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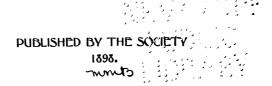
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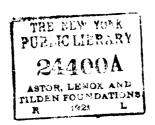
# SOCIETY OF SONS OF THE REVOLUTION.

IN THE

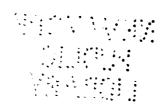
# STATE OF RHODE ISLAND













#### ORGANIZATION.

A PRELIMINARY meeting for the formation of a Society of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of Rhode Island was held at the State House, in Newport, on July 4, 1895, at which the following named were present: V. Mott Francis, M. D., Hon. Perry Belmont, F. P. Garrettson, H. F. Eldredge, Col. Asa Bird Gardiner, Rev. H. B. Chapin, Malcolm H. Angell, Albert Ross Parsons, Gouverneur M. Smith, Henry T. Drowne, George W. Olney and Rt. Rev. William S. Perry.

Temporary officers were elected as follows:

President, V. MOTT FRANCIS, M. D., of Newport, Secretary, F. P. GARRETTSON, of Newport, Treasurer, H. F. ELDREDGE, of Newport.

No permanent organization was effected until September 26, 1896, on which date, at a meeting held at the rooms of the Newport Historical Society, in Newport, certified claims were presented by the following named gentlemen and the organization completed by the election of officers.

WILLIAM WATTS SHERMAN, JOHN PAGE SANBORN, EDWARD WYMAN HIGBEE, FREDERICK TOMPKINS. FREDERICK PRIME GARRETTSON, RISBROUGH HAMMETT TILLEY. DAVID STEVENS,

WILLIAM GREENE WARD, JR., SAMUEL POMEROY COLT, HENRY LEHRE GREENE, CHARLES HOWLAND RUSSELL, HORATIO ROBINSON STORER, M. D., OLIVER HAZARD PERRY BELMONT, JOSHUA WILBOUR, WILLIAM LOVIE TILLEY. PERRY TIFFANY.

#### **OFFICERS**

OF

## The Rhode Island Society,

ELECTED SEPTEMBER 26, 1896.

President,

WILLIAM WATTS SHERMAN, NEWPORT.

First Vice President,

COL. SAMUEL P. COLT, BRISTOL.

Second Vice President,

HON. HENRY L. GREENE, WARWICK.

Secretary,

WILLIAM G. WARD, JR., NEWPORT.

Treasurer,

HON. JOHN P. SANBORN, NEWPORT.

Registrar,

R. H. TILLEY, NEWPORT.

Historian,

DR. H. R. STORER, NEWPORT.

Board of Managers,

THE OFFICERS AND

F. P. GARRETTSON,

FREDERICK TOMPKINS,

CHARLES H. RUSSELL, EDWARD W. HIGBEE,

O. H. P. BELMONT, PERRY TIFFANY,

WILLIAM LOVIE TILLEY,

Hon. JOSHUA WILBOUR.

DAVID STEVENS.

Delegates to the General Society,

W. WATTS SHERMAN,

Col. SAMUEL P. COLT, Hon. HENRY L. GREENE,

Hon. JOHN P. SANBORN, Hon. HENR

FREDERICK TOMPKINS.

Alternates,

R. H. TILLEY,

WILLIAM G. WARD, JR.,

EDWARD W. HIGBEE,

PERRY TIFFANY,

CHARLES H. RUSSELL.

#### CELEBRATION OF WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY,

FEBRUARY 22, 1897.

THE first celebration of the society was on Washington's Birthday, February 22, 1897, when a grand banquet was given by the president of the society, Mr. W. Watts Sherman. Each member was asked to bring one guest and covers were laid for fifty-four. The feast was served by Muenchinger in Masonic Hall, which had been tastefully decorated with flags and the society's colors of blue and buff, by Col. Landers. The tables, arranged in T shape, were beautifully ornamented with silver and cut glass, while palms and other tropical plants from Butler's occupied such places as were not needed in serving the repast. From the gallery, behind a screen of growing plants and other decorations, the New Hampshire orchestra discoursed most excellent music.

Prayer was offered by Rev. Dr. Cutter, after which two hours were given to the very pleasing task of disposing of the very elaborate menu, and with the removes came two hours of speech-making and toasting.

The president of the society and host of the evening, Mr. Sherman, was the first speaker, as follows:

#### THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

The Society of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of Rhode Island has assembled today for the purpose of carrying out one of the objects of its organization; namely, the perpetuation of the memory of the men who achieved American independence. We meet on this occasion in respectful and affectionate remembrance of the birthday of the august Washington, the greatest and best of all our Revolutionary heroes, lovingly designated by our people as the father of his country, honored by a monument more enduring than bronze or stone in having the anniversary of his birth established as a national holiday, a holiday that will be observed as long as our nation lives. And that our nation will live—and that for years and years to come—and will celebrate this day and ever cherish and revere the memory of Washington, no Son of the Revolution doubts.

The system of government established by our fathers exists today almost unchanged. Subjected to many and severe strains, it has stood the test of time for more than a century. It is a system that deserves and merits all our admiration, our love and devotion. To uphold and perpetuate it, and to honor the men who founded it, must be our highest aim and duty.

Let us seek our inspiration in the study of their lives, let our effort be to embellish and develop the noble edifice of which they laid the foundation. It may not be given to us to assist in putting on the crowning dome, but each and every one of us can further the work by doing his best in what lies nearest. We can strive to better and improve our state and municipal governments, or can aid in embellishing and beautifying our city until it shall have become the most charming and attractive of its kind. are the things to be done, and endless the issues we have Therefore recalling the example of those who have gone before us, let us show our love of country by devotion to its every interest, and so labor towards the perfection of our institutions, local and general, that the dream of Daniel Webster may be realized, and our country become a vast and splendid monument of peace, liberty and beauty, upon which the whole world may gaze with admiration forever.

At the close of Mr. Sherman's remarks, Mr. John P. Sanborn, the toast-master for the occasion, introduced Mr. John Austin Stevens, the orator of the day, who spoke as follows:

ADDRESS OF JOHN AUSTIN STEVENS.

It is certainly appropriate that the first public meeting of the Society of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of Rhode Island should be held in honor of the birthday of Washington, for the name of the Commander-in-Chief of the American Army stands at the head of the list of members of the Society of the Cincinnati, and he was the first President of that, the first in order of national societies in the United States.

The Sons of the Revolution, founded a century later, is a natural outcome of that first patriotic institution and as such was happily termed by its late President General Hamilton Fish, the Junior Cincinnati. Instituted on a broader scale than the first society, it admits descendants of soldiers and sailors as well as of officers, and also those of men who served the Revolution in a civil capacity, and has in a few years become a powerful agent in the development of a national and truly American spirit.

In its constitution it is free from the objection of primogeniture in descent of its membership, and of heredity in its privileges, although that membership is naturally limited to those whose forefathers served in the establishment of the independence of the United States.

It has been objected to on the ground that it encourages a distinction of citizens of American descent from those of other nationalities, yet American birth is not a condition of membership and even if it were it would be strange indeed that in a land where for more than a century the Societies of St. George, of St. Andrew and St. Patrick have had not only broad encouragement but have made their saint's days occasions of public festivity, objection should be made because Americans claim the same privilege.

In the beginnings of the organization of the Sons of the Revolution these objections were not heard, and it is reasonable to conclude that they are now brought forward because of jealousy of the prosperity and the popularity of this and other societies of a kindred nature.

Of the public benefit which has ensued from them there can be no question. They have contributed to the growth of a patriotic sentiment by the monuments they have erected to the illustrious dead, and to the perpetuation of the memory of the great events of the Revolution; and also to the education of the youth of the republic, by their influence on the legislation of the thirteen original states, towards the publication of the records and the rolls of the Continental service.

It has been said that he that has no regard for his fore-fathers will care little for his descendants; and indeed one of the highest stimulants to character is that of example to those who come after us. Solomon in his wisdom has told us: "Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are the fathers." This feeling is natural to us who have been brought up on King James' version of the Old Testament and have drunk in from that pure source a reverence for Jehovah because he was the "God of our fathers."

Those whose connection with public affairs has given them opportunities of observation, agree upon the remarkable increase of American spirit and national patriotism since the first of the centennial celebrations at Philadelphia on Independence Day, 1876. The idea of forming a society to participate in that celebration, by those who were excluded from it through the narrow limits of that of the Cincinnati, was the germ of the Sons of the Revolu-Though the invitations were numerous, the responses were so few that a permanent organization was long postponed. The citizens of New York, where it originated, seemed too busy with the present to take much thought of the past, but with the celebration of each subsequent event of the Revolution, an American spirit seemed to grow until on the occasion of the welcome to the delegation of the French government to the Yorktown centennial, and to the descendants of the gallant allies who shared in the glories of that campaign, there was no doubt of the deep, heart-felt interest of all classes of society in the commemoration. The final centennial celebration—that of the one hundredth anniversary of the evacuation of New York by the British in 1783, was, in spite of the inclemency of the weather, a wonderful display of patriotic sentiment.

It was purposed to make the founding of the Society of the Sons of the Revolution one of the incidents of this celebration, but circumstances led to its postponement for a few days. Its modest beginnings were made on the fourth of December, in the very long room of Fraunces' tavern, where Washington bade farewell to his officers, before taking his departure from New York to lay his victorious sword before Congress, and, a modern Cincinnatus, to resume the cultivation of his Mount Vernon farm.

Thus as the Society of the Cincinnati was instituted by the fathers in 1783, in the days which immediately followed the cessation of hostilities, so the Society of the Sons of the Revolution was instituted by the Sons on that day, which, a century later, closed Washington's immediate connection with the officers of his army.

It has been said that Washington opened the great war of Revolution, which was to overthrow kingdoms and change the relations of nations, by his musket shot on the Great Meadows of the Ohio in 1754. Before the Sevenyears'-or Old French War-was closed, which ended in the final establishment of English rule on the American Continent, his name was as familiar in Europe as it was in the colonies; and when he passed through New York in 1775 on his way to his Cambridge camp, he was already held to be the "Principal personage on this continent." It would be difficult to say at what period he reached the summit of his military fame. The siege of Boston, the withdrawal of the troops from Long Island, the surprise of Trenton, and the masterly march and conduct of the Yorktown campaign are equal instances of the extent and the variety of his military genius; of his wonderful power of adaptation to circumstances; of his rapidity in attack; of his leisurely order in retreat; of his unerring intuition of the strength or weakness of an enemy.

Here in Rhode Island the name of Nathaniel Greene, whose home was here, is indissolubly associated with that of the great chief. Greene, next to Washington, was the first soldier of the American war; the genius of that southern campaign of the Carolinas in which the flower of the English army, under Cornwallis, their ablest captain, found their match in the hardy Continentals.

In recalling the glories of Rhode Island in the field the name of Varnum who commanded her troops at Red Bank, at Monmouth, and on Rhode Island; and of Olney, who led the Rhode Island Light Infantry company at Yorktown to the storm of the parapets, must not be forgotten; nor yet the incomparable service of Rhode Island on the sea, nor the names of Hopkins, the first American commodore, whose capture of New Providence in the Bahamas was also

the first naval victory of the young republic; nor of Whipple and Talbot whose exploits in New England waters are household memories.

"Peace hath her victories no less renowned than war," and of our great example of American character it is the familiar saving that he was first in peace as he was first in By his counsels during the protracted struggle of the Revolution, Washington had as much to do with the final results as by his conduct in the field; and, though without civic authority, he was foremost among those who shaped the destinies of America. Without his influence that "more perfect union," which the Constitution of the United States framed out of the dissolving elements of the confederacy, could not have been formed; and without his example as its first president, the beginnings of administration of that immortal instrument would not have been laid in that symmetry and strength which have sustained the shock of a century of trial.

Among the great men who shared in this civic achievement, Ward and Ellery, both of Rhode Island, and of Newport, must be remembered, and also Cooke, the able war governor of the state during the Revolution.

