







LIFE
OF
JOHN DAVIS,

BY

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A Labor of Love.

—*St. Paul.*

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JOHN DAVIS.

CHAPTER I.

John Davis was descended of Welsh and North of Ireland ancestors.

William Davis, his grandfather, came from Great Britain about 1740, and settled in Solebury township, Bucks county, Pa., near the line of Upper Makefield. It was generally supposed, in the absence of testimony, he was born in Wales and came direct from that country, but it is now believed he was a native of London, whence he immigrated to America. The name, however, bespeaks his descent without regard to birthplace. Some of the family claim his descent to be Scotch-Welsh.

Nothing is positively known of the family before William Davis came to America. It comes down, by tradition, that the American ancestor had two brothers. One of them went to the West Indies, engaged in planting, made a fortune and returned to England to enjoy it; the other remained in London, studied and practiced law, became distinguished in his profession, and received the honors of knighthood. An effort was made, many years ago, to re-

cover an estate in England, said to have been left by one of these brothers, who died without issue, but the papers were lost and the matter given up. Whether this family tradition be true or false, we know that William Davis came to America, married, and was the ancestor of a numerous progeny.

William Davis married Sarah Burley, a daughter of John Burley,¹ of Upper Makefield, Bucks county, about 1756. The Burleys were settled in that township early, and John was the owner of considerable real estate there prior to 1750. His first tract was held under a patent from Thomas Penn, but its date is not known. He owned, in all, 254 acres, of which 200 were bought of Samuel Bunting. John Burley, Sr., died in 1748, and his will was proved April 5, 1749. He left five children, and possibly others—John, Joshua, Sarah, Elizabeth and Mary. The will provides that in case his widow shall marry a “care-

¹ When the Burleys came into Bucks is not known, but probably in the first thirty years of the last century. Some of the Western descendants claim the first progenitor landed with Penn. The name, in both England and Ireland, is an ancient one, and is spelled in various ways: Burleigh, Borleigh, Barghley, Burley, Burly, Burlie, Burle, Berley, Birley, *et al.* Burleigh is the more modern spelling. The name may have been derived from *Burler*, a dresser of cloth, *Burly*, boisterous, or compounded from *Bur*, *Burgh*, elevated, and *Ley*, meaning untilled ground. The first of the name in America was Giles Berdley, or Burly, an inhabitant of Ipswich, Mass., in 1648, whose will is dated July, 1668. John Burley settled in Connecticut, whence some of his descendants probably strayed to New Jersey and across the river into Bucks county. In Burke's Peerage are given nineteen different coats-of-arms, borne by the various English families of this name.

ful, frugal man," she and her husband may enjoy the income from the estate until the youngest child is fourteen years of age. As the widow found a new husband in John Simmons, he probably filled the requirements of the will. John Burley, Jr., died in 1799 or 1800, and left three sons and eight daughters. After 1809, the name of Burley drops out of the county records, but the descendants, in the female line, are quite numerous.

William Davis and Sarah Burley were the parents of seven children, all born subjects of the king of Great Britain: Jemima, December 25, 1758; John, September 6, 1760; Sarah, October 1, 1763; William, September 9, 1766; Joshua, July 6, 1769; Mary, October 3, 1771, and Joseph, March 1, 1774. The eldest son was named after the grandfather on the mother's side. One of Sarah Burley's sisters married James Torbet,² and the family was also connected by marriage with the Slacks³ and

² The Torberts of Bucks county are descended from Samuel, who settled in Upper Makefield, but we do not know at what time. His will is dated February 12, 1777, and proved July 28, 1778. He left six sons and two daughters, and his estate was divided among his children. Among the provisions of his will was the following: "I give my negro woman Sarah her freedom, she to give bail to executors to save my estate harmless." James Torbert, who married a daughter of John Burley, was the third son and fourth child of Samuel. His will is dated September 18, 1813, and was admitted to probate November 8th, same year. He left five sons and four daughters, the latter intermarrying with the Slacks, Hares, and Searches. His executors were his sons James and Anthony.

³ The Slacks, of Bucks, are descended from Abraham, one of three brothers who came from Holland, about 1750, and settled on the Delaware,

McNairs⁴, all well-known Bucks county families. We know less of the life of William Davis after marriage than before. He lived in Solebury township to the end of his days, and died near the close of the last century. His life was uneventful, and probably the only

in Lower Makefield. Slack's Island, in the Delaware, was named for him. He was born in 1722, and died in 1802, leaving four children—Abraham, Cornelius, James and Sarah, who married and left descendants. Cornelius died in 1828, leaving several children; and James, born in 1756 and died in 1832, left three sons and one daughter. He assisted to ferry Washington's army across the Delaware the night of December 25, 1776. Of the sons of James, Elijah graduated at Princeton, became a clergyman and died at Cincinnati, leaving several children. Anthony, the youngest son of Abraham the second, and grandson of the first Abraham, removed to Indiana in 1838, and died there in 1847. He was the father of the late James R. Slack, of Huntingdon, Indiana, who was a State Senator, Judge of the Courts, and a Major-General in the civil war. The Slack descendants in this county are numerous, and intermarried with the families of Rich, Stevens, Torbert, Emery, McNair, LaRue, Young, Balderson, Harvey, Lippincott, *et al.*

⁴ The McNairs, Scotch-Irish, are descended from Samuel, son of James, driven out of Scotland to Ireland. Samuel was born in County Donegal, in 1699; married Anna Murdock, came to America in 1732, and settled in Upper Makefield, where the family lived five generations. He landed at Bristol and spent the first winter in an old school house, around which the wolves howled at night. He died in 1761, leaving five children—James, Samuel, Solomon, Rebecca and one other. James, born in 1733, married a Keith, had nine children, and died in 1809. From this marriage sprung the Bucks county McNairs. Samuel, born in 1739, married Mary Mann, of Horsham, and from them descended the McNairs of Montgomery county. The late John McNair, M. C., of Norristown, Montgomery county, was a grandson of Samuel, and son of John, of Southampton. He was the father of Captain F. V. McNair, United States navy, one of the most gallant officers of the late war. Solomon, the third son of Samuel McNair, the elder, was a merchant of Philadelphia, where he died in 1812. The descendants are found in many parts of the Union, and in all the walks of life. They have generally remained Presbyterian, the faith of their fathers.

thing that stirred its even current was the presence of the Continental army in the neighborhood, in December, 1776. The widow of William Davis survived him until May 10, 1819, when she died at the age of eighty-four. This would bring her birth to 1735.

We find it impossible to trace some of the children of William Davis and Sarah Burley, and their descendants. Jemima, the eldest child, married John Pitner, the son of Henry and Deborah, of Bucks county, about 1786. He was born at Penn's Manor, August 18, 1755, and married, in early life, a daughter of a Captain Thompson, of near Newtown. Six daughters and two sons were born to Jemima and John Pitner: Sarah, May 21, 1787, and died September 9, 1809, of yellow fever; James Neely, September 29, 1788, died about 1842; Deborah, June 19, 1790, died April 5, 1879; Mary, May 30, 1792, and has been dead half a century; Anna, January 11, 1794, died December 14, 1836; John, October 19, 1796, died October 15, 1823; William, October 29, 1798, died April 10, 1833; and Eliza N., born July 12, 1802, still living (1885) at Wilmington, Delaware. Several of these children married and left large families. John Pitner lived at Newtown several years after his second marriage, but removed to Maryland, five miles west of Newark, in 1811. He afterward moved across the Delaware line to New Castle, where he died.

Of John Davis, the second child and eldest son of

William and Sarah Davis, and the father of the subject of this sketch, we have more accurate knowledge. As we have already stated, he was born in Solebury township, September 6, 1760. Of his boyhood we know nothing. These uneventful years were spent at his father's house, and with the family of William Neely,⁶ a relative by marriage, who lived at what is still known as "Neely's mill," in Solebury. His young life ran parallel with the lives of other boys of his age and station, and was divided between work and attending such schools as the neighborhood afforded—work, relieved by hunting and fishing, probably predominating. In this dull, but happy, routine, that of the average American country boy, he grew up surrounded by good precept and example.

Young Davis was hastening to manhood when the brewing quarrel, between Great Britain and her American colonies, broke into open war; and events shortly transpired that changed the current of his

⁶ William Neely, the first of the name in this county, was born in Ireland, August 31, 1742, and came to America, when a small boy, with his widowed mother. She married Charles Stewart, of Upper Makefield, with whom the son lived in his minority. He learned the milling business with Robert Thompson, of Solebury, and married his daughter, June 24, 1766. He had two children, a son and daughter—Robert T., who married Sarah Beaumont, from whom descended the late John T. Neely, of Solebury; and Jane, who married John Poor, the principal of the first seminary for young ladies established in Philadelphia. William Neely died July 10, 1818, and his widow February 13, 1834. The old Thompson-Neely mill was destroyed when the Delaware Division canal was dug. While Washington's army was encamped in the neighborhood, in December, 1776, several officers quartered at William Neely's house, still standing.

life, and took him from his quiet and happy home for years. He became an active participant in the great struggle. As his immediate family and friends, with their mixed Welsh and Irish blood, were loyal to the cause of the colonies, his youthful heart was fired at the wrongs of his country. He early had an opportunity to take up arms. The 4th of June, 1776, the Continental Congress ordered a "Flying camp" to be established in New Jersey, and Bucks county was called upon for a quota of 400 men. The County Committee of Safety took steps to organize this force the 10th of July, by appointing Joseph Hart,⁶ of Warminster township, Colonel of the battalion, with a full complement of field, staff, and company officers.⁷

⁶ Joseph Hart, commandant of this battalion, a man of mark in his day, was the son of John Hart, of Warminster, born September 1, 1715, and grandson of John, who came to America in 1682. He married Elizabeth Collet, granddaughter of Jeremiah Collet, who came with William Penn, and was a member of his council. He was commissioned a Justice in 1747, Sheriff in 1749, '50 and '51, Justice of the Court of Quarter Sessions in 1764, and held commissions in the militia in 1747, '55 and '56. He was an ardent patriot in the Revolution; was a delegate to the convention in Carpenter's Hall, July 19, 1774, and chairman of the committee that recommended a "Congress of Deputies;" a member of the Bucks County Committee of Safety; Lieutenant of the county; a delegate and vice president of the Convention of Conference in Philadelphia, in 1776, that organized a State government, and a member of the Supreme Executive Council of the State in 1777, '78 and '79. He died at Warminster, February 25, 1788.

⁷ The following were the officers of Colonel Hart's battalion: Joseph Hart, Colonel; Captains, John Folwell, William Roberts, William Hart, Valentine Opp and John Jamison; First Lieutenants, John Kreson, Henry Darrah, Hugh Long, Philip Trumbower and Tennis Middleton; Second

In one of these companies, commanded by William Hart, young Davis served as a substitute for his father. These troops took the field about the first of August, and served through the campaign that closed with the fall of forts Washington and Lee, and the loss of New Jersey, and were discharged in December. The battalion was still in service when Washington crossed to the west bank of the Delaware, the 8th of that month. It was again called out, by Washington, December 19th, and ordered to report to General Putnam at Philadelphia, but was discharged toward the end of the month.

The operations of these troops are known in history as the "The Amboy Expedition." On another occasion, but we do not know whether before or afterward, our young soldier served a short tour of duty in a company commanded by Samuel Smith.⁸

Lieutenants, Abraham DuBois, James Shaw, Jacob Drake, Samuel Deane and John Irvine; Ensigns, McKissack, William Hines, Joseph Hart, Stoffel Keller and John McCammon; Adjutant, John Johnson; Surgeon, Joseph Fenton, Jr.; Quartermaster, Alexander Benstead.

⁸ Samuel Smith was a descendant of Robert Smith, who settled in Bucks in his minority, prior to 1699, his father dying on the passage. He married in 1719 and died in 1745, leaving six sons, noted for their good penmanship. Samuel, probably a grandson, was born February 1, 1749, and died September 17, 1835. He was commissioned First Lieutenant in the Fifth Pennsylvania Regiment, January 6, 1776, and promoted to Captain March 1, 1777. He was an officer in General Lafayette's brigade of light infantry, and served in the Continental army to the end of the war. After his return he married a daughter of John Wilkinson and settled down at farming. In the last war with Great Britain, he commanded a brigade of militia at Marcus Hook. One of his sons, George W. Smith, died at Zion, Cecil

John Davis was sixteen years and three months old when the defeated Continentals sought the friendly shelter of the Delaware, and encamped about Jericho Hill, in Upper Makefield, in December, 1776. Having but recently returned from his maiden campaign, with his martial spirit fully aroused, the presence of Washington and his army in the neighborhood naturally stimulated his patriotic impulses. The troops were encamped so near his home he must have come in daily contact with them, in and out of camp. When Washington recrossed the Delaware, the night of Christmas day, to attack the Hessians at Trenton, young Davis accompanied him and shared in the glory of that achievement. As he was not an enlisted soldier at that time, he probably went as a volunteer, or, possibly, a substitute for his father in some militia company that strengthened the Continental forces. He frequently related the incidents of that memorable night to his interested children. Among the wounded, at Trenton, was James Monroe,⁹ a Lieutenant of artillery, and after-

county, Maryland, in 1879, aged 85 years; and another is General A. J. Smith, of the regular army, who distinguished himself in the war of the Rebellion.

⁹ James Monroe, fifth President of the United States, was born in Westmoreland county, Virginia, April 28, 1758. He left college in 1776 to join the Continental army, serving through the campaign of that year as Lieutenant of artillery, and was wounded at Trenton. He served on the staff of Lord Sterling, in 1777. He studied law with Thomas Jefferson, and commenced practice. He was in Congress from 1783 to 1786, and a Senator from 1790 to 1794. The latter year Washington appointed him Minister

ward President of the United States. When the army recrossed the Delaware into Bucks, Lieutenant Monroe was taken to the residence of William Neely, the home of young Davis. He spent some time there, to recover from his wound, and was then removed to the house of Judge Wynkoop,¹⁰ near Newtown. Whether John Davis crossed the Delaware a second time with Washington, and took part in the battle of Princeton, we are not informed.

to France ; he was elected Governor of Virginia, in 1799 ; appointed one of the Commissioners to purchase Louisiana, by Jefferson, in 1803 ; then Minister to England, and transferred to Madrid, to negotiate the purchase of Florida. He was a member of Mr. Madison's Cabinet. He was elected President in 1816, re-elected in 1820, and died in 1831. He was the author of the celebrated "Monroe Doctrine," and a man of spotless character and an able and wise statesman.

¹⁰ Henry Wynkoop was probably a descendant of Cornelius C. Wynkoop, who immigrated from Holland to New York, in the seventeenth century. His son Gerardus moved to Moreland, Montgomery county, Pa., with his family, in 1717, and to Northampton township, Bucks county, in 1727, taking up 500 acres of the Tompkin's tract. He is styled, in the conveyance, "Garret Winekoop, gentleman, of Philadelphia." In 1738 he conveyed 260 acres to Nicholas Wynkoop, of Northampton, probably his eldest son. He was of local repute in the Revolution, and several times Speaker of the Assembly. Henry Wynkoop, the son of Nicholas, and grandson of Gerardus, was born March 2, 1737, and married Ann Knipers, of Bergen county, New Jersey. He was a prominent man in the Revolutionary struggle ; was a member of the Bucks County Committee of Safety, for 1774, '75 and '76 ; a Lieutenant in the army ; a member of the Congress that met in Carpenter's Hall, June 18, 1775, and a member of the first Congress of the United States, that met at New York, in 1789. Mr. Wynkoop was Judge of the Common Pleas of Bucks, in 1776, and delivered the first charge to the Grand Jury, at Newtown, under the Constitution formed that year. He was the personal friend of Washington and Hamilton ; and a remarkably handsome man.

