When General La Fayette visited America in 1824, Virginia with open arms extended him a welcome worthy of his service to the cause of American liberty and her gratitude. His passage along the sea-bound of the State was that of a joyous progress, as such as the mechanics of antiquity accorded to conquering heroes. Triumphal arches and columns were thrown up at York Town. The Jamie, manned Point of Rocks, a redoubt held by the British and stormed and taken by the French was appropriately marked with symbols of victory. United States Forces, Virginia militia, the foremost men of the times and country met at York Town to do honor to the French Chieftain.
Regimental bands played National Anthems - "Hail to the Chief" - "Hail Columbia," while a thousand women decked on tiers of benches waved handkerchiefs and parasols amid much cheering. But it is one of the pageants at York Town, striking as was the display of streamers in the air, where an hundred sails dotted the blue waters of the beautiful York River.
restoration. This building is probably the only one in the Country built by royal authority still left standing — An anecdote of that period though a digression may not be out of place at this point — The approach of Washington along the Richmond road being announced the French troops are drawn up in front of their quarters to receive him — When Washington drew near the army The Frenchman could not be restrained and rushing forward to meet him embraced him and says an eye — witness “kissed the cold and stately Commander in Chief from ear to ear" But evening aros Moulins 1824  — Wednesday afternoon Lebrer twenty sixth
York Tier to accept the invitation accorded him by the Town Council and Citizens to visit Williamsburg. Here preparations for his twelve day visit had been in progress since September; all classes entered into a friendly competition to show him honors. A Committee of arrangements was formed—on the part of the Common—James Cote and Hall Lucas, Robert Anderson, Dr. Thomas Griffin Peacys, and on the part of the Citizens—Daniel Tinsley Banks, John Blair Peacys, and Dr. Samuel Stewart Griffin. Acting in union eight out of ten they performed their mission. Mrs. Mary Bunsen Peacys had offered her house for the occasion, other patriotic women begged to contribute to the adornment of his sleeping apartment, sent a new and handsome looking bedstead, curtains dressing table,
by La Fayette, me eacute;charies, and so on, bust for a night. They have been handed down as precious relics of the Nation's great.

Executed by the Governor. Accompanied by the Governor, the Executive Council of the State, the principal judges of the State, and Chief Justice Marshall. The Minister of War, John C. Calhoun, officers of the War and Army and Navy, and escorted by the Cavalry Companies of Richmond, Petersburg, New Kent and Williamsburg. The cavalcade reached its destination in a rain. The intended illumination of the Town and some minor parts of the programme were necessarily modified or abandoned. The court assembled on the Court House Green, had to seek shelter in the neighbouring houses. The addresses of welcome were made, and met in the Green as originally intended.
out from the porch of Mrs. Peacocks' house. After Lafayette had made a suitable and appreciative reply to the expressions of good will and admiration which met him on every hand, the whole party adjourned to the spacious drawing room, with its marble and shelves and shelf-like mantel over the capacities fire place. Here under the light of at least a hundred candles, which softened the smiles of the beautiful women, Gen. Lafayette held a speech. "Abundant refreshments were served around," but this character has not come down to us. At ten o'clock the guests dispersed and left the weary Traveller to seek refuge in the high bed. Ahead, almost as difficult to scale as the redoubt at York Town.
The next morning was spread for him an old Virginia breakfast, with its variety of breads, its ices, and its game. Just of the strangers in the city partake of this "fear of print things". At twelve o'clock, the party visited William & Mary College, where they were received by the President and Dr. Augustine Smith, and the Professors. An elegant address of welcome was delivered by the President, so say the chronicler of the site. It was intended that even the Sunday School children should take part in the pageant, a poem written by Mrs. Elizabeth Griffin Eakleff and to have been spoken by the five-year-old daughter of Dr. Smith. But Miss Mary D. Smith, recently of New York, says, "I was but a shy child and at the last my heart failed me" and the poem was left unsung. She also adds that her sister
and himself were introduced to the General by Col. Burwell Bassett a nephew of Mrs Washington; "Good! Lafayette shook hands with me in manner I more fully appreciated in after years than I did at the time." She also adds that the appearance of the United States troops at Fort Ticonderoga made a great impression in my childish fancy.

