed that travel was slow because they could not pass a town without the firing of cannon and a welcoming reception by the entire population. From New York, Lafayette traveled first to Boston and nearby Quincy, where he paid a quiet visit to the eighty-nine-year-old John Adams. From Massachusetts the party passed through the northeastern states, on to New Jersey, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, and southward to Yorktown in time for the anniversary there of the culminating Revolutionary War victory over the British. At this commemoration Chief Justice John Marshall, Virginia governor James Pleasants, and about five hundred troops welcomed the aging veteran, a band played “Yankee Doodle,” and more speakers showered Lafayette with praise. From Yorktown he proceeded at a leisurely pace through Williamsburg, Petersburg, and Richmond (Levasseur, *Lafayette in America*; TJ to Lafayette, 3 Sept. 1824; *Richmond Enquirer*, 22 Oct. 1824).

In Richmond, Lafayette advised Jefferson that he would not arrive in Albemarle County until 4 Nov. due to the “kindness of our friends on the Road” and the scheduled elections in the city. From the same place he notified the citizens of Charlottesville that he planned to “Reach Monticelo next thursday, and Shall, there Wait for Your Communications Respecting the day when You will advise me to present myself to You, and to offer to the Citizens of Charlotte Ville a tribute of my Gratitude and Respect.” A delegation headed by John H. Cocke escorted Lafayette’s party through Fluvanna County. They arrived at Columbia on 3 Nov. at “half after 2 o’clock” and, after formal addresses, were provided a “handsome collation” prepared by a “Mrs. Lee,” whose “abundant, neat and tasty preparation” was especially noteworthy because it was done “at a notice of two days only.” An hour later, with Lafayette’s carriage “drawn by stallions of the true English Hunter’s breed,” they traveled “more than nine miles” to Wilmington “in an hour and five minutes.” After an evening of dinner and many toasts, Lafayette set out for Monticello the next day (Lafayette to TJ, 28 Oct. 1824; Lafayette to the Citizens of Charlottesville, 1 Nov. 1824 [RC in NjP: Andre deCoppet collection]; Cocke to Louisiana B. Cocke, 8 Nov. 1824 [RC in ViU: JHC]; *Richmond Enquirer*, 12 Nov. 1824).

In the weeks preceding Lafayette’s arrival in Albemarle County, his reception had been meticulously planned. As early as 17 Sept. Alexander Garrett advised John H. Cocke that, while everyone was looking forward to welcoming Lafayette, “no two . . . as yet seem to agree upon any particular arrangements.” Garrett and the committee of arrangements had “call’d a meeting on monday next, to be held at our court house when (I hope) we shall all agree

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upon a plan to govern us on so interesting occasion" (Garrett to Cocke, 17 Sept. 1824 [RC in ViU: JHC]).

The documents printed below attest to the success of subsequent preparations and include the key descriptions of Lafayette's celebrated reunion with Jefferson and visits to Charlottesville and the University of Virginia. The exhaustive account that Charles Downing prepared for the newspapers is supplemented by both contemporary documents and later reminiscences of firsthand observers, both free and enslaved. They add fascinating details, such as Thomas Jefferson Randolph's recollection of a narrow escape from embarrassment when Lafayette arrived at the Albemarle County line before the welcoming escort was expecting him, Jane B. Cary (Smith)'s comments on Lafayette's table manners, the impressions of the author and reformer Frances Wright, and a description by Jefferson's enslaved coachman Israel Gillette (Jefferson) of a private conversation in which Lafayette expressed antislavery views to Jefferson and received an equivocal response.

Lafayette and his party stayed at Monticello for well over a week, departing on 15 Nov. 1824 for James Madison's Montpelier estate and a similarly enthusiastic reception in Orange County. From there they proceeded to Washington for the opening of Congress. In the ensuing months Lafayette toured the southern region of the United States as far south as Alabama and Louisiana before moving inland through Tennessee and Ohio and back to Pennsylvania and Massachusetts. A few weeks before the end of his extended journey, Lafayette returned to Monticello in August 1825 for a shorter, farewell visit. Madison and Monroe joined him in a stay somewhat clouded when Jefferson's "frail health" reduced him to "a state of painful inactivity." At last, Lafayette and his companions returned to Washington and boarded the USS *Brandywine* on 7 Sept. for their return to France, with one newspaper remarking that during his unparalleled visit the nation had "risen up as one man to do him reverence" (Levasseur, *Lafayette in America*; Levasseur's Account of a Second Visit to Monticello, [18–21 Aug. 1825]; *Richmond Enquirer*, 13 Sept. 1825).