John Davis soon entered upon a broader field of usefulness, as a defender of his country. All his surroundings gave him such encouragement to enter the Continental service that he yielded thereto, and enlisted, sometime in the winter of 1777, in Captain Thomas Butler's company, Third Pennsylvania Regiment. As the muster rolls have been destroyed we are not able to give the date of his enlistment. The regiment was formed on the basis of Colonel St. Clair's¹¹ second battalion, recruited in December, 1776, and January and February, '77, and was arranged in the Continental service, March 12th. There is hardly a doubt he enlisted prior to that date. Thomas Craig,¹² of Northampton county, Pa., was the second

¹¹ General Arthur St. Clair was born at Edinburg, Scotland, in 1734, and served as a Lieutenant under General Wolf in Canada. He was appointed a Colonel in the Continental army in 1776; raised a regiment, and had it on the march for Canada in six weeks. He was appointed a Brigadier in August of that year, and a Major-General in 1777. He was at Trenton and Princeton; and, serving at various points meanwhile, took part in the siege of Yorktown, in 1781. He was then sent, with a considerable force, to reinforce General Greene, in Georgia. He resided in Pennsylvania after the peace; was elected to Congress in 1786, and appointed Governor of the Northwestern Territory in 1788, which office he held until 1802. His operations against the Indians were disastrous. He died in poverty at Laurel Hill, Western Pennsylvania, August 31, 1818.

¹² Colonel Thomas Craig, who succeeded Colonel Joseph Wood, disabled from wounds received in the Canada campaign, in command of the Third Pennsylvania Continental Regiment, was born in 1748, in that part of Bucks county now embraced in Northampton. He retired from service in 1783. He was still living in Northampton county in 1835 at the age of eighty-five. The Third was reorganized under Colonel Craig, in 1781, and accompanied Wayne upon the Southern campaign. The first

Colonel, but Richard Butler¹³ succeeded to the command. The Paymaster of the regiment was Erkuries

permanent settlement in the Forks of Delaware was made by Thomas and William Craig, one of them no doubt the father of the Colonel.

¹³ Richard Butler, born in the parish of St. Bridget, Dublin, Ireland, July 1, 1743, was the eldest of five brothers, all more or less conspicuous during the Revolutionary war. Their parents immigrated in 1748, settling near Carlisle, Pa., where Richard Butler passed his early years. In 1770 he formed a partnership with his brother William, and they established an Indian trading house at Pittsburg. The knowledge he acquired of Indian dialects, and the confidence he inspired by his just treatment of the tribes in business intercourse, made his services so valuable to the United Colonies, on the breaking out of the Revolution, that he was solicited, and induced, to accept the post of Indian Agent for the Middle Department. His services were so highly appreciated that his first commission was that of Major in the Eighth Pennsylvania, on the 2d of July, 1776. On the 12th of March, 1777, he was made Lieutenant-Colonel, and in August assigned as second in command of Morgan's Rifle Corps. This corps crossed the Mohawk on the 3d of September, and at one o'clock on the 19th opened the battle of Saratoga, in drawing the fire of the right wing of Burgoyne's army. He was at Arnold's side when he was wounded in the attack on the Brunswickers' camp at Saratoga, October 7, 1777. After the return of his corps, Butler was promoted Colonel of the Ninth Pennsylvania, distinguishing himself at Monmouth, June 28, 1778, and the following year at Stony Point, where he commanded the left of the assaulting forces. Under the arrangement of January 17, 1781, he became Colonel of the Fifth Pennsylvania, and marched with Wayne to Yorktown, Va. January 1, 1783, he became Colonel of the Third Pennsylvania, retiring when the army was mustered out in November, 1783, with the rank of Brevet Brigadier-General. He had three brothers with him in the Pennsylvania line, Colonel William, Major Thomas and Captain Edward. In 1784, he, with Arthur Lee, was a Commissioner to negotiate treaties with the Indians, and the following year Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the Northern Department. When Allegheny county was erected, in 1788, Colonel Butler was appointed County Lieutenant, and upon the adoption of the Constitution of 1790, he was the first State Senator from that county. A year afterward, November 4, 1791, holding the rank of Major-General and second in command, he fell heroically at "St. Clair's defeat." His brothers, Thomas and Edward, were with him at St. Clair's defeat, the

Beatty,¹⁴ a son of the Rev. Charles Beatty,¹⁵ pastor of Neshaminy Presbyterian church, Warwick township,

former a Major, the latter a Captain. Thomas had his leg broken by a ball, but his brother Edward got him off the field. He left three children—William, who died a Lieutenant in the navy in the war of 1812; Mrs. Isaac Meason, of Uniontown, Fayette county, Pa., who died in 1878, in the ninety-sixth year of her age; and James Butler, the gallant Captain of the "Blues," in the war of 1812, who died in Pittsburg, in April, 1842.

¹⁴ Erkuries Beatty, the eighth child of Rev. Charles Beatty, was born in Warminster, Bucks county, Pa., October 9, 1759. He was preparing for college when the Revolution broke out, but was fired with military ardor. He served a short time in a privateer, in the fall of 1775; then in the army, in the ranks, for a year, when he received an Ensign's commission in the Third Pennsylvania Regiment. He was at the battles of Long Island, White Plains, Brandywine and Germantown, where he was wounded; wintered at Valley Forge, was at Monmouth, with Sullivan against the Tories and Indians, in 1779, and present at the surrender of Cornwallis. After the war he was appointed a Lieutenant in the regular army, in which he served until 1793, rising to the rank of Major in the Pay Department, when he resigned and settled near Princeton, N. J., where he died February 3, 1823. He stood high as an officer and gentleman,

¹⁵ Rev. Charles Beatty was the son of John Beatty, of County Antrim, an officer in the British army. His mother was a Clinton, aunt to General George Clinton, Governor of New York and Vice President of the United States. He was born about 1715; came to America in 1729; began life a peddler, but relinquished it to finish his education at Log College under Rev. William Tennent. He was licensed to preach, and ordained pastor of Neshaminy church, Warwick, Bucks county, Pa., December 1, 1743, at a salary of \$160, and remained there till his death. He was appointed Chaplain to Franklin's regiment serving on the frontiers, in 1756 and 1758, and in Forbes' army against Fort DuQuesne, now Pittsburg. He made two visits to England, in 1760, to solicit relief for aged ministers, when he witnessed the coronation of George III, and was presented at court, and, in 1767, seeking medical relief for his wife, who died there in 1768. He died on the Island of Barbadoes, of yellow fever, whither he went in 1772, in the interest of the College of New Jersey. He married Ann Reading, daughter of Acting-Governor John Reading, of New Jersey, June 24, 1746, and had several children, General Charles Beatty being his eldest son.

Bucks county. As a Continental soldier young Davis served his country with courage and fidelity several years. In the absence of muster rolls and his discharge, it is impossible to name all the organizations he belonged to, or give a detailed summary of his service. We have evidence, however, that he belonged to, and served in, the Second, Third, Eighth and Ninth Pennsylvania Regiments, the change of regiments being caused by consolidation and reorganization from time to time, as the good of the service required. In the summer of 1780, Washington caused a light infantry corps, composed of picked men from Continental regiments in the field, to be organized for General Lafayette. Young Davis was drawn for this service, and placed in Captain Joseph McClellan's company, which was assigned to Colonel Stewart's¹⁶ Ninth Regiment. He served in this corps from about the first of August to the 26th of No-

¹⁶ Colonel Walter Stewart was of Irish descent and born about 1756. He had a fair, florid complexion, was vivacious, intelligent, well educated and is said to have been the handsomest man in the American army. He began his Revolutionary services as aide-de-camp to General Gates. He was commissioned Captain in the Third Pennsylvania Battalion, January 6, 1776; promoted Colonel June 17, 1777, and took command July 6th, leading his regiment at Brandywine and Germantown. By resolution of Congress, November 12, 1777, Colonel Stewart's regiment was to be annexed to the Pennsylvania line and form the Thirteenth. He was transferred to the Second Regiment, July 1, 1778. On the 11th of April, 1781, just before starting on the Southern campaign with General Wayne, he was married to a daughter of Blair McGlenachan, a merchant of Philadelphia. He retired from service, January 1, 1783, with the brevet of Brigadier-General. He became a merchant of Philadelphia, and was Major-General of the First

vember, when it was disbanded, and the officers and men returned to their old regiments.

The Revolutionary services of John Davis cover the most important period of the war, and were highly honorable to the young soldier. Like a true patriot he shouldered his musket and voluntarily entered the ranks, not waiting for a commission to entice him to the field of danger. He began his career a private, and, as we have no evidence of his promotion, no doubt he was in the ranks through all his years of service—one of that innumerable host which win all battles, bear the heat and burden of the day always, and rarely have justice done them. It is not our purpose to particularize the services of John Davis, nor is that necessary, for brief mention of where and when he served will epitomize the history of the great struggle for constitutional government in America.

Division Pennsylvania Militia. He died at Philadelphia, June 14th or 15th, 1796, at the early age of forty.

CHAPTER II.

The year 1777 was the most eventful of the Revolutionary struggle. Trenton and Princeton infused new life into the leaders of the Continental forces and the statesmen who controlled political affairs. The campaign opened with spirit and was pushed with vigor; and, before its close, one British army had laid down its arms; another was roughly handled on two well-contested fields, while the opposing forces were brought face to face in several minor engagements. In these operations young Davis was an active participant.

As already stated, he served in the Amboy expedition, in the summer and fall of 1776, in the battalion commanded by Colonel Joseph Hart, of Bucks county, and was discharged at the close of December. At what point he joined the Continental army, after his enlistment, is not known, but probably at Morristown, New Jersey, where the regiment, he was assigned to, was in winter quarters. Washington took the field early in the spring, and when the British army sailed south, in August, he moved his battalions in that direction. He crossed the Delaware at Coryell's Ferry,¹ now New Hope, and at

¹ Coryell's Ferry, an important crossing of the Delaware at an early day, sixteen miles above Trenton, has Lambertville on the New Jersey, and New

Howell's Ferry, four miles above, the last of July, and marched down the York road, through Bucks county toward Philadelphia, the objective point of the enemy. The army lay upon the Neshaminy hills, a mile above Hartsville, two weeks, and until the destination of the British fleet was known. While there, the young Marquis de LaFayette,² just arrived from France, reported for duty at headquarters.

Young Davis took part in the battle of Brandywine,³ fought the 11th of September, for the possession of Philadelphia. The Americans lost the day, and the capital of the new Union of States fell into the hands of the enemy. It was the fortune of our young soldier, in that action, to be near General Lafayette when wounded, and he assisted to carry him to a place of safety. A few nights afterward, he

Hope on the Pennsylvania, side. It received its name from Emanuel Coryell, of Somerset county, N. J., who settled there and established the ferry in 1732. The ferry house was on the site of Lambertville, near the end of the present bridge across the river. The crossing was on the traveled route between East Jersey and the Schuylkill.

² The Marquis de LaFayette, a French nobleman of the highest rank, came to America, in 1777, to assist the colonies in their struggle with Great Britain. Landing at Charleston, S. C., he traveled on horseback to Philadelphia, where he met Washington, and a few days afterward reported for duty at headquarters. He served the cause with great zeal, and was given the rank of Major-General without pay. He made a visit to this country, in 1824, as the nation's guest, and died in 1834. His memory is cherished next to Washington.

³ A small stream flowing through Chester county, Pa., and emptying into the Christiana at, or near, Wilmington, Delaware.

was with his own and other regiments of the Pennsylvania line, in bivouac near Paoli,⁴ when surprised by the British. A cruel massacre took place, but he escaped unhurt. We next find him engaged at Germantown,⁵ the 4th of October, and he was again protected from harm. Washington surprised the British, and, but for some untoward circumstances, must have gained a victory. It proved, at least, the Continental army was rapidly gaining confidence in themselves, and taught the enemy they were worthy foemen. This battle concluded the important operations of Washington's army for that campaign, and, in December, it retired to the south bank of the Schuylkill, and passed a cheerless winter in huts at Valley Forge.⁶ The sufferings of that faithful body of men can never be told. It was a hardening pro-

⁴ Paoli is a post village in Chester county, Pa., but the massacre took place two miles southwest of it, and a mile south of the Warren tavern on the Lancaster turnpike. The spot is a quarter of a mile from the highway. General Wayne was surprised by the British the night of September 20, 1777; fifty of his men were murdered in cold blood, and a number wounded.

⁵ Germantown, now within the corporate limits of Philadelphia, was then a long village of a single street, four or five miles out of town. Washington's attack was a surprise, but the enemy recovered and saved himself from a great disaster. The town was settled by Germans under Pastorius, in 1683. It is now a handsome suburb of the city, where many rich and cultivated people reside.

⁶ Valley Forge, where an iron works was built before 1770, is on the south bank of the Schuylkill, nine miles above Norristown. Washington's headquarter house has been purchased by an association, and is becoming a place of patriotic resort. The winter the Continental army spent there tried it more than its campaigns in the field.

cess for the great work yet before them. It would be interesting to know some of the personal experience of our young soldier, but this is denied us. We feel assured, however, that he shared with his fellows the hardships of that memorable winter without a murmur.

The army marched from Valley Forge the 18th of June, 1778, led by Washington in person; passed through Doylestown,⁷ where a portion of it lay over night; recrossed the Delaware at Coryell's Ferry, and struck the British in flank, at Monmouth,⁸ eight days afterward. The regiment, to which John Davis belonged, held the key to the American position at the most critical hour of the day, and no doubt he did his full share of the work. He was with his colors in all the operations of the main army in '78, and passed the following winter at Morristown. He participated, actively, in the campaign of the following year, and was with Wayne,⁹ in his assault on Stony

⁷ Doylestown, the county seat of Bucks, Pa., is twenty-four miles from Philadelphia, and eleven from the Delaware at Coryell's Ferry, now New Hope. The town site was settled by Edward Doyle, about 1730. The location is delightful, five hundred feet above sea level, and surrounded by a lovely country. The population was 2,500 in 1880.

⁸ The battle of Monmouth was fought about two miles from the town of Freehold, N. J., then Monmouth Court House, county of the same name, the 28th of June, 1778. Washington struck the British army in flank, on their march from Philadelphia to New York. The battle was severe, but not decisive. The Americans intended to renew it the next morning, but the enemy decamped in the night.

⁹ Anthony Wayne was born in Chester county, Pa., January 1, 1745;

Point,¹⁰ the night of July 15th. In the attack on the block house at Bergen Point,¹¹ on the Hudson, New Jersey, made by a portion of the Pennsylvania line, July 21, 1780, he was severely wounded in the foot, and disabled for a time; but was ready for duty by October, and, on the second of that month, was one of the guard around the gallows when Major André¹² was hanged. His regiment took part

educated at Philadelphia, and became a surveyor. He was engaged locating a land grant in Nova Scotia from 1765 to 1767, whence he returned home, married and settled down. He was a member of Assembly in 1773. In 1775 he was appointed a Colonel in the Continental army, and went to Canada; and in 1776 was commissioned a Brigadier-General. He was with Washington in his most important battles, and conducted a successful campaign in Georgia. He succeeded St. Clair in command of the army in 1792; gained a victory over the Western Indians in 1794, and died in 1795. His remains repose in Radnor churchyard, Delaware county, Pa.

¹⁰ Stony Point was a strong fortress on the west bank of the Hudson. Sir Henry Clinton took it and the works opposite on Verplank Point, June 1, 1779, and put garrisons in them. General Wayne surprised, and captured, Stony Point the morning of the 16th of July, after a spirited resistance. Both works were dismantled and partly destroyed, but were re-occupied by the British.

¹¹ The attack on Block House Point was made by the First and Second Brigades of the Pennsylvania line, with four pieces of artillery from Colonel Proctor's regiment, and Colonel Moylan's Dragoons, the whole commanded by General Wayne. The General, in a letter to Washington, wrote of this battle: "Such was the enthusiastic bravery of all ranks of officers and men, that the First Regiment, no longer capable of restraint, rather than leave a post in the rear, rushed with impetuosity over the abatis and advanced to the stockades, from which they were with difficulty withdrawn, although they had no means of forcing an entrance. The contagion spread to the Second, but, by very great efforts of the officers of both regiments, they were at last restrained, not without the loss of some gallant officers wounded, and some brave men killed."