In the frame-work of the Society of the Sons of the Revolution the services of those, who under these leaders, helped to build the civic structure, are not forgotten, and their descendants have equal privilege with those who claim title to membership from service in the military and naval arms. And as the fathers united, each in the order of his ability and understanding, in the work of Revolution and Independence, so the Sons unite to keep fresh the memory of their deeds; to maintain in its integrity the structure which they framed, and to preserve that independence to which the fathers "mutually pledged to each other their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor."

If we hold fast in our turn to this engagement we may laugh to scorn all idle cavil, and we also will be remembered by those who come after us as men who in their measure served well their country.

The motto of the Cincinnati of 1783 was "Give up everything to the service of the Republic." That of the Sons of the Revolution of 1883 "We have built a lasting monument." The service was the work of the fathers, the monument is that of the Sons to their memory. May that monument be as enduring as the services it commemorates were glorious.

The Sons of the Revolution makes no other claim to merit beyond any other patriotic society except that of priority.

Efforts have been made to absorb it into another society of nearly a similar name, but an off-shoot from itself. There seems to be no good reason for such consolidation. Both of these societies are so large already as to be unwieldy in the great cities. The last published roll of the Sons of the Revolution in the state of New York, January, 1896, contained the names of 1748 members, to which large additions have been since made; a number too great for a social gathering—one of the most important methods of its usefulness; when the heir to fortune and the man who depends for his livelihood on his daily labor, the millionaire and the mechanic meet in friendly intercourse at the social board; united only by one bond: that they are heirs in common to that priceless and indivisible estate of their fathers, American freedom.

A cursory examination of the rolls of any of the state societies will show the ceaseless evolutions of American life, and prove the wisdom of their founders in so widening the doors of the structure as to admit the descendants of the privates, soldiers and sailors, as well as of the officers of the Revolution. For while the descendants of many of the officers maintain the high character and standing of their forefathers, yet it will be found that many of those members who take their title from men who carried the musket in the ranks or served the guns on the men-of-war, hold high positions to-day on every field of honor and of usefulness, and by their own merits cast a reflex lustre on their ancestors.

While the glory of the fathers is the natural heritage of the children, yet it must be shared with a larger kin than that of family, and has a broader title than that of a common birthplace, the kinship and title of a common race.

Seven cities, we are told, disputed the honor of the birthplace of Homer, and from earliest history monuments and statues have been set up by villages or cities, not only to inform the world of the merit of the illustrious dead, but to claim their share in this merit; their part in this heritage of fame. Nor does this careful husbandry of pride stop at home. It follows the wanderer, the exile with jealous eye, watchful of its own. It takes note not only of himself and his honor, but of his children, and their honors from generation to generation, with equal vigilance. Note the complacent pride with which Englishmen point to Washington as of their race, with which Irishmen claim Jackson, and Scotchmen, Grant, as of themselves, and vaunt the victories of these celebrated chieftains as their But while Saxon and Celt each take their peculiar pride in the representatives of their race, it is the privilege of the American to enjoy the honors of each with equal contentment as parts of that new composite race in which it seems that the blood of all the races that have preceded it, Semitic and African even, is to mingle in some form, and to temper in some degree, its Aryan predominance. A new American race, which already blends in not unequal

measure, the blood of the Saxon and the Celt, of the Teuton and the Latin; a Continental race which on its broad untrammelled field of this American continent will develop a greater variety of natural qualities, rise to higher intellectual heights, and achieve excellence in more numerous ways than any single one of these parent stocks from which it derives.

This is but a logical sequence on a grander scale of that evolution of the human race towards homogeniety of kind and of spirit which has marked the progress of western civilization. Hardly a century ago there were four distinct races in France with as many dialects; so also in England. All are now blended. The Teuton race had as many subdivisions.

The emigrants to America bring with them the characteristics of their origin, and each are factors in the greater evolution, which already offers the most startling ethonological problems for consideration. An evolution so vast and rapid as to defy control by legislative restriction.

If we hold fast to the freedom of our organic law the manifest destiny of America seems to be a homogeniety of races. In the progress towards this millenium there must be some rivalry, some friction. This friction it is one of the privileges, one of the duties of our Society and of those similar to it, to soften and control. Our Society shows to the new comer the peace and the harmony in which our members, descendants like themselves of races, which have been in angry strife for centuries, enjoy in common the heritage of our common fathers. It shows to him that while in this race fusion, the individual never loses sight of the place of his origin, yet that he takes an increasing pride in the growing power of the great Republic, and glories also in the services his own race has rendered to that strength and power; and in this showing it encourages the newly arrived kinsman to a true American spirit; to understand the true meaning of that animating thought, "where liberty is, there is my country."

In the membership of the Sons of the Revolution there is representation of every one of the elements found in the population of the thirteen original states, which now blended in a composite stock are the backbone of the American people.

Confining this examination to the rolls of the New York state branch of our Society alone, one finds alongside the predominant English names those of the French Huguenot Jay, of the Scotch Livingstons, Alexanders and Hamilton, of the Irish Carrolls, of the Scotch-Irish Clintons and Doanes, of the Welsh Morrises and Cadwalladers, of the Dutch Schuylers and Van Renselaers—all leading Colonial families.

And as they represented different races so also they represented a great variety of religious faith—the Roman Catholic of Maryland, the Church of England of Virginia, the Puritan of New England, the Dutch Reformed of New York, the Huguenot of South Carolina, the Presbyterian of North Carolina, the Methodist and Baptist of the frontier settlements. Even the peaceful Quakers had representation in the Civil Service, and the Hebrews contributed their share to the common honor.

If we look into the record of service of the ancestors of those today holding membership in our Society, we find it to have been of the highest character.

Among them were eleven signers of the Declaration of Independence, seventeen members of the Continental Congress, and six governors of states; this in the civil service. In the army seven major generals, twelve brigadier generals, sixty-three colonels, fifty-one lieutenant colonels of the line. The artillery, the dragoons, the light horse are

alike represented, and the navy as well; from admirals commanding to the captains of privateers.

In this New York roll, Rhode Island claims the names and honorable service of thirty-five officers and privates; of Colonels Christopher Greene, Harry and Joshua Babcock, Israel Angell and Amos Atwell; of Lieut. Colonel William Barton, of Major William Larned; of Captains James Arnold, James Parker, Daniel Manton, Benjamin Hoppin, Benjamin Frye, Robert Rhodes, Samuel Thomas, Ir., and William Jones; of Lieutenant Peleg Hoxie; of Ensign Benjamin Coe; of Corporals Samuel Tanner, Edmund Pinnager, Daniel Rogers; of Sergeant Job Selden; of Cornet Anthony Dyer; of Privates Dexter Hawkins, John Frye, Ebenezer Corey, Wanton Casey, William Arnold, Stephen Potter and of James Rhodes, who commanded at New Shoreham; in the marine service of William Vernon, president of the Rhode Island naval board; of Captain Daniel Aborn; of Master David Arnold; while John Collins served in the Continental and Caleb Arnold in the Rhode Island Provincial Congress and William Greene was Governor of Rhode Island.

All these be it remembered were ancestors of members of the New York branch of the Society of the Sons of the Revolution alone, and whose numbers on the last printed roll were fifty-one.

It should be the first duty of the Secretary of the Rhode Island Society to make a search similar to that now presented for Rhode Island names on the rolls of other state branches, of our own and of kindred societies.

In the work of reviving the memories of the revolution Rhode Island offers a most interesting and somewhat unique field. It was the scene of two armed occupations—first by the hostile force of British and Hessian troops, and second, in that by the splendid French contingent, which with Rochambeau in command, and the flower of French nobility in its staff and line officers, was for a year the delight of this "garden of America."

But for the revival of patriotic American spirit through the Centennial celebration, and particularly by the visit of the French delegation to that at Yorktown in 1881, the recollections of these events would ere this have faded in the mist of tradition.

The lines of the French fortifications have been entirely obliterated in the march of improvement.

Fortunately the American spirit of Mr. Lorillard Spencer, one of the members of the New York Sons of the Revolution, in naming his charming villa, on the site of the principal work on the right flank of the French defences, after that which it bore in the Revolution, "Chastellux," helps to keep in memory these almost forgotten landmarks.

The lines of British defence, which were threatened at the time of the Battle of Rhode Island, "the best fought action of the Revolutionary war" by Greene's and Lafayette's divisions of Sullivan's command, extended from Tonomy Hill to Easton's Point. They should be in some manner marked and kept in memory; also the forts which defended the ferries at the upper end of the Island.

It would be a graceful act if the Sons of the Revolution should commemorate the arrival of the French forces, the fleet of de Terney and the army of Rochambeau by a field day on the anniversary of that July morning when in 1780 the lifting fog opened to the view of your forefathers on this island the splendid armament of our generous ally; a noble fleet, whose gay flags, with golden lilies on a field of white declared their origin and their intent; of that July morning, when Rochambeau and his suite landed in the town and were welcomed with acclamation.

The citizens of Newport would be recreant indeed should they hesitate to join in such a commemoration. For Rochambeau not only brought with him the hope of triumph to the nation, but a certain prosperity to the town; a revival of trade in the necessary supplies of the force, whose numbers, army and fleet combined, far exceeded that of the residents of the crippled, desolated little town, a revival which assumed the proportions of a resurrection. For the supplies which were brought into the town were paid for in coin by the French commissariat and in a sum which exceeded probably in amount of the precious metal any that Newport had ever enjoyed in its days of highest prosperity.

Nor should the Society be content with such a commemoration. It should initiate a movement to erect a monument in honor of this friendly occupation; either by a statue of Rochambeau on the new Esplanade or a memorial stone. A more suitable place could hardly be found, for, as Mr. Cope Whitehouse says, there is little doubt that the remains are still visible of the jetee or wharf, thrown out by the French for the landing of their supplies at this point under the guns of Fort Chastullux; a wharf which it is proposed to rebuild.

The passing stranger finds de Terny remembered in the tablet in Old Trinity erected by the French government, but one looks in vain for any visible sign that the services of Rochambeau, of the Chastellux, of Destouches, of de Barras and their gallant host have any place in our memories, or our hearts; and yet by their admirable defences they saved the town from a bombardment and from a second British occupation with its attendant horrors. Admiral Byron and the famous Rodney in turn brought their squadrons to the outer harbor with hostile intent, but when they saw the strength of the place under the French defences they recognized the folly of an attack.

Such a monument would have something more than a local interest. It would recall that Alliance which was the harbinger of international comity; of an era of good will among the nations of the earth; an era of slow but certain progression. For the first time in one hundred years Saxon and Gaul on this soil of Rhode Island forgot their prejudices of race and creed. This welcome to our secular foe was a striking example of that American spirit which, while mindful of its rights and its duties, has made of America the asylum of nations and of the United States, the example and the hope of liberty throughout the world. Let us hold fast to this spirit of our forefathers, and observing it ourselves, transmit it in all its integrity to our sons.

#### DR. V. MOTT FRANCIS' ADDRESS.

Mr. President, Officers and Members of the Society of the Sons of the Revolution in Rhode Island.

#### Mr. Toastmaster:

I accept with pleasure the duty you have imposed upon me, and I will endeavor to the best of my ability to respond to the toast—"The Ladies." The vastness of the subject and the brief time allotted to me must be my excuse for any shortcomings. Ream after ream of paper could be easily consumed and then the subject be barely commenced.

No man possessed of common sense can doubt the great blessings that woman has conferred upon him, upon society, and upon the world. The lives of the faithful, noble, pure minded mothers, wives, sisters and daughters who have lived and died since the creation of our common Mother, Eve, present a record of unselfish devotion, of patient endurance, of noble example, that have left their mark upon the records of every age since the beginning of human life.

If we go back to the early Scriptural times, we find

Ruth, the Moabitish woman, the wife of Boaz, the mother of Obed, who was the father of Jesse, the father of David —an example for all.