I. Charles Downing's Account of Lafayette's Visit to Monticello and Charlottesville

[4–5 Nov. 1824]

On Thursday the Albemarle La Fayette Guards, preceded by a deputation from the Committee of Arrangements, marched to the county line to receive with the honors of a nation's gratitude, the 'Nation's Guest.' At 11 o'clock it was announced, by an advanced guard of his escort from Fluvanna, that the General was approaching. The citizens were drawn up in a line under the directions of Major Clarke, and the troop of Cavalry formed an imposing appearance in full line, and a handsome *civic* uniform, on the opposite side of the road.—When the General approached he was saluted by three loud and enthusiastic shouts of "Welcome La Fayette." The Committee of Arrangements

advanced to meet him, and at the centre of the line he alighted from his carriage, drawn by 4 elegant bays—Capt. Craven immediately formed his troop in a hollow square, of which the General was the centre; Mr. Rives, in a graceful and impressive manner, addressed him in the following words: GEN. LA FAYETTE.

We are come hither, in the name of the people of Albemarle, to meet you, at the *threshold* of our county, with a cordial and affectionate welcome, and to assure you of the lively sentiments of joy, with which your arrival amongst us is anticipated by every heart. In common with our fellow-citizens throughout the United States, we cherish the most grateful recollection of the generous and devoted zeal, which, in the darkest aspect of our revolutionary fortunes, enlisted you in the support of our cause, and which, at the sacrifice of every present enjoyment and at the hazard of all your future prospects, retained you in it, 'till, by your aid, it was crowned with the most glorious success. It was not the spirit of chivalry, however magnanimous, nor yet the love of fame, however honorable, which impelled you to this enterprise of noble daring. The history of your life bears witness that you were animated by the love of liberty alone, warmed and kindled into action by the spectacle of a brave, but infant people contending for their rights, in unequal conflict, against an “old and haughty nation, proud in arms.” Great, and incapable of adequate expression, as our obligations to you are for the services you rendered us in this eventful period of our annals, the measure of our gratitude would be yet far short of your deserving, if it found its limits here. In peace as well as war, in prosperity and adversity, through every change of our political destinies, you have been the constant friend, the faithful guardian of America. The diplomatic records of the nation shew that, after the close of our revolutionary struggle, your influence with the government of your native country was zealously and efficiently exerted, in aid of the illustrious citizen* who now waits to receive you, under his hospitable roof, with the enthusiasm of antient friendship, in securing for us important advantages in the future commercial intercourse of the two countries; and that in whatever has, at any time, concerned the interest, the power, or the glory of these States, wherever your voice could be heard or your influence interposed, you have manifested, in our behalf, the vigilance and activity of paternal solicitude.— In addition to these obligations, which are common to us and our brethren of the other States, and which, we trust, are felt alike by all, we owe you, as *citizens of Virginia*, a particular and extraordinary debt of gratitude. To your care was entrusted by the confidence of

* Mr. Jefferson, then Minister to France.

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Washington, (and the fact itself is your best eulogy,) the defence of Virginia against the legions of an invading foe; and so happily did you prove yourself worthy of his choice, that, although your force scarcely amounted to one-sixth of the enemy's, yet by the sagacity and promptitude of your manœuvres you kept him perpetually in check, and extended the shield of protection over every part of our territory. As of all the States of this confederacy, Virginia is most indebted to you, so, of all portions of Virginia, that, in which we have now the happiness to receive you, experienced most largely the benefit of your services. In the neighbourhood of this spot, you terminated a painful and laborious march through a then trackless forest, and by the terror of your approach, rescued our habitations¹ and our fields from impending desolation. History has recorded the movement as one of consummate enterprise and judgement, and the faithful tradition of our ancestors has identified the scene of it by the adjunct of your name,† which has continued to distinguish it, to the present day, and by its interesting associations, has tended to preserve in our hearts a lively remembrance of the services of our benefactor.—We are proud, General, exultingly proud, of this opportunity of testifying to you, in person, the sentiments of gratitude, veneration and affection, with which these, your various and exalted merits, have inspired us: and if we could venture, for a moment, to intrude upon the privacy of your domestic feelings, it would be, to breath a wish that we might be permitted in some small degree, to requite the generous care you took of our *infancy*, by tending your *age*, with filial assiduity, in the bosom of a country, which would feel itself *honored* by your residence, as it has been *blessed* by your exertions.