¹² John André, Adjutant General of the British army, was captured on

in the revolt of the Pennsylvania line¹³ at Morristown, January 1, 1781, but, as he was not an active participant, he was not held responsible. The two British emissaries, sent by General Howe to seduce the Americans, engaged in this affair, from their allegiance, were caught, tried by court martial, and hanged on the bank of the Delaware, at Morrisville,¹⁴ Bucks county. The rope they were hanged with was taken from the horse of an officer who witnessed the execution.

The foregoing record is an excellent one, sufficient to be proud of, but it did not end the services of

his return from an interview with Arnold concerning his surrender of West Point to the British. He was tried by court martial, found guilty and sentenced to be hanged. Washington approved the finding of the court with great reluctance.

¹³ The revolt of the Pennsylvania line, when the troops threw off all control by their officers, took place in January, 1781; probably driven to it by want of food, pay and clothing. The difficulty was arranged by the government yielding to their demands, but some of the ringleaders were executed. The line was reorganized and the men, who claimed their time to be up, were discharged. Many of them re-enlisted. The Pennsylvania line, one of the mainstays of the Continental army, consisted of eleven regiments, numbering about 8,000 men. It rendered most efficient service, and was not discharged until the close of the war. Few armies have had a finer body of soldiers. Morristown is in New Jersey, twenty miles west of Newark.

¹⁴ This village, an incorporated borough, is situated on the west bank of the Delaware, in Bucks county, Pa., at Trenton Falls. The site was taken up by John Wood about 1678, and patented to Joseph Wood in 1703; and was named after Robert Morris, the financier of the Revolution. It was the home of two signers of the Declaration of Independence, Mr. Morris and George Clymer. General Moreau lived there from 1807 to 1811.

John Davis. He claimed to have marched South, with a portion of the Pennsylvania line, in 1781, and to have been present at the siege of Yorktown¹⁵ and witnessed the surrender of Cornwallis.¹⁶ We have documentary evidence to support this declaration. In May of that year, eight hundred men, under Wayne, were ordered to assemble at York,¹⁷ Pa., preparatory to reinforcing the troops in Virginia. In the private journal of Captain Joseph McClellan,¹⁸

¹⁵ Yorktown, the scene of Cornwallis' surrender, is situated on York river, Va., near its mouth. Once a place of importance, it has fallen completely into decay. It was besieged by the Federal army, under McClellan, in the Civil War, and taken. Here was opened the celebrated Peninsular campaign.

¹⁶ Charles, Second Earl and First Marquis of Cornwallis, was born in 1738 and died in 1805. He entered the army and served a campaign in Germany, in 1761. He succeeded to the earldom and estates in 1762, and was made aide-de-camp to the King in 1765. He came to America when the war broke out and commanded in South Carolina, in 1780. He was appointed Governor-General of India, in 1786, where he gained some renown. In civil life he was distinguished by independence of character and inflexible integrity.

¹⁷ The county seat of York county, Pa., a handsome and wealthy town of several thousand inhabitants. During the Civil War it was made a rendezvous of troops, whence they were sent South by rail.

¹⁸ Joseph McClellan was born in Middletown township, Chester, now Delaware county, Pa., April 28, 1747; and on the 20th of March, 1776, was appointed First Lieutenant in Captain Abraham Marshall's company, in Colonel Atlee's Musketry Battalion. Upon the resignation of Captain Marshall, Lieutenant McClellan was commissioned Captain, July 15, 1776. He was in the disastrous battle of Long Island, where the Colonel was captured and the Lieutenant-Colonel, Parry, killed, and the battalion so nearly destroyed its organization had to be disbanded. Captain McClellan was thereupon, November 27, 1776, appointed in the Ninth Pennsylvania, serving therein (only when attached to Colonel Stewart's Light Infantry Regiment

the same in whose company he served in the light infantry the year before, among the names of the soldiers is that of John Davis. He was then serving in the Second Pennsylvania Regiment. This detachment took up the line of march the 26th of May, participated in the siege of Yorktown, and saw other hard service.

We have the same difficulty in fixing the exact date of John Davis' discharge from the Continental army, as his entry into it, and for a like reason, the loss of muster rolls and other papers. There has been a question with the members of the family since his decease as to the time of his discharge, but recently discovered testimony fixes the year without doubt. When his widow made application for a

under the command of General Lafayette from August to the last of November, 1780.) until January 17, 1781, when he was arranged in the Second Pennsylvania, Colonel Walter Stewart. He resigned June 10, 1781, on the march to Yorktown, Va. General Wayne endorsed on the back of his commission the following: "It is a duty which I owe to justice and merit, to declare that the conduct of Captain McClellan, upon every occasion, has been that of a brave, active and vigilant officer, which will ever recommend him to the attention of the country and the esteem of his fellow-citizens." In 1784, Captain McClellan was elected Commissioner of Chester county, and in 1786 he married Keziah, daughter of Joseph Parke, Esq. In 1792 he was elected Sheriff, and in 1797 member of the State Senate. In 1814, when the Bank of Chester County was established, he became its first president. In his latter days he lived on a farm in Brandywine township. He died, October 24, 1834, and is buried at Octarara church-yard. The journals he kept during his service in the army are still in possession of his descendants, and have been used largely in compiling the Revolutionary records of Pennsylvania. See Vol. XI, Second Series, Pennsylvania Archives.

pension, about 1841, she stated her husband was discharged in 1780, because of disability from the wound received in July of that year. This was three years before they were married, and it was not difficult to be mistaken in a date after the lapse of more than half a century. If she were correct, he must have been discharged between November 26th, when he returned to his regiment from service in the light infantry, and the revolt of the Pennsylvania line the following January, in which he and his regiment participated. John B. Linn,¹⁹ of Bellefonte, Pa., the best posted man in the State on such matters, says it is *possible* he was discharged in 1780, or after the revolt, in 1781, but that he immediately re-enlisted

¹⁹ John B. Linn, born at Lewisburg, Union county, Pa., October 15, 1831; graduated at Marshall College, Mercersburg, Pa., in the class of 1848; read law with his father, James F. Linn, and was admitted to the bar of Union county, September 16, 1851. In 1852-1853 he practiced his profession in Sullivan county, and was elected District Attorney. He returned to Lewisburg in 1854, where he practiced until his removal to Bellefonte, in 1871. On the 10th of April, 1873, he was appointed Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth. Governor Hartranft having recommended the publication of a Second Series of the Pennsylvania Archives, in 1874, Dr. William H. Egle and Mr. Linn were appointed editors. Twelve volumes were issued under their supervision. In 1877 Mr. Linn published his "Annals of Buffalo Valley" (620 pages), embracing mainly the history of Union county, 1755-1855. May 16, 1878, upon the resignation of Colonel Quay, Mr. Linn was commissioned Secretary of the Commonwealth, and under his supervision the volume entitled "Duke of York's Laws, 1676-1682," and "Laws of the Province, 1682-1700," was compiled. On his retirement from office in February, 1879, Mr. Linn resumed the practice of his profession at Bellefonte. In the year 1882 he compiled "The History of Centre and Clinton Counties," published in 1883, by Louis H. Everts, of Philadelphia.

in Captain McClellan's company. The captain's journal confirms this service. It is stated, in the Pennsylvania Archives, Second Series, Volume X, page 459, that John Davis was discharged in 1781.

This testimony, in addition to the declaration of the soldier that he served from Trenton to Yorktown, would seem sufficient, but we again put him on the witness stand, three years before his death, and let him speak for himself. In his application for a pension from Pennsylvania, September 1, 1829, he made the following declaration :

" I, John Davis, do, on my oath, testify and declare, that I enlisted in the army of the Revolution in 1777, in Captain Butler's company, in Colonel Butler's regiment, Pennsylvania line ; afterward was transferred into Captain McClellan's Company of Light Infantry ; that I served in the line until some time in 1781, when I was honorably discharged, which discharge is lost. I further testify, that I was wounded in my foot, while in service at a block house near Fort Lee, on the Hudson river, from which I was, and continue to be, much disabled," etc.

Further testimony, to prove his length of service, is not required, and his declaration, that he served from Trenton to Yorktown, is sustained. We will state here, in addition to what has already been stated, that this was his repeated declaration to his children. After John Davis returned home from the Continental army, he was appointed and com-

missioned Ensign in the Second Battalion of Bucks County Militia, and with it was called into service on one or two occasions. This commission should throw some light on the question of dates, but does not, as the figures of the year are so obliterated they cannot be made out. He took the oath of allegiance to Pennsylvania while in the army, at the age of nineteen years and one month, eighteen days after the Act was passed. As the oath was taken before a Bucks county magistrate, no doubt it was administered to him when at home on furlough; or the magistrate may have visited camp to administer the oath to Bucks county soldiers. At that time, October, 1779, there was not much military activity, as the Continental army lay on the Hudson watching the enemy at New York. The original certificate of allegiance is as follows:

“BUCKS COUNTY, SS.”

“I do hereby certify, that John Davis has voluntarily taken the oath of allegiance and fidelity, as directed by an Act of General Assembly of Pennsylvania, passed the first day of October, A. D. 1779. Witness my hand and seal the 18th day of October, A. D. 1779. (Signed) JOHN CHAPMAN.”²⁰

On the 24th of March, 1785, the Legislature of Pennsylvania passed an act authorizing and directing certain land to be surveyed and allotted to those who

²⁰ John Chapman was a descendant of the John Chapman who settled in Wrightstown, in 1684, and a cousin of Judge Chapman.

had served in the war of the Revolution from this State. The records of the office of Internal Affairs, at Harrisburg, show that John Davis, private in the Third Pennsylvania Regiment, drew lot No. 1,167, in the Sixth Donation District, and a patent therefor was issued to him, September 29, 1787. The survey, containing two hundred acres, and made November 15, 1785, was located near the southeast line of Crawford county. When, and to whom, this land was sold we have no record.²¹

At the close of his military services, John Davis returned to his father's house in his native township of Solebury. We now lose sight of him for a time. As he was in the army during the years young men usually learn trades, from sixteen to twenty-one, he was too old, when discharged, to begin an apprenticeship. Although not trained to any skilled labor, no doubt he found some steady employment to occupy his time, as he had been brought up to habits

²¹

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS, }
HARRISBURG, September 1, 1883. }

Dear Sir: I have your postal card of the 25th ult.

John Davis, private in Third Pennsylvania Regiment, in the war of the Revolution, drew lot No. 1,167 in the Sixth Donation District, and a patent appears to have been granted 23d September, 1787. The survey, containing 200 acres, was made November 15, 1785, and appears to be located near the southeastern line of Crawford county, and within that county. The surveys of the Donation lands and the distribution of the lots were authorized and directed by the Act of 21st of March, 1785. (Smith's Laws, Vol. II, page 290.)

Yours truly,

(Signed,) J. SIMPSON AFRICA.

To W. W. H. Davis, Esq., Doylestown, Pa.

of industry. We next hear of him looking for a partner to share his worldly joys and sorrows, his choice falling upon a young lady of the adjoining township of Buckingham, Ann, a daughter of William Simpson.²² They were married the 26th of June, 1783, by Rev. James Boyd,²³ pastor of the Presbyterian church, at Newtown.²⁴ His wife was four

²² William Simpson, born in 1732, is supposed to have immigrated from the north of Ireland, between 1748 and 1750, and settled in Buckingham township, Bucks county. He made application to purchase 100 acres of land, January 15, 1766, and the deed was executed by John Penn, May 23, 1767. He married Nancy Hines, of New Britain, and was the father of two sons and two daughters—John and Matthew, and Ann and Mary. Matthew removed to near Zanesville, Ohio, in 1810; John lived and died in the county, and was the father of the late Mrs. Ann Jamison, of Buckingham; Ann married John Davis. William Simpson died in 1816, at the age of 84. A soldier of this name, and a private in Colonel Thompson's regiment, was the first Pennsylvanian to fall in the Revolution, dying of a wound received at "Ploughed Hill," in front of the British post at Bunker Hill, August 26, 1775. He was a brother of General Michael, and of John Simpson, the latter many years Recorder of Northumberland county, Pa. I do not know that they were related to our William Simpson. General Grant's mother descended from the Bucks county Simpsons.

²³ We do not know the birthplace of Rev. James Boyd, nor his date of birth or day of death. He was called to the pastorate of the Newtown Presbyterian church, in 1769, and continued there, in uninterrupted labor, until his death in 1814, the long period of 46 years. He was pastor of Bensalem church a part of this time. He was an able and earnest minister, the church flourished under his care, and, in the trying times of the Revolution, he was a patriot, and constant to his country's cause.

²⁴ Newtown was the county seat of Bucks from 1725 to 1812, when the seat of Justice was removed to Doylestown, near the geographical centre. It was settled about 1685; laid out in 1733, and incorporated in 1838. The population is about 1,400. It is situated in the midst of a lovely country, on Newtown creek, a branch of Neshaminy, and is five miles from the

years his junior, having been born December 24, 1764. William Simpson, the father of Mrs. Davis, was likewise a soldier of the Revolution. We have no record of his services, and therefore cannot say when, nor how long, he served in the Continental army. His loyalty to the cause of the Colonies made him obnoxious to his Tory neighbors, who did not hesitate to show their hostility to him. On one occasion, when at home on furlough, a band of Tories surrounded his dwelling to make him prisoner, or subject him to rougher treatment. He was notified of their presence just in time to run down cellar and have an empty hogshead turned over him, before they rushed into the house. They searched for him where they supposed he could be found, but no one thought of the hogshead, and when they withdrew he came forth from his unique hiding place.

John Davis, soon after his marriage, settled down as a farmer, the occupation he followed as long as he was able to attend to business. As he was without means to purchase a farm, he rented of Andrew or George Ellicott, of Solebury, a neighbor and friend of his father. Here he resided ten years. John and Ann Davis were the parents of nine children, five of which were born in Bucks county, and four after their removal to Maryland, near the close of the century: Sarah, born October 12, 1784; William,

Delaware. When the American army occupied the west bank of the Delaware, in December, 1776, Newtown was the depot of supplies.

August 22, 1786; John, August 7, 1788; Ann, November 6, 1790; Samuel, December, 1792, who died in infancy; Joshua, June 27, 1796; Samuel S., September, 1798; Joseph, January 27, 1803, and Elizabeth, born November 18, 1805.

CHAPTER III.

The attention of the people of Bucks county was directed to Maryland, as a good country to emigrate to, prior to the Revolution. About 1770, the three sons of Andrew Ellicott,¹ of Solebury—Joseph, Andrew, and John—purchased land at what is now Ellicott's Mills; and, after the war, removed thither, taking with them mechanics, tools, animals, etc. They also purchased a tract in Montgomery county. They settled on the Patapsco, ten miles from Baltimore,² where they built large flour mills, erected dwellings, stores, opened roads, and established the seat of an extensive business. They were successful, and became leaders in all improve-

¹ Andrew Ellicott, the descendant of a respectable family resident in Devonshire, England, from the time of William the Conqueror, settled in Solebury, about 1730. He was a farmer and miller. Of the sons, Joseph was a genius in mechanics. He made a repeating watch, in 1766, without instruction, which he took to England, where it was much admired. Upon his return, in 1769, he made a four-faced musical clock which played 24 tunes, and combined many other wonderful and delicate movements. He died in 1780, at the age of 48. Andrew, the son of Joseph, born in Solebury in 1754, was Surveyor General of the United States in 1792, and the first to make accurate measurement of the Falls of Niagara. He was consulting engineer in laying out the city of Washington and completed the work Major L'Enfant began. In 1812 he was appointed Professor of Mathematics at West Point, and died there in 1820.