Skipping over the centuries, we come to the brave, lion-hearted Boadicea, Queen of the Iceni, who so determinedly fought the Romans under Suetonius Paulinas and sought to exterminate them for the scourging she received at their hands and the cruel delivery of her daughters to the slaves who violated their persons. A feeling of great sadness permeates every manly bosom that she failed in her attempt and that she should be driven to the mistaken necessity as she supposed of taking her own precious life.

Again passing over hundreds of years and the names of thousands of historic women deserving of lasting renown, we come to a name which when read or uttered fills every noble heart with feelings of the loftiest as well as the tenderest nature, Joan of Arc, the deliverer of her country and the noblest and greatest of the women of France.

The sixteenth century brought to England the great Virgin Queen, Elizabeth, one of the greatest women and wisest of rulers ever placed by a merciful Heaven over the English people.

Time fails me or I would dwell with delight on the virtues and accomplishments of scores of noble-minded women who have rendered themselves illustrious, and so again I pass over their names until I come to that of Marie Antoinette, the martyred queen, whose wifely devotion, queenly bearing, heroic courage and calm facing with Christian resignation a cruel, undeserved and ignominious death, challenges the admiration of all hearts containing a love for that which is brave and good.

A little further on we come to one whose name should be a household word, Martha Washington, the beloved wife of him whose birthday we celebrate, and it would be a grievous error to omit to speak of the noble woman who shared the rigors of the cold and terrible winter with her husband at Valley Forge, who relieved the sick, comforted the afflicted, cheered the disconsolate and the discouraged, and who for forty years was a comfort and a blessing to the Father of his country, setting an example of wifely love, of self-denial and patriotism, which should be emulated by all true Americans.

At this present time there lives a woman whose life has been devoted to literature, art, humanitarianism and patriotism, a leader of her sex, a prominent figure in every scheme which could raise women to the dignity, the respect, and the rights to which they are most justly entitled. I allude to the gifted, true-hearted American, Julia Ward Howe, known to all throughout this blessed land as the author of the Battle Hymn of the Republic.

But I must close with only one more allusion to woman, made by the late George Christie, the greatest by far of all negro minstrels. "What am woman, war do she kum from, who does she belong to, what am she a-doin', and war am she a-goin'?" The answer to these five questions was given to me by a witty, jolly Irishman as we left the concert hall. "Sure," he answered in reply to my question, "it's aisy to answer thim questions. What am woman? Why, sure, she's the result of a necessity. War does she kum from? She kum from the rib of a good man who knew how to apply himself to the situation. Who does she belong to? To herself as a matter of kourse. What am she a-doin'? Why, she's climbing all the time. War am she a-goin'? To the top rung of the ladder and don't you forget it."

Time will not permit me to do more than to mention the fact that in all professions and trades, in literature, in science, in charity, in noble example of patience, of virtue,

fidelity to trusts imposed, and in patriotism, woman stands pre-eminently before us men of the nineteenth century as a great success, and in drinking their health, I can do no better than give the old time-worn, but never to be forgotten toast, "The Ladies, God bless them."

I take pleasure in relating an anecdote at this time which throws a new light upon the soldierly ability of him in whose honor we are assembled this day. It is to be found in Browne's Whaling Cruise and History of the Whale Fishery, by J. Ross Browne, published by Harper Bros., New York, 1846. Mr. Browne was a reporter in the United States Senate in 1841 and gave up his position in order to see more of the world. Being financially straightened he shipped on a New Bedford whaler, thinking that in that way he would be able to accomplish his purpose. After a year's experience he procured his discharge at Zanzibar and returned home via the Cape of Good Hope and At the latter place Mr. Carroll, the United St. Helena. States Consular agent, told him this fact, little dreaming that his young guest would one day be the United States Minister to China.

"An Englishman some years since visited the tomb (of Napoleon) and indited in the register a verse on the ex-Emperor to this effect:

" Boney was a great man,
A soldier brave and true,
But Wellington did lick him at
The field of Waterloo."

"A Yankee visited the place a few days after. Determined to punish the braggart for so illiberal and unmanly an attack on the dead, he wrote immediately under it:

" But greater still and braver far And tougher than shoe leather, Was Washington, the man wot could Have licked 'em both together.'

"A Frenchman who afterwards visited the tomb and

looked over the register was filled with disgust, but on reaching the second verse became frantic with rage and never rested until the Governor ordered the two verses stricken from the register."

Before closing my brief remarks I feel that I owe an explanation to the members of this Society. I was at the original meeting held at the old State House in the Senate Chamber, called to organize this Society. I was elected President pro tem., Henry F. Eldredge treasurer, and Frederick P. Garrettson secretary. I told Bishop Perry of Iowa that I could not be a member, as I descended on the female side, only, as far as I had yet learned, being the great-grandson of Esther Marion, sister of Gen. Francis Marion of South Carolina and of revolutionary fame, who had died childless; but he assured me that I was eligible, I presume through some mistake or misunderstanding. accepted and for six months I endeavored to procure recruits and did obtain a number. As the meeting was adjourned subject to a call by me through the secretary, I requested Mr. Frederick P. Garrettson, who filled that office, to call one; but as a quorum could not be obtained a full year passed, when my resignation, which had been written six months before, was accepted. But it will ever be a great pleasure to me to reflect that I was at the original meeting and acted for a year as the first president of the Society of the Sons of the Revolution of Rhode Island. I congratulate the Society in having elected Mr. W. Watts Sherman as its president, believing him to be a gentleman of ability, and what is of more consequence a man of the strictest honor and purity of life.

Mr. President and members of the Society of Sons of the Revolution, I will say in conclusion that the snows of sixty-three winters have passed over my head and, to quote the language of my honored father in his last address before the New York Historical Society, slightly altering it to suit this occasion, that I rejoice to know that although the sun of my declining years may be near its setting, that its last rays no matter how feeble are reflected from the patriotic walls of the halls of the Society of the Sons of the Revolution of Rhode Island.

Other speakers were: Attorney General of the State, Hon. E. C. Dubois of East Providence, for the State of Rhode Island; Mayor Boyle, for the city of Newport; Congressman-elect Adin B. Capron, for the Continental Congress; Hon. Wm. P. Sheffield, for the Society of the Cincinnati; Judge Darius Baker, for the Rhode Island Bar; Col. Wm. P. Sheffield, Jr., for Newport in '76; Superintendent Benjamin Baker, for the Public Schools of Newport; Rev. T. Calvin McClelland, for the Clergy; Mr. Lucius D. Davis, for the Press.

Dr. H. E. Turner then proposed three cheers for Solomon Southwick, who, as editor of the Newport Mercury during the Revolutionary period, headed that paper with the motto "Undaunted by tyrants, we'll die or be free," and they were given with a will.

The health of George Washington, proposed by the president and drunk standing and in silence, was the last of the exercises and brought to a close one of the pleasantest and most notable gatherings ever held in Newport.

#### SECOND ANNUAL MEETING.

The second annual meeting of the Rhode Island Society of the Sons of the Revolution was held at the rooms of the Newport Historical Society Tuesday afternoon, August 31, 1897. In the absence of the President, Mr. W. Watts Sherman, Col. Thomas J. Pierce of Wickford presided. The election of officers resulted as follows:

President, W. WATTS SHERMAN, NEWPORT.

Vice Presidents.

COLONEL SAMUEL P. COLT, Bristol. HON. HENRY L. GREENE,

WARWICK.

Secretary,

WILLIAM G. WARD, JR., NEWPORT.

Treasurer,

HON. JOHN P. SANBORN, NEWPORT.

Registrar,

R. H. TILLEY, NEWPORT.

Historian.

DR. H. R. STORER, NEWPORT.

Board of Managers, The Officers and

FREDERICK P. GARRETTSON,

FREDERICK TOMPKINS,

CHARLES H. RUSSELL,

EDWARD W. HIGBEE,

OLIVER H. P. BELMONT, WILLIAM LOVIE TILLEY, PERRY TIFFANY, HON. JOSHUA WILBOUR,

DAVID STEVENS.

Delegates to the General Society,

W. WATTS SHERMAN,

HON. JOHN P. SANBORN,

COL. THOMAS J. PIERCE, FREDERICK TOMPKINS, HON. JOSHUA WILBOUR.

Alternates,

ARCHIBALD B. SAYER, EDWARD W. HIGBEE, WILLIAM G. WARD, JR., DAVID T. PINNIGER,

HIRAM BURLINGHAM.

# ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF RHODE ISLAND.

Celebrated by the Sons of the Revolution in Rhode Island, August 31, 1897.

On the evening of August 31, 1897, the Casino Theatre at Newport was crowded to the doors, with the stage and gallery packed as well as the body of the house, the occasion being the observance of the anniversary of the battle of Rhode Island by the Rhode Island Society of the Sons of the Revolution. The meeting was presided over by W. Watts Sherman, the President of the Society, who made the following pleasing address of welcome.

#### Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of the Society of the Sons of the Revolution I desire to extend a cordial welcome to all who are present here this evening, and more particularly to the members of the military organizations and patriotic societies who have honored us with their company.

We meet tonight to recall the memory of events, and men of a by-gone period. One hundred and nineteen years ago the scenes enacted in and about Newport differed vastly from those we witness today. Then war with all its attendant horrors prevailed where now we find peace, happiness and prosperity. Hostile troops were encamped on the very ground upon which this building stands, and within a few hundred feet of us were numerous entrenchments and huge earthworks.

A brief history of this period to which I have alluded,

including that of the Battle of Rhode Island, the event we especially celebrate, will be given to you by your old friend, Mr. Littlefield, whom it is hardly necessary for me to introduce to you.

There were many prominent individuals present, both public and private. The Newport Artillery, Co. B., 2d Regiment, R. I. M., and Naval Reserve Torpedo Company, attended in a body. The members of the Daughters of the Revolution, Colonial Dames, Society of Colonial Wars, and of other colonial and historical societies, were out in force. During the evening the Newport Orchestra rendered patriotic airs.

The first speaker was George A. Littlefield of Providence, formerly superintendent of the Newport schools.

#### MR. LITTLEFIELD'S ADDRESS.

#### Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:

On the morning when Daniel Webster delivered in the United States Senate his immortal reply to Hayne, one of the most consequential utterances to be found in American history, it happened that another senator, comparatively unknown, had the floor first by parliamentary right. This other senator saw the assemblage gathering, until there was not a foot of standing room in the senate chamber or in the surrounding ante-rooms and stairways, including all the members of the deserted House of Representatives, including "foreign ministers who had read Chatham, and listened perhaps to Pitt, Fox, Sheridan, and Burke," including men of seventy-six who had fought at Washington's side, and including among them all the rarest "galaxy of feminine beauty." Presently this sensible other senator arose and said: "Mr. President, I am aware that this company has not assembled to hear me. I take pleasure in yielding the floor to the distinguished senator from Massachusetts." If any of those before whom I have the honor to stand are inclined, as they may be most naturally, to advise me to follow the example of this other senator, permit me to put them at ease with the assurance that I shall not long detain them from the privilege we have all come to enjoy, of listening to one of the most eminent of the first citizens of the Republic, one who commands instant attention on both sides of the Atlantic, and one whose addresses, whether at home or abroad, are so genuinely flavored with true Americanism as to make him the ideal orator of the evening upon such an occasion as this.

The Battle of Rhode Island was a highly important contest. If it had been executed in all parts of its plan with the brilliance that characterized certain parts of it, it would have been one of the most important conflicts of the Of the great events preceding it, you remember that the War of the Revolution actually began with the battles of Concord, Lexington, and Bunker Hill, in the summer of 1775, followed by the siege of Boston, and the consequent evacuation of that city by the British, in March, 1776. Then the troops of both armies were withdrawn to the vicinity of New York, where Washington conducted those marvelous but discouraging campaigns, culminating gloriously for him, however, at Christmas, with the crossing of the Delaware and the battles of Trenton and Prince-In the same month, December, 1776, a large British fleet with an army of 6,000 men took possession of this island of Aquidneck, intending to use it as a base of operations for the conquest and devastation of the rest of New England. In the summer of 1777, the indecisive American campaigns in the vicinity of Philadelphia were abundantly atoned for at Bennington and Saratoga by the capture of Burgoyne and his entire army of 6,000 men. His surrender eventually secured for us the French Alliance, which plunged Great Britain into a simultaneous war with France, Spain, and Holland, a treaty of armed neutrality being made at the same time between Denmark, Sweden, and Russia, making it impossible thereafter for the Mother Country to conquer her American colonies.