The General grasped his hand and warmly replied:

When after an absence of three and forty years, I find myself in this county of Albemarle, inhabited by a dear, and honored friend, the recollections, and feelings that croud upon my mind, cannot but be enhanced by your kind welcome, and your flattering expressions. The honor I had to be early admitted among the soldiers of our sacred cause, the choice made of me by our venerated commander in-chief, to defend this, his native State, the smallness, in the beginning of the campaign, of our forces, a disproportion so honorable to the troops I had the honor to command, are circumstances you have been pleased to mention in the most gratifying manner. Let me add, sir, the remembrance of my obligations to the gallant sons of upper Virginia, who, instead of being dismayed by the inroads of the enemy, hastened

† The road opened, on this occasion, is universally known in its neighbourhood by the name of the "Marquis's road."

to bring to us, at the fixed point, the precious reinforcement of their unerring shot. In your kind appreciation of my American services, on the other side of the Atlantic, I am happy to recognize the friendly partiality in my behalf, of your illustrious neighbour, but will only, at this moment, in return for your affectionate reception and good wishes, present to you and the citizens of Albemarle, the acknowledgments of a grateful heart, whose old devotion to this country, delights in their actual tranquillity and happiness.

This over, three loud cheers were spontaneously echoed from the troops and the crowd; the General and his suite were conducted into the house, (Mrs. Boyd's Tavern,) and refreshments tendered them.

At 12 o'clock, the Carriages provided by the Committee of Albemarle, were driven to the door for the General's departure. The Landau of Mr. Jefferson, drawn by four greys was allotted to the General. Two other carriages were in waiting for his family and suite, and a neat wagon for his baggage. The General ascended the landau, attended by Mr. Rives and Th. Jefferson Randolph, the Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements. As he drove from the door the troop from Fluvanna bid him a warm and heartfelt adieu. He was preceded in his route by a small detachment of cavalry and the deputation of the Committee of Arrangements; then followed the guards, and next, a large body of citizens who had assembled to do him honor, marshalled into order by the assistance of Major Clarke. In this manner they proceeded to Monticello.

Nothing could surpass in beauty and grandeur, the march of a long and animated procession, through a mountain's meanders—as it wound around the hill and descended the River below the little town of Milton, the General himself drew the attention of his immediate companions to the moving scenery around him, and highly complimented the imposing appearance of the guards. To an indifferent spectator, if any could be indifferent, it seemed that thousands of Freemen had sprung up from the hills, and woods and mountains to Hail the arrival and to shout the welcome of their country's friend. A moment such as this, when a nation's gratitude bursts out into one wide, wild spread of enthusiasm, when the heart beams in every eye, and that heart La Fayette's—a moment such as this, is enough to repay all the perils and privations in a long life, devoted to the cause of Freedom.²

At two o'clock the approach of the procession up the mountain was announced by the bugle, and when the echo of its note was heard, those persons who had assembled at an early hour to witness the General's arrival, formed themselves into a line on the northern margin of the circular yard, in front of the house. The cavalry, by a sudden and almost instantaneous movement, ranged themselves on the opposite

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side of the yard; a deep silence prevailed, while every eye turned with eagerness to the point where the General's appearance was expected. The next moment, the carriages drew up in front of the building. As soon as the General drove up, Mr. Jefferson advanced to meet him, with feeble steps; but as he approached, his feelings seemed to triumph over the infirmities of age, and as the General descended they hastened into each others arms. They embraced, again and again; tears were shed by both, and the broken expressions of "God bless you General" "Bless you my dear Jefferson" was all that interrupted the impressive silence of the scene, except the audible sobs of many whose emotion could not be suppressed.

On Friday at 10 o'clock, the Deputation Committee and the Guards were at Monticello to receive him.

The General, Mr. Jefferson and Mr. Madison were in the landau, preceded by the committee, and followed by the cavalry and a numerous body of citizens—they proceeded to Charlottesville, where hundreds were drawn up in order and awaiting his arrival. At the steps of the Central Hotel, the General alighted and was received by the Chairman of the Committee in a handsome manner and addressed as follows:

GENERAL: In the name and on the behalf of the assembled citizens of Albemarle, I tender to you, our most affectionate greeting and cordial welcome. Our fathers, whom you see around us, have taught *us* their children from our earliest youth a grateful respect and an affectionate veneration for you. They have often told us, how in the distressful hour, of their affliction and despair, you came to them and cheered them by your presence and your councils. They have oft recounted to us how in the toilsome march, in the inclement night, in the stubborn action, you were at their sides sharing their fatigue and sufferings and mingling your blood with theirs. These things have sunk deep in our hearts. We look around us and see that we are free, that we are happy, we recollect that it is partly by your aid that we are so. We have hailed you in your native land as the friend to the Rights of Man: We have seen you the victim of your patriotism and your disinterested principles. We have seen with pleasure your triumphant march through our country, a triumph which had yet, never been decreed to man; not to an Imperial Cæsar or an Eastern Tamerlane. The homage of ten millions of freemen to virtue and to merit, the unbought applause of a proud and a free people, who have scorned alike the despotism of a mob or a monarch. Who have never bent the knee in abject adulation to sceptered power or hereditary honor; who have never bowed but in adoration to their God. This, General, is the

people who, in the exulting swell of their hearts, now greet you as their guest and benefactor.³