² Baltimore is situated on the north side of Patapsco river, fourteen miles from its mouth at Chesapeake bay. It was laid out in 1729, and made a port of entry in 1780. The population was 268,000 in 1870.

ments; introduced the use of plaster of Paris and red clover into Maryland, and were the authors of several useful inventions. In 1800, they built three flour mills on Glenn's Falls, near Baltimore; two of brick, with four pairs of seven-foot burr stones in each, and one of frame with two pairs of stones of the same size, all supplied with water from the same head race. Each mill had a twenty-four-foot over-shot wheel, and, what was remarkable at that day, the tail race of the first was the head race of the second, and so on. They built a large wagon, much admired, in which six horses hauled fifty barrels of flour at a load, into Baltimore, making two trips a day. The first turnpike in Maryland was made in 1810, between Baltimore and Ellicott's upper mills, passing by Glenn's Falls.³

The Ellicotts held out inducements to Bucks county farmers and mechanics to settle on their Maryland land, and a number migrated thither. Among these were John Davis and his family, who settled near Brookville, on Holland river, twenty miles from Washington,⁴ the nearest market, and

³ Glenn's Falls, a creek running through Baltimore, is noted for its great freshets and destruction to property along its banks. It furnishes fine water-power.

⁴ Washington, the capital of the United States, on the north bank of the Potomac, was laid out in 1792. The situation is very eligible. The population in 1800 was between eight and nine thousand, and at this time, 1885, about 250,000. It has become the handsomest city in the world.

about the same distance from Georgetown,⁵ in 1795, when his son John was seven years old. This was before the day of railroads and steamboats,⁶ and the only methods of land travel were by wagon or on horseback. All the worldly goods of the family, with the mother and children, were put into two of the large country wagons of the period, and, bidding farewells to friends and relatives, they journeyed toward the South. They probably struck the Middle road at the Anchor tavern,⁷ and traveled down it to Philadelphia, then an inconsiderable city,⁸ passed

⁵ Georgetown was a thriving place nearly half a century before Washington was thought of. Its laying out was authorized by the Assembly of Maryland, in 1751. It soon grew into a town of importance, and, during the Revolutionary War, was a place of deposit for military stores. It is situated at the head of tide-water, on the Potomac, and is now within the corporate limits of Washington.

⁶ The first model of a steamboat that ever floated was made by John Fitch, in the log shop of Sutphin McDowell, Warminster township, Bucks county, Pa. The machinery, of brass, was made by Nathaniel B. Boleiau, then a student at Princeton College, who lived near by. It was tried on the dam of Arthur Watts, in Southampton, the spring, or summer, of 1785. About 1788, Fitch built a steamboat that made several successful trips on the Delaware between Philadelphia and Burlington. Fitch was born in Connecticut, in 1743, and died in Kentucky, about 1798.

⁷ The Anchor tavern, a famous hostelry in its day, is in Wrightstown township, Bucks county, Pa., where the Middle road intersects the Durham road, nine miles from Doylestown and five from Newtown. It is one of the very oldest continuously-kept public houses in the county, having been built by Joseph Hampton soon after 1724. The anchor was a favorite sign with early printers, and was used as an emblem. In the catacombs at Rome it was typical of the words of St. Paul, "The anchor of the soul," etc.

⁸ Philadelphia, founded in 1682, had a slow growth the first century. In 1792 the population, including the Liberties, was but 42,516, and, in 1800, 67,811. Now, 1885, the population is about 1,200,000.

through Delaware and Maryland to the Susquehanna,⁹ crossing on a flat boat at Havre de Grace,¹⁰ and through Baltimore to their new home near the Potomac.¹¹ The trip must have been interesting to the children old enough to appreciate it. Forty-six years afterward, one of these children, the second son, John, now a man of fifty-three, crossed the Susquehanna, at the same place, on his way to take his seat in the Congress of the United States. In the meantime there had been a marvelous revolution in human affairs, greater than any seer could have foretold. Our emigrants reached their destination, near Rock Creek meeting house,¹² in safety.

John Davis was preceded, or followed, to Maryland by Jonathan Bye, of Solebury, William Canby and his two sons, William and Joseph and their families, John Bennett, brother of Lott Bennett, late of Warminster, deceased, William Kelly, and

⁹ The largest river in Pennsylvania; is formed by the two main branches uniting at Northumberland; then flows 150 miles and empties into Chesapeake bay. The North branch rises in Otsego lake, New York, and the West branch in Cambria county, Pa. The entire length is not short of 400 miles. It flows through a beautiful and highly cultivated country.

¹⁰ A thriving post village of Harford county, Maryland, at the head of Chesapeake bay, thirty-six miles from Baltimore; population 2,500. The Susquehanna is here spanned by a railroad bridge.

¹¹ A large river of Virginia and Maryland, that rises among the mountains of West Virginia, receiving the Shenandoah at Harper's Ferry, and empties into Chesapeake bay. Some of the scenery along its banks is fine.

¹² Now Rockville, a post village, capital of Montgomery county, Maryland, north-northwest of Washington city. It has a court house, jail, five churches, a newspaper and an academy.

George and Moses Barnsley, of Newtown. Among these Bucks county emigrants was a humorous fellow by the name of George Booth, likewise of Newtown. He returned from Maryland in a year to visit his old friends, and was plied with questions as to the prospect for business, etc. He told his inquisitors that the first work he was set at, when he reached Maryland, was making leather shirts for the children, as they had been fed so long on herrings the bones stuck through the skin, and no other kind of shirt would do. The improved cultivation by these Bucks county farmers worked a great change in that region, and the worn-out farms were made to blossom like the rose.

John Davis, Sr., lived twenty-one years in Maryland, occupied with farming, and several of his children grew up to be men and women. The cultivation of the soil was much more laborious then than now; there were no modern inventions to lighten labor, while the absence of fertilizers lessened the yield of the land. Farming had not then become a practical science. We have no history of all the years he spent there. They were laborious, and he probably got but little ahead in the world. He went to the Washington and Georgetown markets to sell his produce, and saw the new Federal capital struggle through its early infancy. It gave no promise then of the beautiful city it afterward became. Not seeing a bright prospect ahead, in Maryland, Mr. Davis

turned his eyes to the West, whither the "Star of Empire" was rapidly taking its way. That region, then as now, was considered the land of promise, where all, willing to work, could better their condition. He resolved to emigrate. Placing his family and worldly possessions, a second time, in wagons, Mr. Davis left Rock Creek, in 1816, and started for the almost wilderness country of Ohio.¹³ In due time they reached their new home. We have no record of that long trip, which could hardly have been without adventure and incident. He settled on the banks of the beautiful Scioto, ten miles above Columbus,¹⁴ where he spent the remainder of his life.

When John Davis settled in Ohio and began life anew, he was fifty-six years old, an age when most men think more of seeking rest than assuming new burdens. He indulged no such thought. He accepted the situation cheerfully, and entered upon his new life with all the energy of youth. He took up a tract of land on the east side of the river,¹⁵ and,

¹³ In 1802, that portion of the vast country known as the Northwest Territory was organized into a State and admitted under the name of Ohio. The area is 40,000 square miles.

¹⁴ Columbus, the capital of Ohio, and seat of justice of Franklin county, is situated on the Scioto, ninety miles from its mouth. It is large and populous, and surrounded by a beautiful and fertile country. The location is about the centre of the State.

¹⁵ A beautiful river of Ohio, and one of the largest that intersect the State; rises in Hardin county, near the headwaters of the Miami, flows a southeast and south course about 200 miles, and empties into the Ohio. Columbus is situated on its east bank.

with the help of his sons, felled the trees and cleared the ground, and, in a short time, had a comfortable house erected for himself and family. He added to his acres, from year to year, and became the owner of very considerable real estate. There he prospered in worldly affairs; enjoyed the respect of his neighbors and friends; his children were married and given in marriage, and settled around him. Mr. Davis never held a public office of any kind; satisfied with having shed his blood to establish the government, he was content others should fill the public places. He died January 25, 1832, at the age of seventy-two. His widow survived him nearly a quarter of a century, dying at the home of her son Samuel, June 6, 1851, in her eighty-seventh year. John Davis did not make application for pension for his Revolutionary services, but it was granted to his widow, a few years after his death. The great majority of the descendants of John and Ann Davis live in Ohio and other Western States, engaged in all branches of business and professions. His sons Samuel and Joseph still live on the bank of the beautiful Scioto, near where their father settled almost three-quarters of a century ago, and follow that honorable and useful occupation, farming, taught them by him, and own part of the ancestral acres. They are men of family, and citizens of character and standing.

We have less knowledge of the other children of

William and Sarah Davis. Sarah, the second daughter, noted for her intellectual qualities, married Lott Search,¹⁶ of Southampton township, and was the mother of several children. They lived some years on a farm in Warminster township, near Davisville, now owned by J. Davis Duffield,¹⁷ where Mrs. Search died more than half a century ago, and was buried at Southampton Baptist church.¹⁸ The family removed to Western New York shortly after her death, where the children grew up, some remaining there and others seeking new homes in the West and Northwest.

William Davis, the fourth child of William and Sarah, was brought up to the sea, became captain of a vessel, and was lost upon the ocean, leaving a widow and two sons, John and William. The latter must have followed the occupation of his father, for family

¹⁶ The Searches are a reputable family that settled in Southampton many years ago. Christopher, a brother of Lott, lived on the Street road a mile below Davisville, where his son now resides. Some of the younger branches are meeting with success in trade in Philadelphia. The Searches are connected with the Mileses, Beanses, *et al.*

¹⁷ Mr. Duffield, a grandson of John Davis, is a descendant of Benjamin Duffield, who came to America in 1679. He was educated at the State Normal School, Millersville, Pa.; studied law with G. R. Fox, Esq., of Norristown, and is now practicing in Philadelphia. He served one campaign in the Army of the Potomac, during the war of the Rebellion.

¹⁸ Southampton Baptist church, founded in 1732, had its origin in the meeting of Keithians held at the house of John Swift from the division among Friends down to 1702. It was constituted a separate church in 1745. The first meeting house was built about 1732, which has been rebuilt once and repaired twice. Its pulpit has been filled by several eminent men, and, in its day, was a very powerful church.

tradition tells us, he, too, died at sea. John married an estimable widow belonging to a family of high standing, removed to the West, and settled at Bucyrus, Crawford county, Ohio. They had six children, three sons and three daughters—William, John and Charles, Sarah, Frances and Harriet. William married his cousin Margaret, a daughter of his uncle William, and had a family of children. He was a surgeon in the Federal army in the war of the Rebellion, and died in service. Joshua Davis, the fifth son of William and Sarah, removed to Maryland about 1800; settled at Ellicott's Upper Mills, and commenced farming. He married a lady with a large landed estate, and died some years afterward, leaving her a widow with two sons. Of the two remaining children of William Davis, the elder, Joseph and Mary, we have no knowledge.

John, the second son of John and Ann Davis, and grandson of William and Sarah, was born in Solebury township, Bucks county, Pa., the 7th of August, 1788. There he spent the first seven years of his life. We know little of him at this period. He first comes into notice while going to school at the "old red school house," on the Street road between Buckingham and Solebury, where it is crossed by Pidcock's creek. The schoolmaster was Hugh Ross, a member of the present Ross family¹⁹ of this county,

¹⁹ The Ross family of Bucks is descended from Thomas Ross, born in County Tyrone, Ireland, in 1708; came to America in 1728 and settled in

and probably an uncle of the late Thomas Ross, of Doylestown. Among the scholars were the children of an Indian family which lived in the neighborhood and carried on basket making. They were among the last remnant of the former owners of the county that lived in it. He went with his parents to Maryland, and grew up to manhood on the farm at Rock Creek meeting house, working eight or nine months in the year, and attending the indifferent neighborhood schools the remainder of the time. Under this arrangement boys received but little education, and had to rely on private study and reading to acquire knowledge.

At that day farmers' sons were all brought up to work, and, as soon as old enough, made to earn their own living. At sixteen young Davis began driving his father's Conestoga wagon to Baltimore and back. This was his first introduction to the great world outside the limits of his narrow circle ; but his area of experience was shortly enlarged. In 1805, and before he was seventeen, his father engaged to move a family and their worldly goods to Pittsburg,²⁰ and

Wrightstown ; joined the Society of Friends, and married Kesiah Wilkinson, in 1731. He died at the house of Lindley Murray, near York, England, while on a visit there, in 1786. Several members of the family have achieved distinction ; Judge John Ross, of the Supreme Court of the State, Judge Henry P. Ross, of the Common Pleas, and Thomas Ross, a distinguished lawyer, and served two terms in Congress.

²⁰ Pittsburg occupies the site of old Fort DuQuesne, at the confluence of the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers. It was to this point that George Washington made his celebrated journey in the winter of 1753, at the re-

John was sent to drive the team. The round trip occupied sixty days. We have often listened, with deep interest, to his account of this long and weary journey, one which few boys would now be willing to make at that, or any, age. Much of the country he traveled was a wilderness with few settlers, and there were long stretches without a human habitation. His only companion, besides his horses, was a small dog that rode in the wagon. In the wilds of the Alleghenies he was almost afraid to walk around his team at night, as was his custom. At the regular stopping places, where a number of wagons usually halted over night, many a wild prank was played, in which young Davis, no doubt, bore a full hand. He returned home without accident.

In 1808, at the age of twenty, he bought his time of his father, a practice much more common then than now, and began to farm for himself. How long this was continued we do not know, but not more than three or four years. In the meantime he did not neglect the cultivation of his mind, nor lose an opportunity of supplying the deficiency of his early education. He was a constant reader of books and other publications of the day. He had great thirst for knowledge, and a wonderfully retentive memory

quest of Governor Dinwiddie, of Virginia, to order the French to evacuate that country. When the place fell into the hands of the English, the name was changed to Fort Pitt and then to Pittsburg. It is the seat of great manufacturing establishments and grows rapidly.

enabled him to remember what he read. His favorite studies were history and American politics, and in the latter he was exceptionally well informed. The latter study he continued to his death. During this period he made occasional trips to his native county of Bucks to visit his relatives. On one of these visits to his uncle, Lott Search, about 1811 or 1812, he made the acquaintance of Amy Hart, of Southampton, the young lady who afterward became his wife. The acquaintance, thus formed by accident, was cultivated by subsequent visits, and they were married the evening of March 13, 1813, in the parlor of the old Watts homestead, at Davisville, now owned by Chief Justice Mercur,²¹ of the State Supreme Court. The officiating clergyman was Thomas B. Montanye,²² pastor of Southampton Bap-

²¹ Ulysses Mercur is the grandson of German immigrants from Klagenfurt, Austria, who settled in Lancaster county, Pa., in 1780. His father, Henry Mercur, was born there September 20, 1786. He was sent to Vienna to be educated at the University, in 1799, and spent eight years there, returning home in 1807. He witnessed the entry of Napoleon's army into Vienna, in 1805. Henry Mercur settled at Towanda in 1809, where he married Mary Watts, the 10th of September, 1810; became the father of six children, and died there in 1868. Ulysses graduated at Jefferson College, studied law with Edward Overton, and was admitted to the bar, where he was a successful practitioner. In 1861 he was appointed President Judge of the district to fill a vacancy, and was elected for a full term the same fall. He was elected to Congress in 1864, and three times re-elected. He was elected to the Supreme Bench in 1872, and became Chief Justice in 1883, which position he fills with dignity and great ability. He married a daughter of General Davis in 1850, and is the father of five children—four sons and one daughter.