General Prescott was the first commander of the British troops on the Island of Rhode Island. His town head-quarters were in Newport in the house at the corner of Spring and Pelham streets, but he was also fond of a country residence in Portsmouth, about five miles out, where, one night in July, 1777, he was captured by Col. Barton, in one of the boldest exploits of the war. Prescott was succeeded by the English general, Pigott.

The commander of the American forces in the State during the British occupation of Newport was at first General Spencer. In response to the popular demand, and possibly at the suggestion of Washington, as a means of preventing re-inforcements from going to Burgoyne from Newport, Spencer determined in the fall of 1777 to drive the enemy off the Island, as they had been driven out of Boston the year before. For this purpose he collected together at Tiverton an army of eight or nine thousand militiamen. Our General Assembly were enthusiastic in the They offered graduated rewards, of \$1,000 for enterprise. every British general, \$200 for colonels, \$100 for majors, \$20 for privates, a reward for every prisoner who should be brought off the Island within fifteen days. The depreciated paper in which these rewards were to have been paid, to be sure, was so much worse than 16 to 1 that the highest of them would have been less valuable than the sword and the thanks which Congress were happy to vote Colonel Barton for the capture of Prescott. The expedition moreover, being delayed by storms and desertions, was finally abandoned, to the disgust of the people, whose

sentiments, though unjust to Spencer, were well expressed in one of their street songs, a verse of which ran:

Israel wanted bread,
The Lord sent them manna;
Rhode Island wants a head,
Congress sends a granny.

General Spencer was presently succeeded by the brave General Sullivan, and the expulsion of the British from Rhode Island still continued to be the foremost purpose of the people in all southern New England. Soon the opportunity offered to hazard the effort under more favorable auspices. Our treaty with France had been signed in February 1778, but the news did not come till Spring, after the winter at Valley Forge, the darkest hour just before dawn. Count d'Estaing followed with a powerful French fleet and 4,000 soldiers. The British in fear evacuated Philadelphia and concentrated in New York. Appearing off New York, the Count found that the water of the harbor was too shallow for his ships. And so, after a council of war with Washington, it was determined that the French fleet should sail away to Newport, and there, in co-operation with Sullivan, should capture the British army, as Burgoyne had been overwhelmed the year before. Such an event, said Washington and Lafayette, would surely bring an end to the war, and with this high purpose in view the people of Rhode Island and surrounding towns aroused themselves as never before. The greatest expectations were on foot. Nathaniel Greene, John Hancock, the former president of Congress and the signer of the Declaration of Independence, and Lafayette, were among the generals who begged and were permitted to go to Sullivan's assistance. The distinguished Frenchman wrote urging that nothing be done until he could have the good fortune to arrive and take part. They all wanted to be in at the death.

The French fleet, as scheduled, arrived off Newport the last of July, and landed troops on Conanicut. The British in alarm sunk and destroyed all their men of war, 7 or 8 in number, to prevent them from falling into the hands of the enemy. Sullivan had gathered together at Tiverton an army of ten thousand men, of whom perhaps fifteen hundred had had experience under fire. About the 10th of August, he crossed the East Passage in boats at about the point of the present Stone Bridge, and occupied the British fort on Butt's Hill, in northern Portsmouth, which had been evacuated. He pursued the enemy down the Island for several days, driving them one night at Newport into their defences, which on the following day he intended to carry by storm. Meantime, however, the French Admiral, hearing of the approach of an English fleet at Point Judith, had re-embarked all his men, and gone outside to win what promised to be a brilliant victory.

At this point the tide of events turned. The great French storm came on, continuing several days, shattering vessels and prostrating soldiers in their tents. The Admiral returned after a while to Newport harbor, but could not be kept from sailing right away again with all his force to Boston for repairs, leaving the British re-inforcements free to come in. The American officers were exasperated by what they considered nothing less than desertion on the part of the French. Lafavette was most mortified by the situation, and the feat he performed in the way of a ride to Boston and back, as has been said, ought to be not less famous than Sheridan's ride. Lafayette covered the ground of seventy miles on horseback in seven hours, to beg the French admiral to return, with even part of his force, and, failing in this, he rode back in six and a half hours, striving to join Sullivan before the battle would begin.

After the storm and the departure of the French, Sulli-

van's army was greatly depleted by discouragement, sickness and desertion, and he thought best, while waiting to see whether the French would return, to fall back to his first position on Butt's Hill. Pigott followed with his army to Quaker or Windmill Hill, about a mile this side. There, on the slopes and in the valleys between the two hills, on the 29th of August, 1778, was fought the Battle of Rhode Island, which Lafayette pronounced the best fought action of the war. Pigott opened fire at nine o'clock in the morning, supported by his fleet for a time, until our gunners drove the ships away. The struggle was most desperate, lasting all day, and being especially severe in the late forenoon. Continuous fire of cannon and musketry and two tremendous charges of the whole British force were the great main features of the contest. regulars had been trained on every field of Europe to march up to the cannon's mouth like a solid wall in motion, and the wonder is that undisciplined militia could face them. It was the nerve to aim, however, that counted on that day of death, as it still does in life, not the gold lace nor the shoulder straps. The whites of Hessian eyes, too, had been a favorite target with New England farmers, ever since they fired the shot heard round the world. twenty-second British regiment left one-quarter of its number dead upon the field at the Battle of Rhode Island. Sixty redcoats fell in one spot near the base of Anthony's Hill. Thirty men were buried in one grave near the Coal Mine. A newly-enlisted black regiment of Americans, posted in a thicket, repulsed three successive charges of a regiment of regulars with such carnage that the English colonel resigned next day for fear that he would be shot by his own men for cruelty in leading them to such slaughter. The crucial test of the conflict was the attempt of the whole British force to crush the American right wing which was

It was foot to under the command of Nathaniel Greene. foot and hand to hand, until two reserved American battalions turned the scale by a furious bayonet charge. Both the general advances of the British were repulsed in confusion, and at length they were completely routed, leaving their wounded upon the field. Their total loss in killed. wounded, and prisoners was 1,023 men, as against only 211 of the Americans. One of their batteries on Quaker Hill was captured, and, if the strength of the Americans could have held out, the British would have been annihi-Sullivan was on the point of storming their works, but, remembering that his soldiers had had no rest or food for thirty-six hours, he decided to wait, and press his advantage next day. Alas, tomorrow never comes! On the 30th, the British were again still more heavily re-inforced at Newport, and that night, making a brilliant pretence of preparing to attack next day, Sullivan was most skilful and fortunate in being able to withdraw his troops across the East Passage, as he had come.

Thus ended the Battle of Rhode Island. But for the storm and the departure of the French, it would have been fought in the suburbs of Newport fifteen days earlier, before the British were re-inforced, and it could not have failed to be, as Washington designed it to be, the Yorktown of the Revolution. As it was, it was the Gettysburg of the Revolution, convincing the English army at Newport that they could not successfully invade New England in the face of such determined yeomanry. The Battle of Rhode Island prevented the British from reaping any continental advantage whatever from their long occupation of Newport. They remained here, to be sure, about a year longer, devastating the country immediately around and ruining the city, inflicting upon the people the bitterest experience in their history, but after the Battle of Rhode Island they never dared attempt any of the large purposes for which they had come here, and, in October, 1779, after a three years' stay, not daring to remain longer in view of the rumor that another descent was to be made upon Newport by the patriots, they left the city bag and baggage, giving up the conquest of New England and departing to the southern states. There they were sufficiently entertained by our Gen. Nathaniel Greene, among others, and there they were finally conquered at Yorktown, with the aid of the French, as they would have been at Newport three years earlier but for the desertion of the French.

It is thus most fitting, Mr. President, that the patriotic societies should be strong in Newport, a city which was so long the New England centre of the revolutionary effort, and was so generous in sacrifices for the cause. Every true Rhode Islander must take pride in the story. From "vonder lofty tower which to this very hour stands looking seaward" might have been witnessed the first overt act of forceable resistance to British authority, namely, the firing of eight guns into one of the King's ships as she sailed up into Narragansett Bay. The men of Rhode Island are proverbially independent. The Old Charter made them so, permitting them to choose their own governors and to manage their own affairs, whereas every other colony, excepting Connecticut, was royal or proprietary. It is not surprising, therefore, that the Rhode Island Declaration of Independence, separating us entirely from Great Britain, should have found a place on our statute books as it did some two months before the Glorious Fourth of July, 1776. It took the best courage of a race of patriot sailors to board and burn the British man of war, Gaspee, in Narragansett Bay, long before such a rash act had been attempted in any other colony. The direct consequences of the affair, too, were most momentous: first, the British inquisition here to find the heroes and transport them to England for trial; then, the alarm at this procedure in all the colonies, with the declaration of the Virginia Assembly that such an attack as the Gaspee enquiry going on at Newport upon the rights of Englishmen in one colony was an attack upon all the colonies; and, finally, the appointment of the intercolonial committees of correspondence, out of which grew, first, the Continental Congress, and then the American Union.

Verily, the revolutionary memories of Rhode Island are proud ones. Let them ever be preserved, not sought to be exalted above those of the other colonies, but ever kept bright and woven into the historic Cloth of Gold of our common country. It was the same divine spirit of Liberty with which the patriots were baptized all along the Atlantic coast, and every hamlet has a common heritage in the great deeds of every other, whether we contemplate the court room scenes where the inspired prophecies of James Otis and Patrick Henry were uttered, or the riots against the stamps in New York, or the Boston town meetings. One of those meetings we shall never forget. It was attended by some seven thousand outraged people. It sat all day and candles were brought in. At length, Sam Adams, the moderator, arose and said "This meeting can do nothing more to save the country." He was answered by his hearers, as he knew he would be, with a warwhoop, and the meeting broke up in shout and song, the spirit of which will echo on forever:

"Bad news from George on the English throne.
You are thriving well, quoth he,
So, by these presents, be it known,
You shall pay us a tax on tea.
The cargo came, but who's to blame,
If the Indians seized the tea,
And chest by chest let down the same
Into the laughing sea?
For of what avail is the plough or sail
Or land or life, if Freedom fail?"

Chauncey M. Depew was the next attraction, and he gave one of his ready entertainments of flowing language as follows:

MR. DEPEW'S ADDRESS.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The able and exhaustive paper by Mr. Littlefield upon the Battle of Rhode Island leaves to me a large field of discursive comment upon the lessons of the period rather than a close analysis of the fight. August is not a happy month for Americans, or one in which the American can do serious work. It even affected our ancestors as well as their enemies in that famous contest known as the Battle of Rhode Island. It was the most leisurely, spiritless in attack, defence and retreat, of the struggles of the Revolutionary War. The whole campaign is remarkable for the number of times and opportunities not taken advantage of by either side which the Americans had to capture the British or drive them from the island and the British had to inflict a fatal blow upon the forces of General Sullivan.

The most interesting movement since our Civil War has been the organization of these patriotic societies. The Sons of the Revolution, Sons of the American Revolution, the Society of Colonial Wars, of Colonial Dames and others have created a healthy revival of the study of the principles and origin of our institutions. As the President of the New York State Society of the Sons of the American Revolution it gives me great pleasure to greet on this patriotic occasion the Society of the Sons of the Revolution of Rhode Island. I have discovered in travelling over the country that the most active and vigorous of these societies are to be found in the new states between Chicago and the Pacific Ocean. It demonstrates that the old stock which first settled the country, which formulated the principles of self-government and crystallized them into an independent

Republic, are still dominant in the land which they were the first to occupy. Notwithstanding the vast immigration, the Sons of the Revolutionary War, the descendants of Colonial and Revolutionary ancestors, in the same spirit which carried their fathers across the ocean to Plymouth Rock, or to New York, or to Jamestown, are carrying the church and the schoolhouse into the wilderness and forming institutions and new States upon the same basis as the charter framed in the cabin of the Mayflower and the immortal instrument adopted by the Continental Congress on the Fourth of July, 1776.