To which the General replied:

Amidst the patriotic and affectionate enjoyments of this visit to my beloved and venerated friend, I find a high additional gratification in the welcome I receive from the Citizens of Albemarle, the recollections you are pleased to allude to, are on your part, very kind, Sir, I may add, they are very generous. I still with regret, remember, that owing to the necessity of our operating a junction, which an active enemy endeavored to prevent, the town of Charlottesville, was exposed to momentary invasion; yet that very circumstance has given fresh proofs of the patriotism of the citizens of this, and the neighboring counties, as, to their spirited assistance, we were in a great part indebted for the happy turn of our military operations. Now, sir, I rejoice to see you in the full enjoyment of peace and happiness, and of the rising prospects which are before you. Receive gentlemen, with my congratulations, my respectful and affectionate acknowledgments.

General La Fayette, Mr. Jefferson and Mr. Madison were then conducted into a room prepared for their reception, and the General introduced to all who desired it—the crowd was great—there seemed but one feeling in the living mass—to see, to hear to touch him. The General wore a pleased and smiling countenance—He was gratified at the glow of feeling—it was not constrained respect to rank, to power—it was love—it was deep and grateful affection; it was the brazen memory of his services, and sacrifices for us—that swelled the hearts and glistened in the eyes of the people.

The procession was formed at 12 o'clock, and marched to the University in the following order:

Chief Marshall, with two aids.

President of the day.

The General, Mr. Jefferson and Mr. Madison, in a landau drawn by four grey horses.

General's Son and suite—Carriage with two cream colored horses.

Visitors of the University of Virginia, in a Carriage.

Standing Committee.

Magistrates.

Cavalry.

Junior Volunteers.

Citizens on Horseback.

Citizens on foot.

It moved slowly to the University—nothing could be more orderly performed; each man, from the accuracy of his movements, seemed to

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have been drilled to his duty. The La Fayette Guards were quick and expert in their evolutions—the citizens orderly and decorous. Throughout the day, the arrangements were never broken; there was no ebullition of the passions; no violation of decorum—it was the decorum of respect. As the University came suddenly in view, a thousand of the daughters of the mountains, ranged aloft on the terraces, waved their white kerchiefs in the air. It was beautiful. His escort, the country's chivalry—his reception, its loveliness. They winded around the eastern street of the University, and came to the bottom of the lawn. The procession dismounted, and were formed on foot. The first objects that struck the view, were three flags floating on the top of the Rotunda. On the largest, in broad letters, the words, 'Welcome our Country's Guest.'—There was a moral sublimity in the scene which beggars description. On the very spot where now walked, arm in arm, a hero of the revolution, with two of its sages; a spot where the youngest scion of science had been planted by the patriarchal hand of⁴ Jefferson—his last public care; we had almost said, his last comfort: On this spot, thus consecrated, were now assembled all the beauty and chivalry of the county, 'To bid the fathers of their country hail.'

The procession moved slowly up the lawn to the steps of the Rotunda, the General gracefully bowing to the ladies as he passed, where Mr. Gordon stood ready to receive him. As the General advanced Mr. Gordon descended the steps of the Portico, and thus addressed him: *General La Fayette,*

The Citizens of Albemarle again greet you as their Friend and Benefactor. They tender you assurances of their gratitude and veneration. They contemplate with affection, the moral sublimity of the scene of your return to our country.

Throughout our associated Republics, to you, there is no enemy. We refute the calumny that men have more respect for their destroyers, than their benefactors. Whilst with spontaneous gratitude, millions of freemen, resound to Heaven, the praises of liberty and La Fayette. The citizens of Virginia, hail with peculiar enthusiasm your arrival at this spot. It is their University, their future temple of literature and of science, erected beyond the point where the flag of the invader has ever floated; a fruit of our glorious revolution, an emanation from that mind which first gave us the Declaration, that we were "free, sovereign, and Independent."

We associate with your being here, General, the augury of its success. They look back on the troubled night of our revolutionary war; and then to this very institution of Liberty. With grateful recollection for your gallant toils in that, and with brighter anticipations, from your benedictions on this.