²² Rev. Thomas B. Montanye was the great-grandson of Count Jean de

tist church. When Mr. M. returned home after the wedding his wife presented him a little girl baby, born that evening, and which was named, in honor of the bride, Amy Hart Montanye. She grew to be a beautiful woman, married and became the mother of Harman Yerkes,²³ President Judge of the Courts of Bucks county. This marriage changed the destiny of John Davis, and connected him with some of the most influential families in the county.

la Montaigné, a French Huguenot who settled at New Amsterdam, now New York, in 1628, and died in 1661. His son, Jean, Jr., had five children, and one of his sons, Benjamin, born in 1745, was the father of Thomas B., born in the city of New York, January 29, 1769. He was licensed to preach at eighteen; ordained at nineteen; first called to Warwick Baptist church, Orange county, N. Y., and to Southampton in 1801, where he died in 1829. He was Chaplain to Colonel Humphrey's regiment in 1814, war with Great Britain. He was an eminent preacher; is spoken of as "that sweet Boanerges," and exerted a wide influence in the Church and out of it. Judge Harman Yerkes, Doylestown, is a grandson.

²³ The Yerkes family of Bucks is descended from Harman, or Herman, Yerkes, who, with his brother Anthony, came from Germany about 1700 and settled on the Schuylkill. They were naturalized by Act of Assembly in 1729. Harman afterward came to Moreland, Montgomery county. Harman, a grandson of the first Harman, settled in Warminster, Bucks county, Pa., about 1740, and the present generation comes down through two Harmans and one Stephen. Some of the family intermarried with the Purdys, of Moreland, and many of the descendants emigrated to New York and Michigan. The family have furnished a number of soldiers to the military service of the country. The late Judge Yerkes, of Philadelphia, belonged to the Bucks county branch of the family. Harman Yerkes, son of Stephen and Amy Yerkes, was born about forty years ago; was brought up on his father's farm in Warminster; educated at Lawrenceville, N. J.; studied law with Hon. Thomas Ross, and was admitted to the bar in 1865. He served two terms in the State Senate, and was elected to the bench in 1883.

The Hart family, one of whose daughters Mr. Davis took to wife, is one of the oldest in the State, and descended from John Hart,²⁴ of Witney,²⁵ Oxfordshire, England, who was born in 1651, and came to Pennsylvania in 1682. He was an eminent minister among Friends. Before leaving England he purchased of William Penn a thousand acres, which he located upon his arrival; 500 in Byberry, Philadelphia county, and the same quantity in Warminster, Bucks, with an allotment of twenty acres in the city. He settled on his Byberry tract and lived there until about 1695, when he removed to Warminster, where he died in 1714. He was an able man and a good preacher. He gained considerable distinction in the George Keith²⁶ controversy, in 1690-91, whereby a permanent

²⁴ The Harts are said to be of Irish descent, and in "Irish Pedigrees" the stem of the O'Hart family is traced down through a long line of ancestors from Heremon, the seventh son of Milesius of Spain. He and his eldest brother, Heber, were, jointly, the first Milesian monarchs of Ireland. They were Princes of Tara, and Chiefs of Sligo. "The House of Heremon," writes O'Gallaghan, "from the number of its princes or great families, from the multitude of its distinguished characters, as laymen or churchmen, and from the extensive territories acquired by those belonging to it, etc., was regarded by far as the most illustrious." The armorial bearings of the family are: *Arms*—Gu. A lion passant guardant or, in base a human heart argent. *Crest*—A dexter cubit arm holding a flaming sword; all proper. *Motto*—Fortiter et Fideliter.

²⁵ Witney, on the Windrush, eight miles northwest of Oxford on the site of an old Roman town, was noted in the past for its manufacture of blankets. It is a long town with two main streets, with a church at the upper end, a portion of it being seven hundred years old. The population is about 3,000.

²⁶ George Keith, born in Aberdeen, Scotland, 1638, was a preacher of

division was created in the Society of Friends. He left the Society and became a Baptist, in which faith he died. John Hart married Susannah, a daughter of William and Aurelia Rush,²⁷ of Byberry, in 1683. He was a member of the first Legislative Assembly that met in Philadelphia, 1683. The Harts of that day were likewise connected, by marriage, with the families of Crispin²⁸ and Holme,²⁹ prominent in the Province. The descendants of John Hart are

note and influence among Friends. He came to America before William Penn, and had charge of a grammar school in Philadelphia in 1689. While residing in that city he began his attacks on the Society of Friends, and by 1691 he had caused a permanent division. He returned to England, joined the Episcopal church, in which he preached until his death. He was a man of ability and learning, an acute reasoner, but of overbearing temper.

²⁷ William Rush, the son of John Rush, who commanded a troop of horse in Cromwell's army, married Susannah Lucas, of Harton, Oxfordshire, in 1648; embraced the principles of the Friends in 1665, and immigrated to Pennsylvania in 1682. Himself and family became Keithians in 1691; joined the Baptists in 1697, and died in 1699. He was the ancestor of Dr. James Rush, who had his watch and sword.

²⁸ Eleanor Crispin, whom John Hart, the son of John, Sr., married, was a daughter of Silas Crispin, and granddaughter of Thomas Holme, William Penn's Surveyor General. William Crispin, the father of Silas, was the first Surveyor General appointed by Penn, but died in the West Indies on his way to Pennsylvania. He married a sister of Admiral Penn's wife, the daughter of a Rotterdam merchant.

²⁹ Thomas Holme was appointed to succeed William Crispin as Surveyor General of Pennsylvania. He had been an officer in the British navy, and served with Admiral Penn in the West Indies. He came to America in April, 1682, bringing with him his two sons and two daughters, and Silas Crispin, the son of his predecessor in office, who married his daughter Esther, from which marriage came Eleanor Hart, the great-grandmother of Amy Hart, the wife of John Davis. The two sons of Thomas Holme died without issue.

numerous, and scattered over the Middle and Southern States. Several have reached places of distinction.

Among the Harts of this county, who became prominent in their day and generation, were Oliver, who settled as pastor over the First Baptist church,³⁰ at Charleston, South Carolina, in 1749, and where he preached with great success for thirty-one years; Joseph, a leader in Pennsylvania in the Revolution, who held many important offices, civil and military, and to whom further reference is made in a foot-note; his son Joseph, a member of the State Senate for many years, and an influential man to his death. Their sons and grandsons were in the Legislature, held county offices and commissions in the militia, in peace and war. The Hart homestead, in Warminster township, was visited by the British while they held Philadelphia. The family had gone away for safety, leaving an old colored woman, named Jean, in charge, and the stock was driven into the woods. The red-coats pounded on the chests with the butts of their guns and split the lids so as to get at the contents, and compelled the af-

³⁰ This church was founded by Rev. William Screven, about 1684. The constituent members were mostly from England and the Province of Maine, who settled near where Charleston stands about that time. The church was established at Summerton, but removed to Charleston in 1693. A brick meeting house was built in 1699. Mr. Screven was born in England in 1629, and settled at Piscataway, Maine, whence he removed to South Carolina, in 1680. The congregation is still large.

frighted Jean to hold open the mouth of a bag while they filled it with clothing, sheets and blankets. The plantation was only a mile from the battle-field of the Crooked Billet,³¹ and some of the skirmishing took place on it.

The Watts family, from which the wife of John Davis came in the female line, is descended from John Watts, born at Leeds, Kent county, England, in 1661. He was a Baptist minister; settled at Lower Dublin, Philadelphia county, in 1686, and married Sarah Eaton, February 23, 1687. He became pastor of the Pennepack Baptist church,³² in 1690, and died

³¹ The Crooked Billet, the present Hatboro, is situated in Montgomery county, Pa., half a mile from the Bucks line. The population is about 1,000. A battle was fought here, May 1, 1778, between a detachment of British troops and American militia under General Lacey. Some of the American wounded were burned in buckwheat straw.

³² The first Baptist church established in Pennsylvania was at Cold Spring, Bucks county, of which Rev. Thomas Dungan, from Rhode Island, was pastor. It was organized in 1684, but in 1702 was disbanded. The Pennepek church, now in the Twenty-third Ward of Philadelphia, formerly called the township of Lower Dublin, is therefore regarded as the oldest Baptist church in the Middle Colonies. Its early records are carefully preserved in the handwriting of the pastors. In 1687 it appears that John Eaton, George Eaton and Jane, his wife, Samuel Jones and Sarah Eaton, natives of Wales, were settled at Pennepek, and there also came John Baker, from Ireland, and Samuel Vaus, from England. These were visited that year by Elias Keach, son of the famous Benjamin Keach, of London, and in November, 1687, Mr. Keach baptized Joseph Ashton and Jane, his wife, William Fisher and John Watts. These twelve became a regular Baptist church in January, 1688, with Mr. Keach as their pastor. He was a brilliant preacher, and traveled extensively in Pennsylvania and New

there in 1702. Stephen Watts, the son of John, settled in Southampton township, in 1734, on a tract of one hundred and fifty acres purchased of the Callowhill family. The mother of Mrs. Davis was a daughter of Arthur Watts, a granddaughter of Stephen the elder, and a niece of William Watts, several years an Associate Judge of Bucks county. Stephen Watts, the son of Stephen, settled in Louisiana, in 1774, and one of his daughters married a son of the Spanish Governor, Gayosa,³³ whose descendants, if any, have been lost sight of. The marriage of Mr. Davis also connected him with the

Jersey, and organized several other churches, which are still in existence. He resigned in 1689, and in 1692 returned to London, where he preached with great success until October 27, 1699, when he died. Mr. Keach married Mary, daughter of Chief Justice Nicholas Moore, and his grandson, John Elias Keach Harrison was a member of Southampton church. Lower Dublin has had but twenty pastors, viz. : Elias Keach, John Watts, Evan Morgan, Samuel Jones, Joseph Wood, Abel Morgan, Jenkin Jones, P. P. Vanborne, Samuel Jones, D. D., Jacob Grigg, Joshua P. Slack, David Jones, Jr., James M. Challiss, Thomas Roberts, Richard Lewis, M. D., William Hutchinson, Alfred Harris, George Kempton, D. D., William E. Cornwell, and Charles Warwick, the present pastor. Her most prominent early pastors were Rev. Abel Morgan, author of *Cydgordid*, or Concordance of the scriptures in Welsh, and Rev. Samuel Jones, D. D., who was associated with Rev. Morgan Edwards and Rev. James Manning, D. D., in organizing Rhode Island College, now Brown University. Eight of her pastors were natives of Wales, and for many years Pennepek church was the point to which Welsh immigrants directed their steps. The name of this church was known throughout all America and she was the focus of Baptist influence.

H. G. J.

³³ Gayosa was the Spanish Governor of Louisiana for several years before its transfer to the United States.

Bucks ps.

I do hereby certify that John Davis hath voluntarily taken and subscribed the Oath of allegiance and fidelity, as directed by an act of general assembly of Pennsylvania, passed the first Day of October

A. D. 1779. Witness my Hand and Seal the 18 Day of October, A. D. 1779

John Chapman

families of Purdy,³⁴ Folwell,³⁵ and Miles,³⁶ with whom intimate personal and social relations were maintained as long as he and they lived.

³⁴ This family is descended from John Purdy, who immigrated from Ireland in 1742; settled on the Pennypack, in Moreland township; married Grace Dunlap, and died in 1752, leaving a son, William, and two daughters. The son married Mary Roney, whose father came from Ireland in 1735, and served in the Revolutionary army.

³⁵ The Folwells, one of the most respectable and influential families in the county in their day, settled in Southampton more than a century and a quarter ago. William Folwell married a Watts, and their son, William Watts, a graduate of the Pennsylvania University, was tendered the Professorship of Literature in that institution, but declined it. He removed to Western New York, in 1807, where he died in 1858, at the age of ninety-one. He kept alive his interest in letters. His sister, Nancy, was married to Joseph Hart, Jr., son of Colonel Joseph Hart, December 25, 1783.

³⁶ The Miles family came from Philadelphia county to Bucks. Samuel lived in Southampton, on the road from Davisville to the Southampton Baptist church, and Griffith in Warminster, where his son, Griffith, still lives on the homestead. Another brother, William, married Rebecca Hart, a sister of Mrs. Davis, and lived and died in Lower Dublin, near Bustleton. One of his grandsons, Charles R. Miles, is a Lieutenant in the United States navy, and, at this writing, a professor in the Annapolis Naval Academy.

CHAPTER IV.

Amy Hart, the wife of John Davis, was the daughter of Josiah and Nancy Hart, of Southampton, Bucks county, Pa., and was born the 20th of June, 1784. Her father was the fourth son of Joseph Hart, a Colonel, and otherwise prominent, in the Revolutionary war, and a very influential citizen in Colonial times, and her mother was a daughter of Arthur Watts. Her father was born at the Hart family mansion, in Warminster, the 17th of July, 1749, and her mother at the Watts homestead, in Southampton,¹ still standing, the 5th of October, 1759. They were married, "January ye 11th, 1776, after being published three Sabbaths," at the Southampton Baptist church.

Josiah Hart was the father of six children, one son and five daughters. Amy was the fourth child, and the son, William Watts, the youngest. Frances, the youngest daughter, died at the age of two years. Of the other daughters, Sarah, the eldest, married William Shelmire, Elizabeth, Arthur Yerkes, and

¹ Southampton, a township of Bucks county, adjoins Warminster on the southeast. It was among the first settled and organized, and the land was generally taken up by 1684. For some years it and Warminster elected but one set of township officers.

Rebecca, William Miles. They all left numerous descendants. William Watts Hart, the only son of Josiah and Nancy, was born the 2d of January, 1790. He was intended for the bar, and was educated, for this purpose, at Doylestown and Philadelphia, and studied law with Enos Morris,² at Newtown. He was admitted to practice, June 3, 1813, and settled at Doylestown, whither the county seat was removed that year. Before and after his admission to the bar, Mr. Hart held public office. He was appointed Deputy Register of the county in 1810, Deputy Prothonotary in 1811, and Clerk of the Orphans' Court the 28th of February, 1814. When the British threatened Philadelphia, in the summer of 1814, he enlisted in the company of Captain William Magill,³ of Doylestown, and was elected First Lieutenant, and when Colonel Humphrey's regiment of riflemen was organized, he was appointed Adjutant. He settled down to the practice of law, at Doylestown, when

² Enos Morris, the son of Benjamin, was descended from Thomas Morris, who settled in Hilltown township, Bucks county, Pa., about 1722. He learned his father's trade, clockmaking, but afterward studied law with Judge John Ross, at Easton, and was admitted to the bar about 1800. He settled at Newtown, where he died. He was an active Baptist.

³ William Magill, a resident of Doylestown, was the son of Robert Magill, and was born in Doylestown. He owned the tavern property at State and Main streets, long since converted to other uses, and at one time kept it. The uniforms for his company were made in the court house, by the young ladies of the town and vicinity. The Rev. Hugh Magill was pastor of Deep Run church in 1772.

mustered out of service, and died there February 24, 1815, at the age of twenty-five. He was a young man of much promise, and his death was a great affliction to the family.⁴

Josiah Hart was a friend of the Colonies in the Revolutionary struggle, and, at one time, commanded a company of Philadelphia "Associators," but we do not know that he saw any service in the field. He spent the first twenty years of his married life at the mill on the Pennypack,⁵ in Moreland township, Montgomery county,⁶ Pa., given him by his father, the deed bearing date the 9th of April, 1777, fifteen months after his marriage. In more recent years

⁴ The death of Mr. Hart took place under painful circumstances. His friend, John Ledley Dick, was seized with typhus fever, and he nursed him until his death, February 18, 1815. The day he died he had occasion to write to his brother-in-law, Mr. Davis, and spoke of this death as follows: "My friend, John L. Dick, died to-day at 2 o'clock, p. m., of typhus fever. How frail is man! Ten days ago he was in the vigor of health. Alas! how visionary our hopes of earthly happiness; but two months since he married Miss Erwin, the daughter of the richest man in the county. How soon their fondest anticipations of future bliss and domestic felicity were destroyed." In a few days he followed his friend Dick to the grave, and shortly his mother, sister and cousin all died of the disease, in the same house, still standing, in Doylestown.