Rhode Island in territory and population is one of the smallest States, and yet her influence during the formative period of American history has been productive of greater good than many a larger commonwealth. There has always been a lively and interesting discussion among the older States as to which took the initiative in bringing about the decisive contest with Great Britain. In the various phases of that controversy, by meeting, by speech, by pamphlet, by Congress and by active hostilities, precedents can be widely distributed. But it is difficult to dispute Rhode Island's claim to having inaugurated armed resistance to Parliamentary tyranny when we remember that the capture of the British sloop Liberty occurred in 1769 and the destruction of the Gaspee in 1772, both in this harbor, while the farmer's shot at Lexington echoed around the world in 1775. The young navy of the country received from this maritime State its beginning, and the daring and heroism of the coasting captains of Newport and Providence, who became suddenly privateersmen, was the first indication of the ability of the United States to take its place among the first of the naval nations of the world.

Newport has always been distinguished for its local

pride, and, unlike many communities, it has had a basis for its belief in itself. When the British forces evacuated New England they held on to Newport for a long time af-The facilities of this splendid harbor furnished them an opportunity to strike at Boston and other important points on the New England coast, and to assist in the movements originating in the city of New York. It is the spirit of inquiry, stimulated by these patriotic societies, which is rescuing from oblivion names and places which hereafter will be glorious in our country's history. These societies do not perpetuate a class, nor are they exclusive. That pride is pardonable which points to an ancestor who did service for his country in its struggle for existence. To be able to point to generations running back to the Revolution, and again back to the first settlement of the country, which have been independent, self-respecting, selfsustaining, contributing their part to the general welfare of their respective communities, and who have kept out of the jail and the almshouse, is an escutcheon emblazoned with nobler and more inspiring sentiment than the heraldic shield which pictures the castle on a crag from which the chief descends to rob the farms and to rob the stores in the valley below.

Every foot of this territory is classic ground. Newport, rivalling Boston and New York, was a prominent seaport of the United States. It was the centre of Colonial wealth, luxury, refinement and mercantile enterprise. One of its own chroniclers has modestly stated that the philosophy and learning, refinement and culture, the great artists and painters of the Colonies, were mostly to be found in Newport. The tyranny and downfall of General Prescott, who commanded the British forces, is at once the tragedy and farce of the Revolutionary story. He arbitrarily arrested the best citizens and lodged them in jail and kept

them there for months without any charges preferred or any excuse for their confinement. Like Gessler of old, but with the modern method, he did not place his hat upon a pole, but commanded that every citizen should take off his hat on meeting him, and beat a citizen with his club if he failed to comply. The sturdy Rhode Island Quaker, true to his principle of lifting his hat to no one but the Almighty, furnished the English commander with abundant exercise for his club. There is a strain in the Anglo-Saxon blood which at a certain point will overcome all obstacles and defy all danger. When this point was reached a determined body of Rhode Island citizens performed one of the most daring exploits of the war. They crossed the bay under the guns of the British warship, passed the camp of the General's guard, captured the general's armed sentinels round his house, silenced his general staff and carried him off within the American lines. Notwithstanding the brutality with which he had treated them and their compatriots, they granted him every consideration. there is one thing which no New Englander will stand. On their way to Washington's headquarters they stopped at the hotel of Captain Alden, inn keeper, and captain of a company of the Revolutionary Rangers. Mrs. Alden, as a tribute to the distinguished guest, prepared with her own hand and placed before him in person a dish of that favorite diet of the Puritan, succotash. The irate British General had treated the citizens of Newport so badly that he had never been brought in contact with this most luscious and inviting dish. He threw the plate upon the floor and shouted at Mrs. Alden, "How dare you bring such hog food to me?" Mrs. Alden fled from the room in tears, and her doughty husband returned with a horsewhip, and the General had for his supper a Yankee lash instead of succotash.

The year 1778 was an epoch-making year. It cleared

away the obstacles for the final triumph of American independence. It brought about combinations which assured glorious results. The efforts of the British commanders to capture the line of the Hudson, divide the colonies and crush them in detail had been defeated at the battle of Saratoga, pre-eminently one of the decisive contests of the world. The battle at Saratoga was planned by Schuyler, won by Benedict Arnold, and its laurels were given to General Gates.

It was during 1778 that Arnold received the rebuff and insults which made him with his unfortunate temperament and make-up the only traitor of the American history. The nemesis of treason pursued him to his death and followed his family. He fought a duel with a British peer because that nobleman asked that a traitor be put out of the gallery of the House of Lords. On his death bed he ordered that the uniform which he had worn at the battle of Saratoga, and had been carefully preserved, should be brought out and put on him, and he then gave utterance to the saddest of last words, "Let me die in the uniform in which I wish I had lived."

His son became, by the desperate daring that characterized his father, a Major General of the British Army, and won distinction upon many fields, and yet it is only within a recent period that in England a lady said to me, "I have heard something recently about an American General, Arnold. Can you tell me about him?" I said, "Do you mean General Benedict Arnold?" She said "Yes, I think that is the name," and added: "I believe he was a very bad lot—" A lady present said, "Excuse me, but he was my ancestor."

In 1778 was fought the battle of Monmouth. It uncovered the treachery of General Lee and demonstrated to the enemies of Washington and Congress that he was not only

a Fabyan General, but a thunderbolt upon the field of battle. The disclosures of Conway brought to a head the conspiracy to displace Washington from the head of the army and put General Gates in his place. It destroyed the cabal of disappointed army officers and petty politicians in the Continental Congress and placed Washington in the hearts of the soldiers and the judgment of the people in his rightful position as the supreme and only leader of the forces of liberty. Seventeen hundred and seventy-eight witnessed the alliance between France and the United States and brought to us a fleet, troops and the money without which our cause was in the greatest peril. The battle of Rhode Island, or rather the campaign of Rhode Island, inconsequential as it was, performed a signal service of bringing into harmonious relations the Americans and their French allies. General Sullivan had at his command the assistance of the troops which Washington had sent him and in the New England farmers who had come out for a three weeks enlistment in order to assist in driving the enemies from the last place in New England which they retained, outnumbering about three times the British troops in Newport. The French fleet, under Count D'Estang, lying off the harbor largely outnumbered the British men of war within. Concerted action and harmonious councils were all that was needed to inflict one of the most crushing blows of the war. But Sullivan moved without con-D'Estang was offended, time passed, the farmers returned to their crops, the French fleet sailed away and all was lost. Sullivan in general orders sharply rebuked his French allies and the French lost heart in the contest.

Young Lafayette, only 20 years of age, welcomed because of his rank and distrusted because of his youth, grasped at once the situation. He rode 76 miles to Bos-

ton, whither D'Estang had gone, and procured a promise of assistance. He rode back 76 miles in six hours and found the campaign over and craved and received the perilous privilege of taking the rear guard of the Americans off the island. But the misfortunes of the Rhode Island campaign brought about two important results. First, a clear appreciation in the minds of the American generals of the military value and diplomatic skill of Lafayette, and, second, that new and better understanding between the French and the Americans, without which French assistance would have been very little help. It is a frequent assertion in regard to State builders that they builded better than they knew. It has become the trite phrase at the celebration of the New England Forefathers' Day, and of the Revolutionary anniversaries. I dissent utterly from the proposition. The men of the Revolution knew precisely the structure upon which they were erecting their State, and the foundation upon which it was placed. miliarity with the discussions of the Continental Congress, and with the speeches of Colonial and Revolutionary statesmen, demonstrates their clear insight into the future. The "Federalist," written by Hamilton, Madison and Jay, is the text book of the Federal Union. There was nothing miraculous nor divinely revealed for the occasion in the struggle for independence, and its triumph in the Declaration of Independence or in the Constitution of the United There had been 150 years of preparation in the best of schools. From Plymouth Rock to Independence Hall was a broad highway of liberty. It was dotted with the schools of experience, in which were taught the eternal and fundamental principles of self-government. The charter formulated in the cabin of the Mayflower was the seed thought of the centuries. It flowered and fruited until it developed the New England Puritan bigotry on the one hand and African slavery on the other.

To Rhode Island belongs the credit in these developments, of enforcing the lessons of religious liberty. stood very much to the American colonies as Holland did to the Continental Europe of the 16th and 17th centuries. Her people, her commerce and her enterprise made her rich and prosperous, and yet she was at all times willing to sacrifice everything for liberty of conscience. She fought her battle with magnificent intelligence, persistence and courage, against the thunders of the Puritan theocracy, and boycotted Puritan Legislation. Old Cotton Mather of Boston said, "Rhode Island is occupied by Anti-nomians, Anabaptists, Quakers, Ranters and everything else but Roman Catholics and Christians—and if any man has lost his religion he may find it in this general muster of opinions-of New England-this receptacle of the convicts of Jerusalem and the outcasts of the land."

The error of this great theologian and bigot was first as to facts. Catholics were welcomed with all other religions to tolerant Rhode Island, and the people of Rhode Island, according to their several lights, were Christians by precept and example.

In the light of our understanding of the teachings of Christ, I may say as regards liberal Rhode Island, and the bigoted and persecuting New England colonies of that period, that Rhode Island had religion with many sects, and the Puritan Commonwealth had one sect with no religion.

Freedom of conscience and liberty of opinion is the centre and the circumference, the rind and the core of Rhode Island fame. As a citizen of the world I belong sufficiently to all communities to take interest in their affairs and to treat them I trust in a broad and catholic spirit. While I differ absolutely from the views of the President of Brown University, and believe that his teachings put into practice would lead to incalculable commercial and industrial dis-

aster, yet he is as entitled to his opinions and expression of them as every other citizen without interference with the profession and place made illustrious by his learning and ability.

Rhode Island has contributed three men of immortal fame among the founders and defenders of our country. Following the lines of her early contributions to our naval glory, she gave to us that most picturesque figure of our middle naval history, that hero who saved for us the lakes and our Northern border, in the war of 1812, Commodore Perry. But the one supreme genius developed by the Revolutionary War was Nathaniel Greene. The seven years' struggle produced very little of that supreme capacity which makes a great commander. The one next to Washington to whom that title can apply, and who demonstrated it upon every field where he was placed, was this modest Quaker and victorious soldier of Rhode Island.

But the glory, however, of this little commonwealth is Roger Williams. His fame will increase with centuries, his place become higher and more isolated as the atmosphere becomes purer and more clarified. Beyond all the religious teachers of an intensely religious inquiring age, he believed in liberty of conscience. He alone had faith in that Truth crushed to earth would rise again for the immortal years of God are hers, while Error wounded writhes in pain and dies among its worshippers.

Roger Williams' life and career brings out in strong relief the value of our modern development of the discovery of America. Civil and religious liberty, abolition of caste and privilege, equality of all men before the law, had to be worked out in a new country removed by thousands of miles of difficult and dangerous ocean from the traditions of all past in order to triumph.

Roger Williams would have been crushed out in Massa-

chusetts, Connecticut or New Haven colonies or in any of the larger communities, and he would have been speedily silenced in Europe. But in the wilderness of Narragansett Bay he could form a colony and try his experiment. He was an abler and a broader reformer than Cromwell, Calvin or Luther. When 70 years of age he rowed himself in an open boat the whole length of Narragansett Bay to discuss in a community of distinguished Quakers the dogmas of their sect. The first among the theologians and statesmen of that age, he recognized that debate was the safety valve of liberty. When his Puritan neighbors passed laws imprisoning the Quakers, then branding them, boring holes in their ears and then hanging them, he inquired what did these men believe and what crime had they committed. When informed that they were fined, imprisoned, branded and hung because of their religious opinion and that they believed in non-resistance and were quiet and inoffensive and industrious citizens, he sent them an eager letter of welcome to Rhode Island, because, he said, people who will die for their faith and defend it only by discussion will be valuable additions to our commonwealth.