Here, the sons of Virginia, whilst drinking from the untroubled fountain of science, will contemplate with indescribable emotion, the beauty and stability of that corinthian pillar of reputation which you have erected; it charms, the more, from the solitary grandeur which it exhibits, and the waste and destruction of the social and political elements, with which it has elsewhere been surrounded. For the future generations of our country, we know, General, that you will unite with us the fervent invocation, that this University, erected on the hills of liberty, which you had defended from the tread of the invader, may be an everlasting watch-fire, to which her votaries may look. That here may continue to blaze, that bright constellation of principles, which guided our steps through an age of revolution and reformation, to which the wisdom of our sages, and the blood of our heroes, mingled with that of our illustrious guest, have been devoted.

For yourself, General, we sincerely pray, that a life which has been gloriously directed to the service and happiness of mankind, whose morning beam lighted the darkness of our fortunes, may be very long protracted; that its evening ray may shine across the gloom and oppression of other nations, and illumine their way to Liberty and safety.⁵

To which the General replied.

I am happy, sir, once more to receive the kind welcome of the citizens of Albemarle,⁶ and this day receive it under the beautiful pantheon of this rising University, the advantages of which, not only to this part of the United States, but to the cause of mankind, so eloquently expressed by you, I rejoice to acknowledge; nor do I in any thing, more cordially sympathise with you, than in the mention you have made of the venerable friend, whom, if there was but one University in the world, the enlightened men of both hemispheres would in common elect, to preside over universal information.

Be pleased, Sir, to accept the tribute of my respectful gratitude to you, and your fellow-citizens of Albemarle.

The General then retired to apartments prepared for him, for a few moments.—After which, with the two Ex Presidents, the President of the day, &c. he walked on the terraces, among the ladies, to many of whom he was introduced, and with whom he shook hands in the most courteous, and graceful manner.

At three o'clock the General was invited to a dinner prepared in the upper room of the Rotunda, the whole size of the House.⁷ The tables were beautifully arranged in three concentrick circles. Over the place assigned to the General was an arch of living laurel, beautifully entwined around two columns, that supported the gallery. Mr. V. W. Southall, in the absence of Col. Randolph, presided—The General

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first on his right—then Mr. Jefferson, and Mr. Madison—On his left, George W. La Fayette and his suite.

The table was calculated to hold 400 persons, and it was full—The meats were excellent, and each eye around us beamed contentment.—It was contentment arising from the performance of the most sacred, the most grateful duty—It was the offering of liberty to him who had gratuitously aided to achieve it. In the emphatic language of Mr. Madison, it was “Liberty where virtue was the guest, and gratitude the feast.”

When the cloth was removed the following toasts were drank:

1. The American Revolution—The Star in the West—that beamed over the cradle of Liberty.

2. Gen. Washington—‘His spirit walks abroad and will conduct the world at last to Freedom.’

3. Gen. La Fayette—He offered his services on the altar of our country: the sacrifice has ascended to heaven—and drawn down freedom on her evermore.

The General then arose and returned his thanks in a short speech, which we regret to say, from the distance of our position, was lost upon us—and gave as a toast:

Charlottesville and her University—An admirable establishment, the immense and ever increasing advantages of which, public and local, her friends are delighted to anticipate.

4. The Sages and Heroes of the Revolution—A Tomb is theirs in every heart; an Epitaph on every tongue.

5. The President of U. States—In the first war, he shed his blood for us—he aided in the second to its glorious termination—his reward is the noblest of a Republic—the highest gift of the people.

6. Thomas Jefferson and the Declaration of Independence.—Alike identified with the cause of liberty.

Here Mr. Jefferson handed to Mr. Southall the following speech, which he read in a loud and audible voice:

[A text of TJ's Address at Reception for Lafayette at University of Virginia, [5 Nov. 1824] follows. The address is printed below as Document 10 and accordingly omitted here.]

7. James Madison—The ablest expositor of the Constitution; his commentaries of '98 will be forgotten only with the text.

Toast by Mr. Madison—Liberty, which has virtue for its guest and gratitude for its feast.

8. The Constitution of the United States—The Rubicon of Federal Power; may the Cæsar who dares to pass it, meet the dagger of a Brutus.

9. Greece.—The Ottoman no longer tramples on the grave of Leonidas.

10. The last war—Has evinced to the enemies of our country that the spirit of our Fathers has survived to their Sons.

11. The Liberty of the Press—“Error ceases to be dangerous, when reason is left free to combat it.”

12. The Bill of Rights—The Representatives of the people the trustees, not the owners of the Estates—the fee simple is in us.