⁵ The Pennypack is a small stream that rises in Warminster, Bucks, and Moreland township, Montgomery, and forming a portion of the southwestern boundary between Bucks and Philadelphia, empties into the Delaware.

⁶ Montgomery county was part of Philadelphia until 1784, when it was laid off and organized. The Schuylkill river runs near its southwestern border, and Bucks and Lehigh bounds it on the northeast. It is populous and rich, and Norristown is its capital.

it was known as "Hallowell's mill,"⁷ but we do not know the name of the present owner. Josiah Hart probably moved to the mill immediately after his marriage. He sold the property to John Shelmire, of Horsham township,⁸ Montgomery county, in 1795, and removed to the saw mill farm, in Southampton, Bucks, owned by his father-in-law. There he lived until his death, the 25th of October, 1800, at the early age of fifty-one. At the death of Arthur Watts, this farm was left by will, dated October 16, 1809, to his daughter, Mrs. Hart. Fifteen acres of it lay over the township line, in Warminster.⁹ It has never been out of the family since its first purchase from the Callowhills,¹⁰ in 1734, the present owner

⁷ William Hallowell was a physician of Moreland, Montgomery, fifty years ago, and practiced according to the "Thompsonian" school of medicine. He was a member of an old and influential family of that name in that county.

⁸ A township of Montgomery, joining Moreland on the northwest, and was principally settled by the Society of Friends.

⁹ A township of Bucks county, Pa., bounded by the Montgomery county line on the southwest. It was organized in 1690, and has an area of 6,000 acres. It is rectangular in shape, with a level surface, and is remarkable for never having had a flour mill in it.

¹⁰ Thomas Call whill, the father-in-law of William Penn by his second marriage, had 417 acres surveyed to him, April 20, 1705, in the upper part of Southampton, bounded by the Street road and Warminster line, and covering the site of Davisville. John Thomas and Richard Penn inherited this tract from their grandfather. The land of John Morris bounded it on the southwest.

being J. Davis Duffield, a great-grandson of Mrs. Hart.

John Davis settled in Southampton the spring of his marriage, 1813, and resided in the same neighborhood, within rifle shot of his first location, the remainder of his long and active life, sixty-five years. At first he rented his mother-in-law's farm, but after her death, in 1815, and his wife became one of the heirs, he took it at the valuation placed upon it by the Orphans' Court appraisers. The land was then poor, for the new methods of cultivation had not yet been adopted, but, by careful tillage and the use of manures, it gradually became productive and yielded good crops. Mr. Davis took a prominent position in business and social life immediately he settled in Southampton, and maintained it as long as he lived; but it was no more than his energy, his intelligence and high character entitled him to. His influence increased with time, until he became one of the most prominent citizens of the State.

The war with England was in full blast when Mr. Davis settled in Southampton, and he was soon afforded an opportunity of exhibiting his public spirit and patriotism. The capture of Washington and the burning of the public building, the attack on Baltimore, and demonstration against Philadelphia, aroused this section of country. They found Mr. Davis occu-

pied with his farm and mill and the cares of a young family, but he did not hesitate to lay aside the implements of peace to take up the weapons of war. When the call was made for volunteers to defend Philadelphia, he was one of the first in the county to respond. Information of the burning of the capitol reached Bucks county, Saturday, August 27, 1814, two days after the event, and the following Thursday, a meeting was held at Hart's Cross Roads, now Hartsville,¹¹ to raise volunteers to take the field. Here it was resolved "to organize and march forthwith to meet the enemy." William Watts Hart, his wife's brother, was probably at the meeting, for the original roll of the company,¹² now in possession of the author, is in his handwriting. The name of John Davis heads the roll, and among the signers are five Harts, cousins of Mrs. Davis. The company was full before night, when the members pro-

¹¹ Hartsville, a well-situated village near Neshaminy creek, lies partly in Warminster and partly in Warwick township, at the junction of the York and Bristol roads, twenty miles from Philadelphia. It was the seat of the Log college, and for many years was noted for its schools, which turned out a number of distinguished scholars. The Continental army encamped several days in its vicinity, in August, 1777.

¹² The following is a copy of the original muster roll: "The subscribers do hereby agree to form themselves into a corps of riflemen, to organize immediately, offer their services to the Governor of Pennsylvania, and march forthwith to meet the enemy, agreeably to the recommendation contained in the Governor's general orders of the 27th inst. And it is further agreed, that if rifles cannot be procured, the corps will accept muskets

ceeded to the election of officers, as follows: Captain, William Purdy;¹³ First Lieutenant, Samuel Daniels;¹⁴ Second Lieutenant, James Horner,¹⁵ and

and act in the capacity of either riflemen or infantry until rifles can be had.

August 30, 1814

John Davis,	Benjamin Corson,	Samuel Young,
Samuel Hart,	Barnet Slack,	Joseph Orem,
John Crawford,	Charles Webster,	John Gill,
Lewis F. Hart,	Watson Robinson,	William Long,
Aaron Bennet,	James Rogers,	Ezekiel Wilson,
Samuel Daniel,	Lewis Scout,	Lot Search,
John Kirkpatrick,	William Purdy,	Samuel Leedom,
Ashfordby Jones,	Thomas Coughlin,	Abraham Shelmire,
Joseph Carrell,	Daniel Roberts,	Andrew Yerkes,
George Bennet,	John Baird,	William Vansant,
James Brown,	William Hart,	Benjamin Thomas,
Josiah H. Wood,	Andrew Scott,	Isaac VanBuskirk,
William Vanhorn,	William Daniels,	William Riddles,
Lemen Banes,	John M. Craven,	David Dougherty,
Samuel McDowell,	James Horner,	William Silvy,
Wilhelmus Vansant,	Benjamin Bready,	Malacai Tyson,
James T. Search,	Joseph Carr,	John Hart, Jr.,
John Wells,	Jesse Washman,	David Jones,
Thomas Neal,	Henry Darrah,	John Bothwell,
Joseph Silvy,	William Hart, Jr.,	James Polk, Jr.
	William Harvey,	

¹³ William Purdy was the grandson of the John Purdy previously mentioned. He married Mary Folwell, daughter of William Folwell, of Southampton, and died in Doylestown, in 1834. He was a prominent citizen; was three times elected to the Assembly, and was Prothonotary of the Court of Common Pleas. His son Thomas, and grandson John, father and son, were elected Sheriff of the county, the former in 1842, and the latter in 1872. The name is Anglo-Irish, and is thought to be a modification of Pardeew, Pardee, or Pardoe, and is more common in England and Scotland than in Ireland.

¹⁴ Lived in Warminster, and, while the author remembers him, he knows nothing of his history. He was a man of brains and well-informed.

¹⁵ The Horners, an old Scotch-Irish family, settled in Allen township,

Ensign, John Davis. Samuel Hart¹⁶ was appointed Orderly Sergeant. The company met for drill the following Saturday, September 3d, in a field on the farm of John Shelmire, of Warminster, on the road that runs from the present Johnsville¹⁷ to the Bristol road.¹⁸ Here the organization of the company was completed by the Brigade Inspector, Harman Van-

then on the northwest frontier of Bucks county, but now in Northampton. They were there before 1746, when James Horner signed a petition to organize the township. The family suffered from the Indians, and subsequently removed to Warminster township, Bucks county, where John lived on the York road, a mile below Hartsville. He was probably the son of James. We do not know when he settled in Warminster, but he died there in 1806, at the age of fifty-nine years. He had six children—two sons, John and James, and four daughters. John bought a farm at what is now Davisville, but removed to Mercer county, Pa., forty years ago, and died there. James was a farmer of Warwick township. The daughters married John Ruckman, John Hart, Jacob Shelmire and Charles Vansant, and left numerous descendants.

¹⁶ Samuel Hart belonged to a Scotch-Irish family, of Plumstead, where he was born. Two members of the family, William and Samuel Hart, were present at the capture and death of Moses Doane, in Plumstead, in 1783, and William carried the body of the dead outlaw to his dwelling and laid it on the kitchen floor until morning, when he sent it to his unhappy father. Our Samuel Hart was Associate Judge of the courts of the county several years. He was the grandfather of John and Frank Hart, bankers, Doylestown, and was an excellent man and citizen.

¹⁷ A small village in Warminster township, named by John Craven, from his Christian name, Johnsville. He kept store there half a century ago. His son, William L. Craven, is now a real estate agent in Philadelphia.

¹⁸ A road laid out on a northwest line, projected by Penn, between 1724 and 1772, and bounds the townships of Southampton, Warminster, Warwick, Warrington and Northampton. The first jury was on it in April, 1724. It was called Bristol road because it was one of the early traveled roads to that place.

sant,¹⁹ and ordered to march on Monday morning.

Monday, the 5th of September, 1814, was an important day in that section of the county, and one of unusual excitement. Early in the morning Captain Purdy's "Bucks County Riflemen" and Captain Christopher Vanartsdalen's²⁰ militia company, from Newtown, met at what was then Foster's Corner, now Southampton, at the intersection of the Street²¹ and Middle roads,²² a mile below Davisville, in Southampton township, whence they were to start for Philadelphia. A large concourse of neighbors and friends had assembled to witness the departure

¹⁹ Harman Vansant was of Dutch ancestry, which came from Long Island with other Holland families. He lived in Warminster, near the present Johnsville. He was elected Brigadier-General after filling the office of Brigade Inspector, and died September 13, 1823, aged sixty-seven.

²⁰ Christopher Vanartsdalen was a descendant of Simon, son of John Von Arsdalen, of Ars Dale, Holland, who immigrated to America in 1653, and settled at Flat Bush, Long Island, whence his great-grandsons, Nicholas and John, came to Bucks county and settled in Southampton.

²¹ Like the Bristol road the Street road through Bensalem, Southampton, Warminster and Warrington, was laid out on one of William Penn's northwest lines, and at various times; the first section, from the Delaware to the Bristol turnpike, in 1696. The whole route of the road was resurveyed in 1794, and confirmed thirty-three feet wide from Warrington to Bensalem.

²² The road from Philadelphia to Oxford, the first link in the Middle road, was granted about 1693. Some years afterward it was extended to the Delaware, at Yardleyville, via Newtown. It was next opened up to the Anchor tavern from what is now Richborough, to intersect the Durham road. In 1803 it was resurveyed from Newtown to the Montgomery line, eight and a half miles. It was called the "Middle road" because it lay about midway between the road that led to Trenton ferry and the York that led to Well's ferry at New Hope.

of these young men for what was thought to be "the seat of war." The meeting took place in a wood, long since cut down, at the northwest angle of the cross roads, and the Rev. Thomas B. Montanye, pastor of the Southampton Baptist church, preached an appropriate discourse. It was an equally trying time for the officers and men who left for camp and their families and friends who stayed behind. The two companies were conveyed in wagons to Frankford,²³ whence they marched into Philadelphia.

As the companies of Captains Purdy and Vanartsdalen were the first to reach Philadelphia, after the call for troops, their arrival created quite a sensation, and they received an ovation as they marched through the streets. As there was no time to arm and equip the rifle company before leaving home, the men marched in their ordinary clothes, and their uniforms were procured in the city. Seventy young ladies, who volunteered for the occasion, met in Masonic Hall and made them up in a day. Their nimble fingers were never more active than in this patriotic work. The uniforms were hunting-shirts and overalls, much in fashion then, worn over the ordinary clothes, with hat and feather. They were

²³ A suburb of Philadelphia, but within the limits of the consolidated city. A continuous street of houses connects it with the city proper. In 1814 Frankford was about three miles from the city. When the British occupied Philadelphia, in 1777-8, the picket lines between the two armies ran through Frankford.

armed with heavy rifles. Captain Purdy's was the Ninth Company of the First Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteer Riflemen, commanded by Colonel Thomas Humphrey.²⁴ This was a splendid body of men, from Bucks, Montgomery and adjoining counties, with many representatives of the best families in each company. William Watts,²⁵ uncle to Mrs. Davis, was the second Major of the regiment, and William Watts Hart, his nephew, and brother to Mrs. D., was the Adjutant. The regiment went into camp at Bush Hill, near the city, and lay there several weeks for drill and discipline; and where they were visited by many friends from the country. Among the hospitable dwellings, open to the soldiers from Bucks county, was that of David and Hannah Kelley,

²⁴ Thomas Humphrey, the son of Thomas and Sarah, was born in Montgomery county, near the Bucks border, January 8, 1774. He was brought up on a farm. He married Euphemia, the second daughter of John and Rebecca Hart, of Bucks county, the 15th of March, 1798. They had three children, and, among the descendants, are the Wentzes of Norristown, Pa., from the marriage of Eliza, the eldest daughter, with Samuel Wentz. After the War of 1812-15, he was elected Major-General of the division; and died October 3, 1822.

²⁵ William Watts was the son of Arthur Watts, of Southampton, and brother of Nancy Hart, wife of Josiah Hart. He was a descendant of John Watts, born at Leeds, Kent county, England, who settled at Lower Dublin, Philadelphia, in 1686, and married Sally Eaton, in 1687. He was pastor of the Pennypack Baptist church several years, and died in 1702. William Watts was a prominent citizen of Bucks, was many years Prothonotary and Clerk of the Court of Quarter Sessions, and afterward Associate Judge of the Common Pleas. He died at Doylestown in 1834.

the parents of Hon. William D. Kelley,²⁶ and where Ensign Davis was a frequent visitor. Mrs. Kelley was a Darrah,²⁷ from Bucks county, and he a Jerseyman, who came across the Delaware in search of a good wife, and found one.

Colonel Humphrey's regiment formed part of the advance Light Brigade, commanded by Brigadier-General Thomas Cadwallader,²⁸ 3,504 strong. It was

²⁶ William D. Kelley was born in Philadelphia, April 12, 1814. After obtaining a good education he became a proof-reader in a printing office, and then learned the trade of a jeweler, which he followed for five years. He next studied law, and was admitted to the bar; was elected Prosecuting Attorney of Philadelphia, and afterward served ten years as Judge of the Common Pleas. He has been twenty-five years in Congress, and is considered the "Father of the House." He is a very efficient member, and stands high in the councils of his party.

²⁷ Thomas Darrah settled in Horsham, Montgomery county, then Philadelphia, about 1725, but removed to Bedminster a few years afterward, and died in 1750, leaving five sons, three daughters and eight hundred acres. Henry, the third son, married Ann Jamison, and removed to New Britain township, now in the upper end of Warrington. He served several tours of duty under General Lacey, and died in 1782, of cold contracted in service, and was buried at Deep Run. We do not know when the family came into Warminster, but Rachel was the first buried at Neshaminy church, in 1802, at the age of forty-one. Mrs. Kelley was the daughter of William Darrah, and granddaughter of Thomas the elder. One of her sisters was the mother of the late General Samuel A. Smith, and another the mother of the late Captain Thompson D. Shaw, U. S. N. The sons of this family served in the French and Indian war, the Revolution, War of 1812-15, and the Rebellion.

²⁸ Thomas Cadwallader, the son of General John Cadwallader, of Philadelphia, was born October 28, 1779, and died October 26, 1841. He applied for a commission in the army when war was threatened with France during John Adams' administration, but troops were not called out. He was in the Western Expedition in 1799. He studied law and was admitted

in the field three months, the term of their enlistment. While they did not come in contact with the enemy, they encountered the other vicissitudes inseparable from a military life in reach of danger; in which are included care, watchfulness, solicitude, and exposure to storms. An authority on this campaign says: "Cold rains, one of which lasted for nine days almost without intermission from the northwest, were not unfrequent. Storms of wind and rain at night sometimes blew away entire tents, and left their sleeping inhabitants without a shelter from the blasts; at other times the prostrate tents suddenly wrapped in their watery folds the slumbering tenants, who, with difficulty, extricated themselves from the cold adhesive sheets, without a single change of clothes that had escaped the drenching of the falling torrents. Toward the close of the campaign the ground was frozen so hard as to render it impossible to drive tent pins, and the degree of suffering experienced by many of our patriot fellow-soldiers, who left their distant homes in warm weather, and who had not been supplied with winter clothing, was by no means inconsiderable."