General Lafayette charmed his hearers by his encomiums on the College. There he held another reception and at two o'clock visited Col. Bassett at Bassett Hall. Which still remaining the old name is and the interesting and picturesque home of Mrs Israel Smith, formerly Mrs Rebecca Hentun of New York. At five o'clock the party sat down
A dinner in the Apollo Hall of the historic Raleigh Tavern. Besides the citizens about forty strangers were entertained on this occasion. The same worthy chronicler says of this dinner, "Morally and physically considered it was perhaps the richest and most delightful ever enjoyed in Williamsburg." The dessert was unusually rich and elegant, the fruits and wines the best that could be had procured. The entertainment was enlivened by a variety of airs from the Band of the Petersburg Volunteers. Notably the barrow of venison, the saddle of mutton and quarts of beef were a startling revelation to the frugal Virginian. The drinking of France—some of the toast drank amid much din and noise, jangling and sentiment may not be without interest."
As being first in importance for such an occasion—

"Our illustrious guest—Genl. La Fayette—Who in the morn of life em-barked upon the tempestuous sea of American Liberty, and unappalled by the vivid lightning of British wrath, and the awful thunders of her power, magnanimously aided in conducting the almost shipwrecked ark of our newly constructed National Independence into the secure haven and tranquil haven of peace and happiness."

Genl. La Fayette immediately after gave the following—

"The City of Williamsburg. May her happy scenes become equal to the grateful remembrances of an American patriot and the affectionate wishes of an old friend!" Then followed a toast—The United
States Militia, which at this particular
Fine may have a point.

"The Militia of the United States.
The deeds of a. M'Comb and a Jackson
have proclaimed to Europe and to the World
That true-born citizens, animadverted by the
inbred spirit of liberty, are armed with a
force, mighty and irresistible—Then dis-
clined and controlled by military
Genius, Intelligence and Bravery."

Another

"The Volunteers of Virginia. The 19th
of October 1814 shows they know how to
honour the innocent, the brave and the
Friend of the rights of man."

General Macomb replied - The perfect
organization of the Militia. The illustri-
ous great La Fayette can testify to their
gallantry in war of Independence, while their
name Their reputation to Their exploits in the late
War of 1812 -"
"The Chief Justice of the United States is distinguished for his legal abilities as for possession of pre-eminent genius unblemished integrity, and the called confidence of his country."

...Chief Justice Marshall's Toast in reply.

"The City of Williamsburg. Long the seat of government, it still remains the seat of science, of hospitality and good feeling."

Am. John Tyler's Toast. Afterwards President of the United States.

"Dear fellow Citizen Gent: La Fayette. Adopted by Virginia, he revisits the home won by his valor."

By John C. Calhoun, Secretary of War. "The College of William and Mary and her illustrious sons."

Another regular Toast.

"The Spanish patriots of Youth."
America. May their glorious efforts at emancipation from the comminutins yoke of degenerate
Spain terminate in complete success.
Thus evincing to the World that there resides in man an elastic principle,
which may be kept down for a period of oppression and tyrant power,
but which will ultimately rebound in the full majesty and energy of its
strength.
In these days of chivalry no public occasion was perfect without a toast to
woman. The fellow may here find a
place.
"The American Fair. Freemen assure us, we delight in the soft fetters which
their native charms impose, and kiss the light and tender pressure of the chains
we wear."
"The World turns, and the garden's war
And man the hermit awoke, till woman smiled

The entertainment of Genl. La Fayette
Fayette in Williamsburg closed, with a ball in the Apollo Hall, which was opened by the gallant Frenchman with the most winsome and fascinating wife of Dr. Thomas Griffin Rechly, one of the committee of arrangements and the son of Mrs. Anna Amos Rechly.

The next morning a departure — tiny gentleman from Norfolk met Genl. La Fayette at Jamesville whose two naval barges and the steam boat—Petersburg under command of Capt. Morgan awaited the embarkation — tiny Genl. La Fayette and his suite on the broad waters of the historic James river —
In 1824 Lafayette revisited the shores of America. In no part of the country was his reception warmer than at York Town and Williamsburg. The newspapers of the period are very full in their accounts. While the pageant at York Town has nothing to do with the annals of Williamsburg, the temptation is too strong to be resisted to make the following statement.

At York Town Genl. Lafayette received the unusual honor—indeed one greater than any previously paid in modern times—of being as his guard of honor military officers from different parts of Virginia associated for the purpose, at least thirty of whom had the rank of full Colonel.
never appropriating one to herself.

And once said that when the Gladdest Lord cast out the seven evil spirits from Mary Magdalene, they were suffered to come to Williamsburg.
First-ord — James Hampden, Pleasants, and Governor of Virginia.
William T. Salt, Mayor of Williamsburg.
At York Town, Gent. Lafayette secured the unusual honor — indeed, the greater than any previously paid in modern times — of having as his guard six military officers from different parts of Virginia associated for the purpose, at least thirty of whom had the rank of full colonel.

Cynthia B. T. Coleman
Williamsburg
Virginia