13. The American Fair—
Such Helen was, and who can blame the boy,
That in so bright a flame consumed his Troy.

VOLUNTEERS.

By George Washington La Fayette: The United States of America—respectful thanks to them from a French patriot, for being a standing pattern, of good principles, good institutions and good habits.

By Chas. L. Bankhead: La Fayette—our solicited guest—the cordial reception we give him, will be to man ‘confirmation strong as holy writ,’ that man is capable of self government. Holy Alliance beware.

By A. S. Brockenbrough: The 19th October, 1781—a day ever memorable on account of the surrender of the enemy to American liberty—may its anniversary henceforth be forever celebrated by the friends of mankind.

By John Coles: The future pupils of the University of Virginia—may they equal General La Fayette in love of liberty and political consistency.

By Dr. Charles Everette: Liberty and La Fayette—they have again met on this side the Atlantic—may they teach the value of self-government to the inhabitants of the other side.

By Th: J. Randolph, 2nd Vice President: The heroes of the Revolution—eternal and affectionate remembrance of the dead; to the living, love, honor, and a gratitude which ends not in words.

By G. Moseley: The Nation’s Guest—National gratitude supported by National currency.

By J. B. Benson: Major General Andrew Jackson—He deserves the affection of a generous republic.

By C. P. M’Kennie: Gratitude—The noblest feeling that animates the human bosom; may it ever be cherished for those who stand firm in defence of the ‘unalienable rights’ of man.

By F. Eppes: The memory of the late Col. John Taylor—his principles prove him alike the friend of Liberty and of our Constitution.

By Jas. W. Dabney: The gallant defender of the rights of man in two quarters of the globe—their warmest advocate in the remaining two.

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By Daniel F. Carr: The political institutions of our country—an example to the people of other nations and a warning to their rulers.

By D. M. Railey: The memory of Charles James Fox: The friend of La Fayette—a luminous star in the political galaxy of his day.

By T. W. Gilmer: Our country—It has a welcome for every friend, for every enemy a grave.

By W. C. Reves: The pen and the sword of Independence—Relics alike precious to the heart of American patriotism.

By Peter Minor: The visit of our illustrious guest to the University—Let it be considered as a consecration of the Institution, to the dissemination of all the principles of science, civil liberty and the rights of man.

By Dr. C. Carter: Washington and La Fayette—the architects of the right and left hand pillars in the Temple of Liberty; with such models, who can despair of the future completion of the building.

By Thomas W. Maury: Our Guest—His generous devotion to Liberty knows no country but earth, no nation but mankind.

By F. B. Dyer: La Fayette—Rocked in the cradel of Tyranny—he sprung from it, a giant of liberty, and offered himself a sacrifice on the altar of our country.

By James Dinsmore: Thos. Jefferson, founder of the University of Va.

By Dr. H. Bramham: The memory of him who first said “give me liberty, or give me death.”

By Mr. Southall: President of the day—Honor and gratitude to the illustrious champion of liberty in both hemispheres.

By the Augusta Committee: The citizens of Albemarle—distinguished alike for patriotism and hospitality.

By C. F. Pope: General Riego—‘He never fails who dies in a great cause.’

By James Leitch: The Emerald Isle—Jefferson and Madison in her councils, La Fayette in her Armies.

By Richard Duke: Gen. La Fayette—in every house in the old dominion; from the splendid mansion to the humble cottage, you will meet a warm reception, and a welcome home—then “stay with us, La Fayette, stay with us.”

By Col. Wm. Woods: The next Legislature of Virginia—(unlike its predecessors,) may it expend *less* treasure in useless legislation, and *more* for the cause of literature and reward of patriotism and valor.

By Dr. Mann Page: Freedom’s cause—may its defenders be as our Revolutionary fathers.

By Col. S. Carr: May the friends of liberty, like the pyramids of Egypt be strengthened by time, and her enemies like Jonas' gourd wither in a night.

By Charles Downing: The University of Virginia—may the meeting of a hero with two of the brightest sages of the Revolution, prove a happy augury⁸ of its future destinies.

By S. Hurd: Greece—may her cause be espoused by other Byron's, who shall live to be La Fayette's.

By N. P. Trist: The Holy Alliance—the death struggle of despotism—her agonies may be protracted, but she cannot be restored.

By John Campbell, member of the Executive Council—The family of La Grange and Monticello—may heaven bless them with health and happiness—to them belongs the delightful care of comforting and consoling the declining years of two of the greatest benefactors of the human race.