The following letter, written by Adjutant Hart to

to the bar in 1801. He was a careful student of military affairs. When the War of 1812 broke out he was elected Captain, then Colonel of a volunteer regiment, and in 1814 he commanded the advance Light Brigade on the Delaware. After the war he was made Major-General of the First Division.

his mother, from Camp Dupont,²⁹ dated November 17th, 1814, confirms what is said above of the inclemency of the weather and suffering among the troops. They who think fighting battles makes up the sum total of the hardships and dangers of a soldier's life, know but little about it. Adjutant Hart writes :

“ We left Bush Hill³⁰ on Wednesday, the 2d of November, and encamped that night at Darby;³¹ struck our tents about sunrise and marched eleven miles through a violent rain; encamped in the afternoon a little below Chester,³² all completely wet. We procured, however, a good supply of wood and straw, and passed a comfortable night. The rain continued without intermission the next day, and part of Saturday. In the afternoon it became clear. On Sunday morning, about nine o'clock, we struck our tents and resumed our march; arrived at Wilmington³³ in the evening, where the troops were quartered in the academy, court house and meeting

²⁹ Camp Dupont was on the Christiana creek, near Wilmington, in Delaware, and named after the DuPont family which owned extensive powder works there.

³⁰ Bush Hill is now within the built-up portion of Philadelphia, in the northwest section, north of the Schuylkill.

³¹ A small town in Delaware county, Pa., on the road to Wilmington, Delaware.

³² On the Delaware river, in Delaware county; Pa.; formerly the county seat; is a large and flourishing town with several industrial establishments, including an extensive shipyard. Here William Penn first landed on coming to Pennsylvania, and here the first court was held in the Province. It is fifteen miles southwest of Philadelphia.

³³ Wilmington, the largest city in Delaware, is situated on Christiana

house. During the last few miles of our march we were again exposed to rain. The same evening of our arrival at Wilmington I rode five miles to Camp Dupont to report our arrival to General Cadwallader. The rain continued on Monday, and on Wednesday morning we marched and arrived at this place in the afternoon."

The campaign on the lower Delaware closed when the danger, which brought the troops into the field, was passed. The Light Brigade broke up its encampment at Dupont the morning of November 30th, and marched into Wilmington that evening, where it was joined by the detachment from New Castle.³⁴ The whole left Wilmington and reached Chester the next day, and early in the afternoon of Friday, December 2d, entered Philadelphia. The author of "A Brief Sketch of the Military Operations on the Delaware," says of the entry of these troops into the city: "Such a sight, as the march of a body of 3,000 well-disciplined and uniformed soldiers, with all their baggage and munitions of war, had not been witnessed since the period of the Revolution, and it may safely be said that a more proud and joyous

creek, two miles from the Delaware and twenty-eight southwest of Philadelphia. The population is about 50,000, and it contains many manufacturing establishments.

³⁴ New Castle is a borough and a port of entry in county of same name, Delaware, on the Delaware river, five miles east of Wilmington. The population is about 2,500. It has several industrial establishments, and contains a court house, jail, bank, public library and several churches.

day was never before experienced by the inhabitants of Philadelphia."

The brigade was not dismissed from the service of the United States immediately after its return, but was held subject to future orders. The troops were mustered, inspected and discharged at various dates between the 5th of December, 1814, and the 3d of January, 1815, Colonel Humphrey's regiment being mustered out the 12th of December. It was related to the author, by an officer who served in the Rifles, that as the troops marched into Philadelphia they were viewed by the British General Riall³⁵ and staff, taken at the battle of Lundy's Lane, Canada. The infantry and other corps, favorites of the spectators, did not impress the English officers, but when the riflemen came along General Riall remarked, "These are the troops we most dread." Although this fine body of troops did not meet the enemy, they were in constant expectation of it. When the troops were mustered out they

³⁵ The battle of Niagara, or Lundy's Lane, as it is generally called, where General Riall, the British commander, and his entire staff were made prisoners, was one of the severest of the War of 1812-15. It was fought the evening of July 25, 1814, on the Canadian side of the Niagara river, in sight of the Falls. The American army was commanded by Scott and Brown, and both were wounded. It was at this battle Colonel Miller, when ordered to take his regiment and storm a battery, made the memorable reply, "I'll try, sir," and he tried successfully.

wended their respective ways to their homes, where they were received with joy. The commission of Ensign Davis bears date the 5th of September, 1814, but he was not mustered into service until a few days afterward. His regiment, as we have already seen, was not mustered out until the 12th of December, probably just three months from the time it was mustered in; nevertheless, his discharge bears date the 5th, and reads as follows:

“CAMP BOILEAU,³⁶ December 5, 1814.

“Ensign John Davis, of the Ninth Company, belonging to the First Regiment, Pennsylvania Riflemen, is hereby discharged from the service of the United States, by order of Major-General Gaines,³⁷ he having completed his tour of three months for which he volunteered, with honor; and I return him my sincere thanks for his due attention to orders,

³⁶ In the vicinity of Philadelphia, where the troops that served on the Delaware, in 1814, were mustered out of service. It was named for Nathaniel B. Boileau, of Montgomery county, Pa., Secretary of the Commonwealth under Governor Snyder. Mr. Boileau assisted John Fitch in making the machinery for his steamboat that was floated on the Watts mill dam, Southampton, about 1785.

³⁷ Edmund Pendleton Gaines was born in Virginia, in 1777, and died in 1849. He entered the United States army, in 1799, as Ensign, and after rendering valuable service resigned, in 1811, with a view of practicing law; but re-entered the army when the war with England broke out. He played a distinguished part, rose to the rank of Major-General, and received the thanks of Congress and a gold medal.

and his able assistance to me through the whole tour.

[Signed,] WILLIAM PURDY,
"Capt. N. C., 1st R. P. V. R."

Ensign Davis returned immediately to his home in Southampton, with his Captain's high commendation in his pocket, and resumed the peaceful pursuits of private life. As the war closed soon afterward, he had no further opportunity to take up arms in defense of his country. His brief experience in the field having developed a strong taste for military affairs, he shortly entered the volunteer militia, became active therein, and was in constant commission thirty-four years, when advancing age warned him to

" Hang up his arms as bruised monuments "

and to turn over the martial baton to younger men. During that period he held, in succession, the commissions of Captain, Brigade Inspector, with the rank of Major, Lieutenant-Colonel, Colonel, and was three times elected Major-General of the division composed of the counties of Bucks and Montgomery. The flourishing condition of military affairs in Bucks county during that period was largely due to his activity and energy, and love for the profession of arms.

The first military venture of Ensign Davis, in the volunteer militia, after his return from camp, was in the spring of 1815, when he organized a company

called the "Alert Rifles,"³⁸ of which he was elected Captain. Many of the members had served with him, under Captain Purdy, in the campaign of 1814, and were mostly young farmers of Southampton and adjoining townships ; were strong and agile and

³⁸ The following is a copy of the muster roll of the Alert Rifle Company, attached to the First Regiment Bucks County Volunteers, commanded by Captain John Davis, about 1820 :

Capt. John Davis,	Elias Lewis,	Isreal Krewson,
1st Lieut., Isaac Prall,	Samuel Montanye,	Jacob Bennet,
2d " Archibald Banes.	Enos Tomlinson,	Charles Dungan,
MUSIC.	Thomas Randall,	John Vanhorn,
John B. VanBuskirk,	Langhorn Ervin,	Jacob Johnson,
Simon V. Lefferts,	Joseph Sexton,	Peter Folwell,
Jacob J. Larzelere,	Jonathan Delany,	Isaac Willard,
Charles Prior. [land,	Thomas Neal,	James Travis,
1st Sergt., Wm. Hoge-	Samuel Leedom,	John Daniels,
2d, Horatia G. Yerkes,	John Gill,	Benjamin Bennet,
3d, John Vanartsdalen,	Mathias Kiple,	John McDowell,
4th, Wm. Longstreth,	Lewis F. Hart,	George Logan,
Joseph Carrell,	John Leedom,	Abraham Randall,
Henry Gill,	George S. Rutherford,	Asher Bennet,
John Horner,	Henry Krewson,	Joseph F. Cooper,
Chris. Krewson, Sr.,	Robert Willard,	Yardley Plunket,
John Jones,	George Willett,	Amos Jolly,
H. K. Vanartsdalen,	William Craven,	Charles Reeder,
George Merrick,	David Dungan,	Adam McElhaney,
Isaac VanBuskirk,	Elias Yerkes,	David Krewson,
Thomas Hart,	Peter Logan,	Benjamin Fenton,
Charles Hoffman,	Charles Roberts,	Abm. Worthington,
Miles Addis,	Leffert Willard,	John Lewis,
James Barkley,	Daniel Dunlap,	Joseph Parker,
William Miles,	John Wildonger,	Thomas Roberts,
Garret Brown,	Adrian Krewson,	William Chambers,
Ezekial Everit,	Derrick H. Buckalew,	James Twining,
Chris. Krewson, Jr.,	Isaac Mason,	William Mayberry.

full of military spirit. Captain Davis was a great favorite with his men, and at that early day was recognized as an officer of capacity. Governor Snyder³⁹ commissioned him "as of the first day of August, one thousand eight hundred and fourteen," so as to cover his service in the field. The company was uniformed in dark hunting shirts and overalls, trimmed with green or orange fringe, and made a striking appearance when assembled for drill. They frequently met in a field, at the present Davisville, when the martial exercises were terminated by what was then styled the "Indian ramble," a movement not put down in modern tactics. Mr. S. D. Anderson,⁴⁰ a neighbor, then a boy, who witnessed this drill, thus describes it :

"The company was formed in single file, and the Captain, placing himself at the head of the men, began the movement in a slow step. This was gradu-

³⁹ Simon Snyder, Governor of Pennsylvania, under the Constitution of 1790, son of Anthony Snyder, a German immigrant, was born at Lancaster, the 5th of November, 1759. By study and energy he raised himself from the humblest position. After serving in the Constitutional Convention of 1790, and in the Legislature, of which he was Speaker, he was elected Governor in 1808, and re-elected in 1811 and 1814. He retired from office in 1817, and died in 1819.

⁴⁰ Stephen Decatur Anderson was the son of James Anderson, and born in Northampton township, Bucks county, Pa., about 1810. He settled in Philadelphia in early manhood, where he still resides. He has held several public trusts; represented the city in the Legislature, was one of the editors of *The Age*, and spent many years of his life in journalism. Mr. Anderson is a gentleman of extensive reading, and broad views on all subjects.

ally increased until the pace became a swift run. At the same time the Captain moved in a sinuous course, and the men followed, giving the Indian yell with the full strength of their lungs. When the proper moment arrived, the movement was terminated and the company dismissed. The sight was intensely interesting, and, when the surroundings are taken into consideration, an evening drill of the riflemen under Captain John Davis is not likely to be erased from memory."

CHAPTER V.

Notwithstanding the prevailing sentiment of the Friends was against it, there was a military spirit in Bucks county from an early day; and when the frontiers were raided by Indians her citizens turned out to defend them. Her volunteers were the first to go to the rescue of Bethlehem and neighboring settlements in 1755; Captain Wilson's company, sixty strong, being the first to march, the last of November, and followed by Captains Asten and Wayne, in December. In the French and Indian war nine volunteer companies, of 540 men, were organized in Bucks, some of which were ordered for service on the frontiers. In November, 1763, several companies of mounted volunteers from this county arrived at the Crown Inn, now South Bethlehem, to protect the frontiers from Indians. The volunteers and militia of Bucks made an honorable record in the Revolution, which they maintained in subsequent wars. In the Whiskey Insurrection, 1790, Joseph Hart commanded a regiment from Bucks. In 1800 the county had four regiments of organized militia, in a brigade, commanded by Augustin Willett,¹ who had been an officer in the Revolution.

¹ Augustin Willett, descended from Dutch ancestry from Long Island,

The first mention of a volunteer company in Bucks, after the Revolution, was in 1788, when "the Montgomery and Bucks county troops of dragoons" were present in Philadelphia on the 4th of July, to celebrate the adoption of the Federal Constitution. When Washington returned south from New York, in the fall of 1797, he was met at the crossing of the Delaware, where Morrisville stands, by Captain Clunn's² company of artillery, and Captain Gibbs' ³ troop of horse, the latter escorting him to the Philadelphia county line. In 1801, William Rodman⁴

which settled in Bensalem, was a man of note in his day. He voluntarily took the oath of allegiance in 1778, and served in the field in the Revolution. He was prominent in military affairs after the war; was Lieutenant of the county in 1791; Captain of the Bucks County Light Dragoons in 1793; was Brigade Inspector several years; was Brigade Major of General Murray's brigade of militia in the Western Expedition, in 1798, and was commissioned Brigadier-General in 1800. In 1797 he commanded the troops which received Washington on crossing the Delaware, on his way south, and escorted him to the Philadelphia county line.

² We know but little of Joseph Clunn. He was a citizen of Bristol and born about 1745. In 1806 he commanded the Fifteenth Militia Regiment. The following year, when the Chesapeake was fired upon, he invited the patriotic citizens of Bristol, between forty-five and seventy, to enroll themselves as a reserve guard, to be called "The Republican Grays of Bucks County," whose services were to be offered to the President. Clunn stated that he was then sixty-three years old, and had "devoted nearly half that time in a military capacity."

³ Captain Gibbs was probably a son of Richard Gibbs, of Bensalem, who was born in England, and came to America in 1746. He was a clerk under Lawrence Growden, then Prothonotary, and was afterward Sheriff of the county. He died in 1798. Of the son we know nothing.

⁴ William Rodman, born in Bensalem, October 7, 1757, was a descendant of John Rodman, who immigrated from England to Barbadoes, West

commanded the "First Troop of Light Dragoons of the Bucks County Brigade." The firing of the British frigate *Leopard* on the Chesapeake, in 1807, stimulated military men, and meetings, to form volunteer companies, were held at several places, including Doylestown, Centreville, Richborough and Hart's Cross Roads, now Hartsville. At that time Philip Miller and Joseph Stewart commanded artillery companies, and Benjamin Walton and Samuel Sellers cavalry. In 1807, Bucks county furnished her quota of cavalry and artillery from the companies above named, and 539 infantry.

At the period of which we now write, from 1815 to about 1845, the volunteer militia of the State and county were in a better condition than before or since. The martial spirit of the young men of Bucks was greatly stimulated by the war with Great Britain, and a number of volunteer companies was organized, in the county, the next six years, under the new militia law of 1814. By 1822 there were nineteen companies in Bucks well uniformed and equipped, whose discipline was highly creditable.

Indies, in 1686, and the son of William Rodman, born on Long Island, May 5, 1720. William Rodman, Jr., was an earnest and active patriot in the Revolution, and, although a Friend, voluntarily took the oath of allegiance, in 1778. He served under General Lacey, in 1781; was Justice of the Peace several years; member of the State Senate; commanded a troop of horse in the "Fries Rebellion," in 1799, and was elected to Congress in 1812. He was a man of mark in his day.

They met at stated periods for drill, and, had occasion called them to the field, they would have responded with alacrity and given a good account of themselves. One of the finest volunteer parades of that day was held at Morrisville, the 27th of September, 1827. The troops consisted of the First Regiment Bucks County Volunteers, a regiment from New Jersey, another from Philadelphia, and several companies of cavalry. General Garret D. Wall⁵ was probably in command, as he was on the ground with the New Jersey regiment. After a drill, witnessed by a large concourse of people, the troops sat down to a dinner of five hundred covers, and, in the afternoon, marched through the streets of Trenton.