The little theatre was crowded to its limit, though when the affair was arranged the managers feared that they would be unable to secure a good attendance, and hence chose Casino Theatre rather than the Opera House, which could have been filled with ease. The gentlemen upon whom hung the huge task of seating the multitude were William G. Ward, Jr., Capt. H. C. Stevens, Jr., Col. W. J. Cozzens, Hiram Burlingham, Joseph G. Stevens, 2d, and Dr. Edwin P. Robinson.

#### CAPTURE OF GENERAL PRESCOTT.

Celebration of the One Hundred and Twenty-first Anniversary.

The Rhode Island Society of Sons of the Revolution voted to observe the one hundred and twenty-first anniversary of the capture of General Prescott by a picnic on the grounds occupied by the British general as his headquarters. With this end in view a committee of arrangements consisting of Mr. R. H. Tilley, Dr. E. P. Robinson and Mr. David Stevens, was appointed. They extended an invitation to William Ellery Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, to participate in the observance, and the invitation was accepted. The following committee was appointed to act for the Chapter: Mrs. Archibald B. Sayer, Mrs. A. C. Landers, Miss Florence Sanborn and Mrs. E. P. Robinson. Each member of either society was also privileged to bring personal friends.

The freedom of the house and grounds was courteously extended to the societies for the day by the owner, Mr. Joseph Chace, and a tent was erected upon the lawn. The societies were scheduled to start in drags at eleven o'clock on July 9, but wet weather in the forenoon prevented the departure until four o'clock in the afternoon. Upon arriving at the picnic grounds the visitors were conducted through the house from which General Prescott was taken by the indomitable Barton, and afterwards each spent the time as inclination dictated. A collation was served in the tent, and at about eight o'clock the party filled the drags for the homeward ride. The occasion was thoroughly enjoyed.

Membership Roll.

## MEMBERSHIP ROLL.

1896. SHERMAN, WILLIAM WATTS. (1).

Great-great-grandson of Lieutenant Colonel Henry Bicker, (1723-1789), Major of the 3rd Pennsylvania Regiment, January 4th, 1776; was transposed to the 10th Pennsylvania Regiment, October 25th, 1776; was promoted to be Lieutenant Colonel of the 6th Pennsylvania Regiment, December 5th, 1776; became supernumerary, July 1st, 1778.

## 1896. SANBORN, JOHN PAGE, (2).

Great-grandson of Sherburne Sanborn, (1756–1836), Private in Captain Winthrop Rowe's Company, Colonel Poor's 2nd New Hampshire Regiment, 1775; Sergeant in Colonel Joseph Senter's Regiment, Captain Enoch Page's Company, 1777; Sergeant in Colonel Thomas Bartlett's Regiment of Militia, Captain Daniel Gordon's Company, 1780; New Hampshire Regiments.

Great-great-grandson of Thomas Page, Sergeant in Colonel Jonathan Chase's New Hampshire Regiment, 1777; Quartermaster Sergeant in Captain Ezra Currier's Company, Colonel Abraham Drake's New Hampshire Regiment, 1777-1778; Quartermaster in Colonel Jacob Gale's New Hampshire Regiment, 1778.

### 1896. HIGBEE, EDWARD WYMAN, (3).

Great-grandson of Charles Higbee, (1754–1828), Private in Captain Wetherbee's Company, July, 1776; Private in Captain Ashley's Company, 1777; four days in Spencer's Scouting Party in August, 1780; New Hampshire regiments.

### 1896. TOMPKINS, FREDERICK, (4).

Grandson of Gideon Tompkins, (1761–1837), Private in Captain Gideon Simmons' Company, Colonel William Richmond's Regiment, Rhode Island Militia, 1777; Private in Captain Ephraim Simmon's Company from August, 1778, to October 17, 1779, and served in the expedition to Rhode Island under Major General John Sullivan; Private in regiment commanded by Colonel Christopher Greene, on the Island of Rhode Island, in 1780, while the French were in possession.

## 1896. STORER, HORATIO ROBINSON, M. D., (5).

Great-grandson of James Brewer (1742–1805), Private in Colonel Richard Gridley's Regiment of Artillery, 1775; in Colonel Craft's Artillery, 1777, Massachusetts; Quartermaster, frigate "Boston," Samuel Tucker, Commander.

### 1896. GARRETTSON, FREDERICK PRIME, (6).

Great-great-grandson of John Jay (1745–1829), Delegate to Continental Congress of New York; Commissioner to France in 1782 for negotiations of peace; Colonel 2nd Regiment New York City Militia, November 3, 1775; prepared draft of Constitution of New York, 1777, and appointed first Chief Justice under it, 1777–9.

# 1896. TILLEY, RISBROUGH HAMMETT, (7).

Great-great-grandson of Peleg Chapman (1730–1784), Steward's Mate on the Privateer "Lady Washington," commissioned by the Governor of Rhode Island, August 24, 1776, Captain James Godfrey, Commander.

## 1896. STEVENS, DAVID, (8).

1896. WARD, WILLIAM GREENE, JR., (9).

Great-great-grandson of Elijah May, Private in Colonel Archibald Crary's Regiment, Rhode Island Continental line, from 1776 to 1780.

Great-grandson of Nicholson Ward, Private Rhode Island Continental line.

1896. COLT, SAMUEL POMEROY, (10).

Great-great-grandson of William Bradford (1729–1808), Lieutenant Governor of Rhode Island, and (ex-officio) member of the General Assembly, in 1776, when it declared itself independent of Great Britain.

1896. GREENE, HENRY LEHRE, (11).

Great-grandson of Colonel Christopher Greene, Rhode Island Continental Line, (1737–1781), Lieutenant Colonel in battalion of infantry attached to General Benedict Arnold's expedition to Quebec, 1776; commanded colored regiment at battle of Bloody Run, Portsmouth, Rhode Island, August 28, 1778; successfully defended Fort Mercer, Red Bank, New Jersey, October 22, 1777, for which important service Congress voted that a sword be presented to him.

1896. RUSSELL, CHARLES HOWLAND, (12).

Great-grandson of Thomas Russell (1758–
1801), Ensign in Colonel Sherburne's
Regiment of Continental Infantry,
Rhode Island, 1777; Aide de Camp to
General Stark, under General Washington, 1779.

1896. BELMONT, OLIVER HAZARD PERRY, (13).

Great-grandson of Christopher Raymond
Perry (1761–1818), who served on Ship

"Mifflin," Captain G. W. Babcock, which was captured by the British, and

the crew sent to the "Jersey" Prison Ship. Escaping therefrom, he subsequently served on other ships of the Continental Navy.

### 1896. WILBOUR, JOSHUA, (14).

Great-great-grandson of Samuel Wilbour (1725-1791), Private in Colonel Archibald Crary's Regiment, Rhode Island Continental Line, 1778-1779-1780.

### 1896. TILLEY, WILLIAM LOVIE, (15).

Great-grandson of William Tew (1745–1808), Captain of 2nd Battalion, Rhode Island Militia, elected upon recommendation of General Washington, 1776.

### 1896. TIFFANY, PERRY, (16).

Great-grandson of Christopher Raymond Perry (1761–1818), who served on Ship "Mifflin," Captain G. W. Babcock, which was captured by the British, and the crew sent to the "Jersey" Prison Ship. Escaping therefrom, he subsequently served on other ships of the Continental Navy.

## 1896. KAULL, PARDON STEVENS, (17).

Great-great-grandson of Samuel Stevens (——-1777), Lieutenant 7th Company (Caleb Carr's), 1st Regiment, Rhode Island Militia; Lieutenant in Captain Wing Spooner's Company, Rhode Island, 1776.

Great-great-grandson of Thomas Stacy,

Master of Privateer "Diamond," Newport, R. I., 1776, Nicholas Brown, owner.

## 1896. ROBINSON, EDWIN PUTNAM, (18).

Great-great-grandson of Enoch Robinson (1736–1798), 2nd Lieutenant under Captain Jabez Ellis, and marched to Roxbury, April 19, 1775, the day of the Lexington Alarm; 1st Lieutenant under Captain Stephen Richardson, 1777; 1st Lieutenant under Captain Samuel Robinson, 1778; Captain under Colonel Isaac Dean, 1780; Massachusetts regiments.

Great-great-grandson of Isaac Cochran, (1742-—), Lieutenant in Captain Amos Gage's Company, Colonel Daniel Moor's Regiment, New Hampshire Militia, September 29, 1777.

Great-great-grandson of Amos Whittemore, (1746———) private, Captain Samuel McConnell's Company, Colonel Daniel Moor's Regiment, New Hampshire Militia, September 26, 1776.

Great-great-grandson of John Bradford, (1744–1836), Captain, Colonel Moses Nichols' Regiment, General Stark's Brigade, New Hampshire Militia, 1777.

## 1896. BURLINGHAM, HIRAM, (19).

Great-great-grandson of George Sinkins (——-1777), sailing master of Sloop "Providence," and was killed in a bat-

tle between the said sloop and three British vessels, off Sandy Hook, June, 1777.

### 1896. SWINBURNE, GEORGE WAY, (20).

1896. UNDERWOOD, WILLIAM JAMES, (21).

Great-grandson of Samuel Underwood
(1756–1830), Seaman on Privateer
"Lady Washington," commissioned by
the Governor of Rhode Island, August
24, 1776, Captain James Godfrey, Commander.

## 1897. SAYER, WILLIAM DAVIS, (22).

Great-great-grandson of William Davis, (1733–1816), Sheriff of Newport County, in 1779, elected in "Grand Committee." Great-great-grandson of William Lawton, private in Rhode Island State Troops, 1777.

1897. TURNER, HENRY EDWARD, M. D., (24), (DECEASED).

Grandson of Dr. Peter Turner (1751–1822), Surgeon elected by the General Assembly of Rhode Island 1777, of 1st Regiment of Rhode Island Infantry, in the Continental Line; Member of the Society of the Cincinnati, from the time of its institution, 1783, to the time of his death, 1822.

1897. PINNIGER, DAVID THOMAS, (25).

Great-grandson of Thomas Arnold (1740–1821), Captain in the Rhode Island Infantry, under Colonel Christopher Greene, 1779.

1897. STANHOPE, CLARENCE, (26).

Great-grandson of John Adams (1761–1843), who was granted a pension, May 28, 1833, for his services in the Revolutionary War, in the Massachusetts Militia.

1897. TOPHAM, JAMES G., (27).

Grandson of John Topham, Rhode Island Continental Line, (1740-1793), Captain of a company, in the expedition to Quebec, under General Benedict Arnold; after 1775, he was promoted to Colonel, and fought in the Battle of Rhode Island.

1897. BURLINGHAM, EDWARD JONES, (28). Great-great-grandson of George Sinkins

(——-1777), sailing master of Sloop "Providence," and was killed in a battle between said sloop and three British vessels, off Sandy Hook, June, 1777.

- 1897. PEIRCE, THOMAS JAY, (29).

  Great-great-grandson of Ezekiel Gardner,
  Jr., (1738- -----), who recruited soldiers
  for the War of the Revolution, 1775,
  North Kingstown, Rhode Island.
- 1897. BAKER, BENJAMIN, (31).

  Great-grandson of Beriah Waite (1757–1820), Ensign in Company 3, North Kingstown, Rhode Island State Militia, 1778–1779; Lieutenant, 1780; Deputy Sheriff of the County of Kings, Rhode Island, 1781.
- 1897. SMITH, MARION McALLISTER, (32).

  Great-great-great-grandson of John Carr,
  (1738–1814), Captain of Second Regiment, Rhode Island State Militia, elected by General Assembly at a meeting held in Newport, August, 1776.
- 1897. READ, HARWOOD EDWARD, (33).