By A. G. Monroe—General La Fayette—his reception in America, the cradle that rocked the youthful Hercules, shivers the dogma that Republics are ungrateful; and at the very worst epoch for the machinations of tyrants.⁹

When the third toast was pronounced it was received with enthusiastic cheering—the lofty dome of the Rotunda re-echoed back the sound—it rolled in billowy volumes around the spacious Hall, and sunk in the deep stillness of enthusiasm.

The other toasts were drank with the same warmth. When Mr. Jefferson's speech was read the General was moved to tears; he grasped the hand of the venerable friend who penned it, and sobbed aloud. Oh, there is something magic and contagious in the tears of a great man of acknowledged firmness; there is something awful in that power that breaks open the deep fountains of the heart, until they overflow.¹⁰

When Mr. Madison was toasted he rose to address us. His speech was lost on us, but the toast is given above.

The whole was conducted in a manner that does great credit to the committee. To quote a beautiful sentiment from Mr. Jefferson's address, "as all did their utmost, and, as none could do more, none had pretensions to superior merit."

But our thanks are due to Mr. Southall for the dignity with which he presided, and the distinctness with which he enunciated every word and every toast.

We shall never forget, the enthusiasm of this moment—of this reception. We shall never forget the pealing cheers as they rebelled from the Rotunda's dome.

LAFAYETTE'S VISIT

The hollow vault of heaven is rent with shout,
Wild din and hurry of tumultuous joy
Waves the wide throng—for lo! in perfect strength,
 La Fayette comes,
His name is on the lisping infant's tongue—
Floats on the maiden's song—

Indeed¹¹ the whole scene at the University—the buildings and their immortal projector, supported by Mr. Madison and the hero of the revolution, second only to Washington, in war, in the hearts of his countrymen, as we are proud to call ourselves; surrounded by a crowd of 3000 freemen, and the lofty terraces glittering with our country's beauty, can only be described in the language of the poet just quoted, Overwhelming splendour all of sight and sound,
One rich oppression of eyes, ears and mind.

At six o'clock, the General, attended as before, by Mr. Jefferson and Mr. Madison, and escorted¹² by 100 troopers returned to Monticello.

The following are the answers which Messrs Gilmer and Bramham received from Mr Madison and Mr. Monroe, to the invitation to attend the dinner at the University on the 5th inst.

MONTPELIER, Nov. 3, 1824.

I beg you, gentlemen, to make my acknowledgements to the Standing Committee of Albemarle, for the obliging invitation communicated by you; and to be assured that concurring¹³ with the citizens of that county in all their grateful feelings towards General La Fayette, as so distinguished a benefactor of our country, I shall with particular pleasure join in the proposed manifestation of them at the University on Friday next.

With great respect,

JAMES MADISON.

Messrs. Gilmer & Bramham.

HIGHLAND, Oct. 31, 1824.

Gentlemen:

I have received your kind invitation, on the part of my fellow citizens of the county, to unite with them at a public dinner to be given to General La Fayette, on his arrival here, in manifestation of their gratitude, for the very important services which he rendered to our country, in our revolutionary struggle. Cherishing the same sentiments and feelings for the general, which you have expressed, it would afford me great satisfaction to comply with your request. I should be much gratified also to be able to avail myself of the opportunity¹⁴ to meet so many of my old friends as will be collected at the University,

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on so interesting an occasion. I regret, however, that the duties of the office which I hold, which are made more urgent by the approaching session of Congress, and the preparations necessary for that event, will not extend to me so great an indulgence. I beg of you to tender to the committee my grateful acknowledgment for their obliging attention, and that you will accept the assurance¹⁵ of my great respect and personal regard.

Severally yours, &c.

JAMES MONROE

—●—
GENERAL LA FAYETTE'S ROUTE.

It is understood that Gen. La Fayette will leave Monticello on Monday morning next—he will be escorted by the Albemarle Fayette Guards to Montpelier, in Orange county, where he will remain until the 19th inst—on that day he will dine at Orange Court House, on Saturday, the 20th, pursue his route to Fredericksburg, Washington, &c.¹⁶

—●—
In the hurry of arranging¹⁷ our paper for the press on Wednesday last, we omitted to mention, that at the time of General La Fayette's arrival at Monticello, the 'Junior Volunteers' of this place, were there assembled to witness the interesting meeting of our illustrious Guest and the venerable sage of Monticello.—The General seemed to be highly pleased with the handsome appearance and correct discipline of this little company; and, after retiring for a few moments with Mr. Jefferson, he again walked into the yard, supported by Mr. Jefferson, and Col. Carr. They passed directly in front of the line, the General frequently bowing to the delighted youths; when arrived at the centre of the line, Master Egbert Watson stepped forward, and with an appropriate gesture and emphasis delivered the following neat address.