  Great-grandson of Isaac Cook, (1745-

1826), Captain of the First Company of Tiverton, Rhode Island Militia, elected May, 1778, and re-elected June, 1779, by the General Assembly of Rhode Island.

1897. CARR, THEODORE O., (34).

Great-grandson of John Carr (1738–1814),

Captain in Colonel Hitchcock's Battalion, October, 1776, elected by the General Assembly of Rhode Island.

1897. MACKAYE, HENRY GOODWIN, M. D., (35).

Great-great-grandson of Christopher Ellery
(1736-1789), Member of the Council of
War of the State of Rhode Island, 1777.

1897. HAYWARD, EDWARD GRANT, (36).

Great-grandson of John Field (1755–1829),

Sergeant in Captain Robert Oliver's

Company, Colonel Greaton's Regiment,

Massachusetts, May 1, 1777, to December 31, 1779.

1897. TILLEY, BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, (Commander, U. S. N.), (37).

Great-grandson of Jonathan Simmons, (1755-1803), Lieutenant of the Army of Observation, in Captain Thomas Tew's Company, for Newport and Bristol, Rhode Island.

1898. BARKER, CHRISTOPHER FRANKLIN, M. D., (38).

Great-grandson of Isaac Barker, (1752–1834). He established a correspondence

with an American Regiment quartered in Little Compton, Rhode Island, opposite his farm, and communicated all the movements of the British, and especially of the British Colonel who was quartered in his house. He applied for a pension for his services.

- 1898. STEVENS, JOSEPH GARDNER, 2ND, (39).

  Great-grandson of Thomas Cole, Captain
  of the 2nd Company, Rhode Island Militia, elected by the General Assembly
  of Rhode Island, June, 1775.
- 1898. VERNON, GEORGE EDWARD, (40).

  Great-grandson of Joel Bradford, private and quartermaster in the Navy, Rhode Island, and received a pension for his services; placed on the roll, September 28, 1833.
- 1898. MURDOCK, JOSEPH BALLARD, (LIEUTEN-ANT U. S. N.), (41).

  - Great-great-grandson of John Gile, (1740–1800, second Lieutenant in Captain Benjamin Butler's Company, New Hampshire, 1775.
  - Great-grandson of Samuel Gault, (1758–1843), private in Captain John Parker's Company, Colonel Timothy Bedell's Regiment, New Hampshire, 1775.

1898. COLE, REV. FREDERICK BRADFORD, (42).

Great-great-grandson of Joseph Reynolds,

Jr., (1748–1818), Lieutenant, Bristol

Company, Rhode Island Militia, May

1778.

### IN MEMORIAM.

HENRY EDWARD TURNER, M. D. BORN WARWICK, R. I., JUNE 15, 1816. DIED NEWPORT, R. I., JUNE 2, 1897.

#### By the Historian.

DR. HENRY EDWARD TURNER, called from us in his eighty-first year, was for nearly three-quarters of a century identified with the affairs and, indeed, the very life of Newport. Though not a native of Newport he was brought to the island when a child, and to him it has always been the central point of the whole earth. His traditions for several generations, from the very outset of Rhode Island State, had been its own. Though a descendant of Roger Williams, it was not Providence but Newport that typified all that was its best. And yet throughout Rhode Island he was held in great esteem. East Greenwich came next to Newport in his affections. The state at large has repeatedly summoned him to positions of influence and trust, but these tokens of the public confidence he has held as tributes rather to the intrinsic excellence of Newport than to himself as an individual.

Dr. Turner's death has already elicited expressions of sorrow from many of the societies and organizations with which he has been connected. The Board of Health, the Trustees of the Newport Hospital, and its Professional Staff, the Newport Medical Society, the Historical Society, the Natural History Society, and others still, have joined

in the universal regret. As physician, scientist, and public servant his virtues, his faithfulness, and his deeds of mercy have been enumerated, and the great debt that was due to him from the community has been most heartily acknowledged. From the pulpit his life's tale has affectionately been summed—a stately column, capped by lilies.

To the Sons of the Revolution, another side of his personality has most prominently presented itself. Turner's great love for Newport was not for the charm of its situation, its natural beauties, or its healthfulness as a home; nor was it for its ties to him of kinship and social joys; nor for its peculiarly old-fashioned characteristics, the shibboleth of many of its people, of which he himself bore the impress. It was rather that there far more than at Providence, or indeed than at most of our old cities, save Boston and New York, centered the grand conflicts of our forefathers for the liberty of our country. In Newport the stern necessities of the Revolutionary trial had compelled every resident to display his hand. The line that separated patriotism from loyalty had been sharply drawn by the sword. Those who were not openly for separation and independence were pronounced, even by their silence, as against them. There was no middle course permitted, even to those who previously had been the most respected and esteemed. Dr. Turner's tastes as an antiquarian led him to become familiar with the histories of all these old families. He knew the site, interior details and traditions of every house of that period, whether or not still standing. In his rounds among his patients he was daily inflamed by memories of those who had been shining examples of self surrender and sacrifice to freedom, or moved to indignation with thoughts of those who would have sold their country to renewed and possibly still more bitter servitude, and his heart leaped within him as he constantly appreciated what it had meant in those days to do and to dare.

Dr. Turner was most emphatically a hero worshipper. Familiar, as a well educated man, with the history of all nations, past and present, he placed America first. It was to him the concentration, in the fulness of time, of all that was valorous and all that was good. Mark, however, that it was the past of our country, and by no means its present, that received his veneration. Its colonial history, while he valued it and as its student knew it well, was but the preparation for the throwing off of the English voke, while our later years of prosperity and plenty were to him heavily charged with the faults that seem an almost inevitable penalty of success. The public and private life of the present century gave evidence of a lower tone; morality appeared to have lapsed from its former level; the country. in a word, was bent on its own destruction. The War of 1812 and our own Civil War he considered but the natural consequences of our national decadence. To him the golden age was that of Washington. Only a few years ago, when Trumbull's collection of Washington and other revolutionary portraits were being exhibited at the hall of the Historical Society, in Newport, Dr. Turner expressed to me his great sorrow that little glimpses into the inner life of those days were thus permitted. To him it was brushing the bloom from a nectarine, the dew from a rose. It was destroying the wholly immaculate ideal that he had been taught to prize so highly, and he feared to allow the youth of our own day to suspect that there may have been even then a mote of dust upon the old still gleaming shield. Dr. Turner had all the far eastern devotion to his own ancestral glories, and his family pride was not in the direct line, merely, but in all the collaterals. Nathaniel

Greene was a name as dear to him as that of William Turner. Indeed the Indian wars may have been in his judgment but a preparation for the fight at Eutaw Springs. To have heroes of one's own blood was to him almost the summit of earthly bliss. He was perhaps prouder of them than they could possibly have been of themselves.

An abler hand than my own will undoubtedly portray to the Historical Society of Newport the lifelong special labors of its president, the unwearying historian and genealogist. I can here only speak of him as an example for ourselves to strive to follow. If he seemed at times pessimistic, it was because all his standards and expectations were so very ex-If in his vigorous interest in politics he appeared occasionally subservient to party needs, it was because he felt that his side best represented the tenets of 1776, and that it would have been cowardice not thus to show the courage of his convictions. He was besides, though so gentle, still essentially a martial man, and he strongly believed in the necessity as well as efficiency of military discipline, even in matters like that referred to, pertaining to civil life. That he was personally brave, and first of all a patriot, was proved by his readiness to take an active part with his comrades of the Newport Artillery in the perils of the Rebellion, and his serving them as Acting Assistant Surgeon in the United States Army.

He was to the end of his long life, and in a far higher sense than the mere legislative appellation usually conveys, the Honorable Dr. Turner. This was the term by which he was known to his associates of the Society of the Cincinnati. It is in accordance with which we now grieve for and lament him. It will ever embalm him in our remembrance.

### RHODE ISLAND SOLDIERS

Who Fought in the Revolutionary War from Newport County.

#### (Incomplete.)

#### NEWPORT.

Albrow, Robert, private. Allen, Benjamin, private. Allen, Joseph, private. Allen, William, captain. Anderson, Francis, sergeant. Anthony, James, master of privateer. Arnold, Thomas, captain. Austin, Elisha, private. Austin, Joseph, private. Bailey, Lemuel, lieutenant colonel. Balfour, Andrew, captain. Barker, Peleg, private. Barney, Daniel, private. Bartlett, John, Jr., surgeon's mate. Belcher, Joseph, colonel. Belcher, Joseph, Jr., lieutenant. Bennett, Christopher, ensign. Bentley, John, private. Billings, Samuel, private. Borden, Benjamin, private. Boss, John L. Brown, Benjamin, private. Brown, Clarke, quartermaster.

Brown, George, private. Brown, John, private. Brown, Joseph, private. Brown, William, master of privateer. Bryer, Elias, private. Buffum, Samuel, officer on armed ship. Burns, Walter, private. Cahoone, Jonathan, private. Card, William, carpenter's mate. Carr, Caleb, captain. Carr, Caleb, Jr., captain. Carr, Ebenezer, private. Carr, Isaac, master of priteer. Carr, John, captain. Carr, John, Jr., private. Chadwick, John, private. Champlin, George, lieuten ant colonel. Champlin, Jabez, captain. Champlin, Christopher, lieutenant. Champlin, William, captain. Channing, Edward, mariner. Channing, Henry, seaman and private. Channing, William, major. Chapman, Peleg, steward's mate. Clanning, Edward, private. Clarke, Jeremiah, corporal. Clarke, Weston, private. Clarke, Walter, captain. Cogshall, Benjamin, private. Cogshall, Daniel, private. Cole, Benjamin, private. Cole, Edward, private. Congdon, Benjamin, private. Cook, Job, private. Cooke, John, colonel. Cooke, Silas, master of pri-Cornell, William, master of privateer. Cory, William, private. Cozzens, Charles, private. Craft, William, private. Crandel, Joseph, ensign. Cranston, Thomas, private. Cranston, William, private. Davis, John, major. Davis, William, private. Davis, William, Jr., lieutenant. Dayton, Henry, captain. Downing, William, captain. Dunbar, Robert, ensign.

Earl, John, sergeant.

Earl, Thomas, lieutenant. Edes, Samuel, private.

Edward, Samuel, private.

Fitzgerrald, Edward, pri-

Elliott, Robert, colonel. Exeung, John, private.

vate.

Flagg, Ebenezer, captain. Flannagin, James, private. Fowler, Benjamin, private. Freeborn, Henry, sergeant. Frye, Benjamin, captain. Gardner, Caleb, master of privateer. Gardner, Caleb, lieutenant colonel. Gardner, Francis, lieutenaut. Gardner, Joseph, master of privateer. Gardner, Sandford, private. Gardner, William, lieutenant. Gates, Asa, ensign. Garzia, John, master of privateer. Gibbons, John, private. Gibbs, Samuel, private. Gladding, Nathaniel, captain. Godfrey, James, master of privateer. Gold, Francis, private. Greene, John, private. Greene, Samuel, private. Grimes, John, master of privateer. Jeremiah, Grinman, vate. Hall, Benjamin, private. Hall, Jeremiah, private. Hall, William, private. Benjamin, Hammett, sign. Handy, Charles, Jr., lieutenant. Handy, John, major.

Hart, Isaac, private,

Hayward, Samuel, sergeant.
Helme, Nathaniel, private.
Henshaw, John, officer.
Hogan, Dennis, private.
Hopkins, Joseph, ensign.
Horswell, John, private.
Howard, Benjamin, private.
Howard, John, private.
Hughes, Thomas, captain.
Humphrey, William, captain.
Lackson, Bortholomey, Ir.

Jackson, Bartholomew, Jr., private.

Jackson, Benjamin, private.
Jackson, Prince, private.
James, Samuel, private.
Johnston, Samuel, private.
Ladd, William, captain lieutenant.

Langley, Lee, ensign.
Langworthy, Southcoat,
private.