[*Cent. Gaz.*] ¹⁸

GENERAL:—Though born and nurtured amid these mountains,¹⁹ we have heard of your fame, and have been taught from our earliest infancy, to do homage to your exalted character.

Your arrival among us has been long expected with feelings of lively interest; and though we cannot greet you like others, in splendid military array, yet we yield to none in the fervors of the most animated gratitude, for those eminent services by which our country and we, her sons, are so deeply indebted to your valor.

General—Our hearts beat in quick response to the plaudits by which you are every where hailed. From this elevated point we re-echo them back on the vallies below, along which, they have scarcely yet died away;

LAFAYETTE'S VISIT

for we should deem ourselves unworthy of our sires, with whom you fought, were that homage withheld, on the present auspicious occasion, which is due to you from the children of the mountains.—Permit us only to add, dear General, that the remembrance of your virtues will never fail from our hearts; and that if the time shall ever arrive when the liberties which you have contributed so largely to achieve, shall require the aid of our hands and the defences of our breasts for their preservation; they will be cheerfully yielded, under the favor of Heaven, and the inspiring influence of your immortal name.

The veteran listened with attention—seemed to be much gratified, and, at the close of the address, grasped the youthful speaker by both hands and made a very warm and affectionate reply.

Printed in *Richmond Enquirer*, 16 Nov. 1824, probably copying from the 12 Nov. 1824 issue, not found, of the Charlottesville *Central Gazette*; at head of text: "RECEPTION OF GEN. LA FAYETTE In Albemarle. CHARLOTTESVILLE, NOV. 10." Also printed in somewhat abridged form in Washington *Daily National Intelligencer*, 13 Nov. 1824.

Charles Downing (ca. 1797–1841), attorney and public official, was a native of Virginia. Admitted to the bar in 1815, he practiced law in Albemarle County and served on the committee that welcomed Lafayette to that county during the returning veteran's 1824 national tour. Downing relocated to Saint Augustine, Florida Territory, after John Quincy Adams appointed him register of the federal land office there in 1826. He held this position until 1837 and also practiced law, served as a justice of the peace for Saint Johns County, became a colonel in the territorial militia during the Second Seminole War, sat on the territory's elected legislative council, and was chosen by Andrew Jackson in 1836 to be "Assistant Counsel for the United States in defending the Florida land claims." A Whig who opposed Florida statehood, Downing served two terms as the territory's delegate to the United States House of Representatives, 1837–41, before losing a bid for reelection. He owned four slaves in 1830. Downing died in Saint Augustine (Woods, *Albemarle*, 381, 394; *Richmond Enquirer*, 16 Nov. 1824, 21 July 1826; *JEP*, 3:539, 541, 5:29 [22 May 1826, 12 Sept. 1837]; *Terr. Papers*, esp. 25:105,

308, 376, 409; DNA: RG 29, CS, Fla., Saint Augustine, 1830; Herbert J. Doherty Jr., "Political Factions in Territorial Florida," *Florida Historical Quarterly* 28 [1949]: 132, 136–7; *Saint Augustine News*, 29 Oct. 1841; Saint Johns Co. Will Book, 1:56–7; gravestone inscription in Huguenot Cemetery, Saint Augustine).

John Milton described Great Britain as an OLD AND HAUGHTY NATION, PROUD IN ARMS, in *A Maske presented At Ludlow Castle, 1634: On Michaelmasse night, before the Right Honorable, John Earle of Bridgewater, Vicount Brackly, Lord President of Wales, And one of His Majesties most honorable Privie Counsell* (London, 1637), 2.

On 13 June 1781 Lafayette led a PAINFUL AND LABORIOUS MARCH that successfully thwarted an effort by British lieutenant colonel Banastre Tarleton to conduct what would have been the second raid that month on Charlottesville. Lafayette and his troops covertly traveled on an unused forested road (subsequently known as MARQUIS'S ROAD) near Meehunk Creek and Allegre's Tavern (Nathaniel Mason Pawlett, *Albemarle County Roads, 1725–1816* [1981; rev. 2003], 66).

TO BID THE FATHERS OF THEIR COUNTRY HAIL paraphrases Mark Akenside, *The Pleasures of Imagination. A Poem. In Three Books* (London, 1744), book 1, line 498.

James Madison's COMMENTARIES OF '98 is a reference to his 7 Jan. 1800 report to the Virginia House of Delegates defending the Virginia Resolutions of 1798 and denying the constitutionality of the Alien

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