Lawton, Beniamin, orivate.
Lawton, George, private.
Lawton, Samuel, private.
Lawton, Samuel, private.
Lewis, John, private.
Malbone, John, colonel.
Martin, Albro, private.
Martin, Simeon, captain.
Matts, Barney, private.
Maxon, John, private.
Melvil, David, ensign.
Miller, John, lieutenant.
Mitchel, James, private.
Molten, Michael, lieutenant.

More, William, private.
Morigan, Michael, private.
Moss, Philip, captain.
Murphy, John, master of
privateer.

Newman, Augustus, lieutenant.
Nicholls, David, private.
Nichols, John, private.
Nichols, John, lieutenant.
Nichols, Joseph, private.
Nichols, Samuel, quarter master.
Oakley, William, private.
Oman, Henry, master of

privateer.
Paine, Joseph, private.
Parker, William, private.
Pearce, Samuel, private.
Pearce, Timothy, master of privateer.

Peckham, Daniel, private. Peckham, Enos, private. Pendleton, William, ensign. Perry, Joseph, lieutenant. Phillips, Daniel, private. Phillips, John, private. Phillips, William, sergeant. Pierce, Jonathan, private. Pierce, Thomas, private Pinegar, Edmund, private Pitman, James, private. Pittman, Moses, corporal. Place, Samuel, private. Pollock, Asher, private. Potter, William, private. Pratt, Joseph, drummer. Pritchard, Richard, private. Read, James, private. Read, Oliver, master of pri-

Read, William, corporal.
Reed, Benjamin, private.
Remington, John, adjutant.
Remington, Teddeman, private.

Rogers, Robert, lieutenant. Rogers, Thomas, private. Rogers, William, chaplain. Russell, Abner, private. Russell, Thomas, lieutenant. Sanford, Joseph, private. Sayer, Joshua, captain. Scott, William, private. Sears, George, lieutenant colonel. Senter, Isaac, surgeon. Shaw, William, private. Shearman, Benjamin, drummer. Shearman, Benjamin, private. Shearman, George, drummer. Sheffield, Joseph, master of privateer. Sherman, Peleg, private. Shield, Richard, private. Simmons, Jonathan, lieutenant. Sinkins, George, sailing master. Slocum, William, private. Smith, Arthur, private. Smith, Benedict, private. Smith, Nathaniel, private. Spear, Pearce, mariner. Spencer, Michael, ensign. Spooner, Benjamin, private. Spooner, Charles, lieuten-

Spooner, Samuel, ensign.

Spooner, Wing, captain. Springer, John, private.

Rogers, John, lieutenant.

Rogers, Martin, private.

Stacy, Thomas, master of privateer. Stevens, Samuel, lieutenant. Tennant, George, lieutenant. Tew, Henry, Sergeant. Tew, James, major. Tew, James, Jr., captain. Tew, Thomas, captain. Tew, William, captain. Tompkins, Samuel, corporal. Topham, John, colonel. Trevett, Constant Church, captain. Trevett, Eleazer. Trevett, John, lieutenant. Tripp, Stephen, ensign. Tripp, William, Captain. Tyler, Isaac, master of privateer. Underwood, Samuel, seaman. Vaughan, Samuel, private. Viall, John, ensign. Viall, Nathaniel, private. Viall, Samuel, lieutenant. Walford, John, private. Ward, Nicholson, private. Webb, James, lieutenant. West, Ebenezer, lieutenant. West, Nathan, private. Wilbour, John, private. Wilbur, Benjamin, private. Wilbur, Joseph, private. Wiles, Henry, captain. Wilson, Nicholas, private. Wyatt, Stukely, lieutenant. Young, Samuel, private.

#### MIDDLETOWN.

Allen, Joseph, lieutenant.
Allen, Noel, ensign.
Bailey, Samuel, lieutenant.
Barker, Elisha, ensign.
Church, Joseph, private.
Coggeshall, Thomas, Jr.,
ensign.

Cornell, Benjamin, ensign. Durfee, Oliver, captain. Handy, John, brigadier major. Irish, George, colonel. Peabody, John, ensign. Peckham, Thomas, captain. Pickham, Daniel, private. Taggart, William, captain. Vars, John, captain.

#### PORTSMOUTH.

Albro, James, captain. Allen, George, ensign. Allen, James, private. Allen, Jonathan, private. Allen, Thomas, captain. Allen, William, Jr., lieutenant. Almy, Job, major. Almy, John, private. Anthony, Burrington, captain. Billings, Samuel, private. Borden, Stephen, ensign. Brightman, William, private.

Brownell, Stephen, private.
Burrington, William, private.
Cooke, William, private.
Earle, Thomas, lieutenant.

Earle, William, corporal. Fish, Artemus, private. Gifford, David, captain. Greene, William, private. Hambly, Peleg, private. Pearce, Samuel, Jr., captain. Purlivant, William, private. Remington, Thomas, vate. Shearman, William, vate. Sisson, George, sergeant. Strange, Caleb, private. Tallman, Benjamin. Taylor, Peter, private. Thomas, Alexander, cap-

#### LITTLE COMPTON.

Bailey, John, ensign.
Briggs, Cornelius, captain.
Brownell, Gardner, private.
Brownell, Jonathan, captain.
Brownell, William, private.

Church, Caleb, private. Church, Constant, private. Church, Gideon, private. Church, Israel, ensign. Church, Nathaniel, lieutenant colonel.

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Wilcox, Cooke, ensign.

Wilcox, John, lieutenant.

Church, Thomas, colonel. Coe, Benjamin, captain. Coe, William, ensign. Coggeshall, Gideon, private. Cooke, David, corporal. Cooke, Samuel, lieutenant. Davis, William, ensign. Davis, John, captain. Gibbs, John, private. Gray, Samuel, lieutenant. Grey, Thomas, captain. Grinnell, William, private. Hart, Stephen, private. Hilyard, David, lieutenant colonel. Manchester, Job, private. Manchester, Stephen, private. Maxfield, David, private. Palmer, Walter, captain. Pearce, Job, captain. Peirce, Benjamin, captain. Peirce, Isaac, private. Peirce, Richard, private. Pierce, Rouse, lieutenant. Pierce, Stephen, captain. Potter, William, captain.

Richmond, Gilbert, ensign. Richmond, Peres, enlisting officer. Richmond, William, colonel. Salisbury, Anthony, vate. Seabury, Benjamin, lieutenant, navy. Seabury, Benjamin, tain. Shaw, Seth, private. Shaw, Sylvanus, captain. Simmons, Ephraim, captain. Simmons, George, captain. Simmons, William, ensign. Southworth, William, major. Taber, John, private. Tabor, Phillip, private. Tompkins, Gideon, private. Tompkins, James, private. Wilbur, Francis, private. Wilbur, Samuel, private and seaman. Wilbur, Thomas, private. Wood, Ichabod, lieutenant. Wood, Isaac, lieutenant.

#### TIVERTON.

Almy, Joseph, enlisting officer.

Almy, William, drum major.

Bailey, Edward, lieutenant.

Bailey, Joseph, lieutenant.

Borden, Benjamin, captain.

Brownell, Giles, private.

Brownell, George, private.

Cary, Thomas, private.

Cook, Abial, private.

Cooke, Isaac, captain.
Cooke, Pardon, enlisting officer.
Corey, Philip, captain.
Coys, Toby, private.
Dennis, Redford, ensign.
Deval, Daniel, Jr., lieutenant.
Deval, Jonathan, private.
Deval, Jonathan, Jr., captain.

Devol, Benjamin, lieuten-Durfee, Benjamin, captain. Durfee, Thomas, ensign. Durfey, Richard, captain. Dwelly, Jeremiah, sergeant. Giffard, Elihu, ensign. Gray, Job, ensign. Gray, Pardon. lieutenant colonel. Hart, Sanford, private. Hicks, Samuel, lieutenant. Howland, Benjamin, captain. Jenckes, Benjamin, private. King, Godfrey, private. Knight, Benjamin, private. Lake, Daniel, private. Lake, David, private. Lake, Giles, private. Macomber, Ephraim, private. Manchester, Christopher, major. Manchester, Edward, private. Manchester, Godfrey, private.

Manchester, Isaac, private. Manchester, John, private. Manchester, Philip, private. Manchester, Stephen, private. Manchester, Thomas, pri-Osborne, Weaver, ensign. Palmer, Job, private. Pitman, Cary, private. Round, John, private. Rounds, Jotham, private. Shearman, Humphrey, captain. Simmonds, Ichabod, private. Simmons, Peleg, captain. Slocum, Ebenezer, captain. Soule, Jacob, ensign. Soule, Samuel, private. Springer, Abraham, private. Tabor, Gideon, private. Tabor, Walter, sergeant. Taber, John, private. Taber, Samuel, private. Westgate, George, captain. Wilcocks, John, private.

#### JAMESTOWN.

Bush, Richard, sergeant.
Carr, Benjamin, Jr., ensign.
Carr, Ebenezer.
Carr, Edward, Jr., captain.
Carr, Samuel, Jr., ensign.
Daniels, Charles, private.
Grinnell, Robert, private.
Pearce, Isaac, private.

Penny, Daniel, private.
Remington, John, private.
Remington, Stephen, private.
Spencer, Thomas, private.
Underwood, Benjamin, captain.
Weeden, John, lieutenant.

#### NEW SHOREHAM.

Derub, John, private.

| Dodge, Edward, private.

Franklin, Job, private.
Littlefield, Simon, lieutenant.
Littlefield, William, lieutenant.
Paine, Edward, private.

Pain, John, ensign.
Pomp, Richard, private.
Rathbun, Samuel, Jr., lieutenant.
Sands, John, captain.
York, John, private.

#### NEWPORT COUNTY.

Albert, William, drummer. Alexander, James, private. Allen, Barnett, private. Almy, Peleg, private. Almy, Sanford, sergeant. Angles, Thomas, private. Bailey, George, private. Baily, Robert, private. Barlow, Obed, private. Beal, Joseph, private. Bennett, Godfrey, private. Billington, Elisha, private. Borden, Josiah, seaman. Borden, William, sergeant. Brayton, Borden, private. Brayton, James W., carpenter's mate. Briggs, Job, private. Briggs, Thomas, private. Brown, Isaac, private. Brownell, Gardner, private. Brownell, Sylvester, sergeant. Burnett, Andrew, seaman. Carr, John, private. Chappell, James, private. Corey, Samuel, private. Cornell, Joseph, ensign. Davis, Edmund, private. Eddy, Michael, private. Gifford, Elisha, private.

Gifford, Gideon, seaman.

Grennell, Owen, private.

Hamburg, Francis, Matross. Hicks, Abraham, seaman. Lake, Pardon, private. Lawton, Benjamin, drum-Lawton, William, private. Longworthy, William, pri-Manchester, Abraham, pri-Manchester, Giles, private. Manchester, Jeremiah, private. Negus, Isaac, private. Palmer, Benedict, private. Pearce, John, lieutenant. Pearce, Joseph, private. Petty, Joshua, private. Pierce, Ichabod, private. Sandford, George, private. Seabury, Peleg, private. Seabury, William, private. Shaw, Noah, private. Shearman, Daniel, private. Sheldon, Daniel, lieutenant. Simmons, Abner, private. Simmons, Benoni, gunner. Simmons, Ichabod, private. Simmons, Isaac, private. Smith, Jacob, private. Springer, Knight, private. Steadman, Enoch, private. Sterns, Isaac, private.

Stilwell, Joseph, private.
Stoddard, Brownell, private.
Tennant, James, sergeant.
Thomas, Garner, private.
Thurston, Thomas, private.
Tompkins, John, private.
Tompkins, Benjamin, marine.
Tompkins, Nathaniel, private.

Wade, Zebulon, seaman.
Wanton, William, private.
Webb, Robert, private.
Welkey, John, private.
Westgate, Wanton, private.
Wilburn, Hezekiah, private.
Wilcox, Thomas, private.
Yeoman, John, lieutenant.
Vose, Edward, sergeant.