When Captain Davis' first commission expired, he was recommissioned by Governor Hiester,⁶ the 3d of

⁵ Garret Dorset Wall, the fourth child of James Wall, was born in Monmouth county, N. J., in 1783. The family came from England about 1657. After a limited education he studied law with Jonathan Rhea, at Trenton, whose daughter he married, and commenced practice in 1804. He filled, in succession, the offices of Clerk of the Supreme Court, Quartermaster-General of the State, member of Assembly, United States District Attorney, was six years in the United States Senate, and Judge of the Court of Appeals. He was a very able lawyer, and had the confidence of the people. He died in November, 1850.

⁶ Joseph Hiester, the fifth Governor of Pennsylvania, under the Constitution of 1790, was born in Berks county, November 18, 1752. His father immigrated from Silesia, Germany, in 1737. He was an officer in the Revolution and endured the horrors of the Jersey prison ship; was a member of the convention that ratified the Constitution of the United States;

August, 1821, for another term of seven years, but soon obtained his promotion. He had already become so prominent in military circles, that when a vacancy took place among the field officers of the First Regiment Bucks County Volunteers, One Hundred and Forty-second of the line,⁷ he was called to fill it, and commissioned Lieutenant-Colonel in 1823. He was subsequently elected Colonel, and was succeeded by Thomas Purdy, who died in 1844. This was one of the finest military organizations in the State, and was maintained for over thirty years. It was a favorite body of troops.

The usual places of meeting of the regiment, for drill and review, were at the Black Bear tavern,⁸ in

a member of the convention that framed the State Constitution of 1790; member of the Legislature; several years a member of Congress, and was elected Governor in 1820, serving one term. He died June 10, 1832.

⁷ The first battalion of this regiment was probably organized in the fall of 1822, and the second battalion about three years afterward. The colonels were John Davis, Simpson Torbert, Thomas Purdy, and Joseph Morrison.

⁸ The Black Bear, in Northampton township, on the road from New Hope, and other points on the Delaware, to Philadelphia, was a famous tavern in its day. For many years it was a political centre for that section of the county. A public house was kept there early, and it was called "Leedom's," a century ago. It was also called "Bennet's." The "Bear" was early made choice of for a tavern sign. For centuries the "Bear" was a celebrated tavern at the foot of London Bridge, and in the time of Richard the Third, it was the resort of aristocratic pleasure-seekers. The village that has grown up about our "Bear" is called Richborough.

Northampton township, and the village of Newtown, formerly the county seat. These affairs were very popular, and brought together a large concourse of persons, including many ladies, to witness the evolutions. The road in front of the old inn and the village street were lined with booths, at which all sorts of refreshments were sold, including the famous "battalion cake," made of ginger-bread and fashioned after a quadruped, said to resemble a horse. These were wonderfully popular with the boys, and no doubt the eating of them helped to fill the urchins with patriotic impulses. Among the side shows were foot races and horse races and boxing matches, and the day, by many, was esteemed "flat, stale and unprofitable," if it did not yield one square fist fight. To be true to history the fact must be recorded, that a good deal of whiskey, and bad at that, was consumed on such occasions, and, not infrequently, some of the "soldiers bold" took more than a lawful ration. Those who had relatives in the regiments, officers or men, made the day a holiday. Among the military men who figured prominently in the county at that period, we may mention Simpson Torbert,⁹ Joseph

⁹ Simpson Torbert was a member of an old Bucks county family, and an engineer by profession. He was Colonel of the First Regiment Bucks County Volunteers. He died over forty years ago, in Illinois, while constructing a canal. He was a relative of General Davis.

Morrison,¹⁰ Charles H. Matthews,¹¹ Isaiah James,¹²
Paul Applebach,¹³ John S. Bryan,¹⁴ Charles H. Mann,¹⁵

¹⁰ Joseph Morrison was a citizen of local repute; a farmer and miller by occupation, and lived near Rocksville, Northampton township. He was the last Colonel of the First Regiment, and the last General of the division. He filled the public offices of County Commissioner, Recorder and Associate Judge. He died August 6, 1880.

¹¹ Dr. Charles H. Matthews was a descendant of Simon Matthew, or Matthews, who came into New Britain township with Simon Butler, about 1720, and the grandson of Thomas, the son of Simon. He was born at Roxborough, near Philadelphia, whither his parents had removed, November 6, 1805. He settled in the practice of medicine at Doylestown, where he died, July 25, 1849. His second wife was Miss Rodman, daughter of Gilbert Rodman, and sister of Mrs. John Fox, of Doylestown. Dr. Matthews took great interest in military affairs, and commanded the Centre Union Battalion, with the rank of Major; and was elected Major-General of the division a few days before his last illness. He was a candidate for nomination for Congress in 1848, but failed by two or three votes. He held but one civil office, Prothonotary of the county. He was universally esteemed, and his death was a great shock to the community.

¹² Isaiah James, a descendant of a Welsh family that came into New Britain in 1711, was born in 1798. He took a lively interest in military affairs; was elected Captain of a volunteer company in 1823, at the age of twenty-five, and re-elected in 1828, Major, in 1831 and 1836, Lieutenant Colonel, in 1840, and Colonel of the Second Regiment of Bucks County Volunteers in 1841. Colonel James was elected to the Assembly in 1834, 1836 and 1837, and Prothonotary of the county in 1848. He married Caroline, daughter of Abel H. James, of Hilltown, and sister of the late John O. James, of Philadelphia, in 1824. He is still a resident of New Britain, 1885, and active and vigorous for his years.

¹³ Paul Applebach was the grandson of Henry Applebach, an immigrant from Wurtemberg, Germany, at the close of the Revolution. He settled in Springfield township. Paul Applebach was an enterprising citizen and wielded a wide influence; he resided at Applebachville, Haycock township, which he founded, and was active in politics and military affairs. He was

Thomas B. Craven,¹⁶ Joseph Archambault,¹⁷ William T. Rogers,¹⁸ Samuel A. Smith,¹⁹ and others whose

nominated for the Senate and House, but defeated with his party at the polls. He was elected Major-General of militia a few years before his death, in 1872.

¹³ The ancestors of John S. Bryan came to Bucks county at an early day, and William Bryan patented the tract on which Houpt's mill, in Springfield township, stands, in 1758. His mother was a daughter of John Stokes and Susan Newton, and a granddaughter of John and Hannah Stokes, of Burlington county, N. J., who settled in Haycock township, Buck county, in 1743. General Bryan was the son of James and Susan Bryan, plain Friends. He learned the printing trade in the *Democrat* office, Doylestown, under William H. Powell, of whom he bought the establishment in 1834, and sold it to Samuel Johnson Paxson, in 1845. He was prominent in politics and military affairs in the county. He was the first Prothonotary elected under the Constitution of 1838; was a candidate for the State Senate in 1846, but defeated at the polls, a Major-General of militia, and twice filled the office of Associate Judge. He was clerk to the United States Senate Committee on Printing one session. He died in 1863. General Bryan was a warm friend and popular with the people. The attachment between him and General Davis was very strong.

¹⁵ Charles H. Mann, the son of Charles and Catharine Mann, was born at Philadelphia, the 5th of June, 1809. His parents were both Germans. He spent his boyhood days in Plumstead, Bucks county, and in 1837 he settled at Danborough, that township, to carry on his trade of harness-making. He removed to Doylestown in a couple of years; joined the Grays in 1839, and became the Captain. He was postmaster, and was elected Sheriff in 1845. He was proprietor of the Fountain House, Doylestown, several years, and subsequently kept the Jones House, Harrisburg. He is now, 1885, living at Towson, near Baltimore.

¹⁶ Thomas B. Craven was a farmer of Northampton township, and member of a Dutch family that came into the county early. He commanded a company in the First Regiment, and reached the rank of Major. He has been dead many years.

¹⁷ Joseph Archambault's life was one of vicissitudes. He was born at Fontainebleau, France, in 1796, and became a ward of the Empire. He

names have escaped us. One company of cavalry, the Union Troop,²⁰ Captain Joseph Archambault, was attached to the regiment. It was a favorite corps, and in it many of the young bloods of the

was attached to the suite of Napoleon as page, and subsequently to that of Josephine. He was wounded at Waterloo, and accompanied Napoleon to St. Helena. When ordered to surrender his sword on the Bellerophon, he broke it and threw the pieces into the sea. He came to America in 1817, and to Newtown, this county, where he kept the Brick Hotel, about 1822. He was a Captain and Major in the Civil War, and died in Philadelphia, in 1874. He is known in history as the "Younger Archambault," and was the last survivor of the suite that accompanied Napoleon into exile.

¹⁹ William T. Rogers, son of William C. Rogers, of Connecticut, was born in Philadelphia, in 1799, but the father subsequently removed to Warrington township. The son learned the printing trade with Asher Miner, at Doylestown; bought the *Democrat* in 1821, and published it until 1829. He was prominent in military affairs and in politics; was Brigade Inspector and Major-General of militia, postmaster at Doylestown, eight years member of the State Senate, and collector of State tolls on the canal at Bristol. He was a friend to public improvements. He died at Doylestown, in 1867, and was buried in the beautiful cemetery mainly laid out by his efforts. His son, Edward L., was Major of the One Hundred and Fourth Pennsylvania Regiment in the Civil War.

¹⁸ Samuel A. Smith was born in Nockamixon township, about 1796, and came to Doylestown when appointed Register in 1824. He was elected Brigadier-General of the militia; served one term in the State Senate and two terms in Congress. He was elected to Congress in 1829, to fill the unexpired term of Samuel D. Ingham, recently appointed Secretary of the Treasury, and re-elected in 1830. He removed to Point Pleasant, this county, and died there May 15, 1861, aged sixty-five.

²⁰ I do not know when the Union Troop, one of the finest in the State, was organized, but before 1830. At one time it paraded one hundred horses, and was uniformed like the Polish Huzzars. Among its commanders were George H. Pauling, John Robbarts, Joseph Archambault, Andrew Craven and James S. Mann. The true name of Captain Robbarts was John Hare. He had been an officer of the British Navy, and fled after knocking down his superior officer.

middle and lower end of the county were enrolled. During the riots in Philadelphia, in 1844, the troop was ordered to the scene of action and rendered good service.²¹

The passage of General Lafayette through Bucks county, in 1824, when he visited this country as the "nation's guest," was an important occasion to our military. The General landed in New York in August, and, after a visit to New England, came south. His arrival at Philadelphia was awaited with deep interest. The military and citizens of Bucks prepared to give him a fitting welcome and escort him through the county. The officers of Colonel Davis' regiment, and a number of militia officers and citizens met at Ann Hinkle's tavern,²² Newtown, the 4th of September, to make proper arrangements. This action was strengthened by an order from General Mahlon Dungan²³ for the brigade to turn

²¹ The riots in Philadelphia, in 1844, grew out of a bitter war waged against Catholics and foreigners by the "Native American" party. A church and several dwellings were burned, and a few persons killed and wounded. The military were called out and resisted by the rioters.

²² This was the present Brick Hotel. Samuel Hinkle at one time kept what in later times was known as the "Temperance House," which had previously been kept by one Dettero, and Samuel Heath. Hinkle was the standing court interpreter and, in his absence, his wife officiated. He removed to the Brick Hotel, where he died. His widow then kept it. This is an ancient hostelry, as there was a public house on the spot before 1744. It was quite celebrated when kept by Joseph Archambault.

²³ The Dungans came into the county in 1682. Mahlon Dungan was elected Brigadier-General in 1824.

out. It was arranged that Colonel Davis' regiment should meet Lafayette at Morrisville ;²⁴ the Centre Rifle Battalion, commanded by Major Stephen Brock,²⁵ was to join the escort at Frankford and march with it to Philadelphia.

General Lafayette reached Trenton,²⁶ Saturday afternoon, September 25th, and tarried there over Sunday. That afternoon Governor Hiester, of Pennsylvania, passed through Bristol,²⁷ on his way to Morrisville, to receive the distinguished stranger. The General crossed the Delaware into Bucks county, on Monday morning, where an immense concourse of people, including Colonel Davis' regi-

²⁴ On the west bank of the Delaware, opposite Trenton, and took its name from Robert Morris, of Revolutionary fame, who resided there. The locality was settled early. There was a Dutch trading post on an island, in the river, opposite, from 1624 to 1627, and the town site was located by John Wood, in 1678. General Moreau resided there several years. The British emissaries, sent to seduce the Pennsylvania line at the revolt, in 1781, were hanged to the limb of a tree on the river bank, at Morrisville.

²⁵ Stephen Brock, a popular citizen of the county and an active politician, was elected Sheriff in 1827. He took an interest in military affairs, and was Major of the Centre Union Battalion in 1823. He was the father of John J. Brock, cashier of the Doylestown National Bank. He died in Doylestown, August, 1860.

²⁶ Trenton, on the east bank of the Delaware, at the falls, is the capital of New Jersey. Mahlon Stacy took up a tract of 800 acres, covering the site of the town, in 1680. The surprise and capture of the Hessians at Trenton, by Washington, in 1776, has rendered the place famous in history.

²⁷ Bristol, the only sea-port in Bucks county, is situated on the Delaware, opposite Burlington, N. J., sixteen miles above Philadelphia. The town site is on the grant of 240 acres by Sir Edmund Andros to Samuel Clift, in 1681.

ment, mounted, six hundred strong, and several independent companies were assembled to greet him. He was escorted through the county by the Bucks troops and some cavalry sent up from Philadelphia, Colonel Davis' regiment leading. The people turned out in crowds to see him, and he received an ovation all along the road. As the procession entered Bristol the honored guest was welcomed by the inhabitants and their families, drawn up on the turnpike, and he passed under a triumphal arch erected over the bridge. Here he dined and was introduced to many persons, including Mrs. Bessonette,²⁸ who had ministered to him, after he was wounded, in 1777, while stopping in Bristol over night on his way to Bethlehem.²⁹ When Colonel Davis was presented to the General, he reminded him that his father, a soldier in the Pennsylvania line, had assisted to carry him to a place of safety on the field of Brandywine. The General remembered the circumstance. He embraced the Colonel, saying the two soldiers handled him like a child. After dinner the procession moved on, in the same order, to the Philadelphia line, where the General

²⁸ Mrs. Bessonette, was a niece of Simon Betz, and wife of Charles Bessonette. Lafayette stopped over night at the house of Betz, in 1777, on his way to Bethlehem, and received some attention from his niece, whom he met again in 1824, after the lapse of forty-seven years.

²⁹ On the north bank of the Lehigh, and was settled by the Moravians, in 1742.

was formally delivered to the committee from the city. The Bucks county escort now fell to the rear, but many of them continued to the city, and took part in the festivities that followed.

Colonel Davis was elected Brigade Inspector, for Bucks county, in the summer of 1828, his commission bearing date the 3d of August. He filled this office seven years, and until the expiration of his commission. The office never had a more faithful officer. The author's attention, as a child, was then called to the "Pomp, parade and circumstance of glorious war" for the first time, and he has a keen recollection of the impression it made upon him. When he saw his father in his regimentals, and mounted, he believed there never had been a greater warrior. When the writer filled the same office, a quarter of a century later, there was less pomp and parade connected with it, and he realized the fact that the occupant was not as big a man as he had imagined him. A vacancy occurring in the office of Major-General of the division, in 1835, Colonel Davis was a candidate, and, after a spirited contest, was declared elected. His commission, signed by Governor Wolfe, bears date August 3d.

The election of Colonel Davis as Major-General was contested on the ground of illegality, and the question was submitted to a board of general officers, of which the late General Robert Patterson,³⁰

³⁰ Robert Patterson, son of Francis and Ann Patterson, was born in

of Philadelphia, was president. The contestant, General Thomas Jolly, of Montgomery county, was represented by able counsel, but Colonel Davis managed his own case. This he did with so much ability that, at its conclusion, one of the opposing counsel said to him, "When they made you a farmer, they spoiled a darned good lawyer." The election was set aside and a new one ordered, at which Colonel Davis was re-elected, and commissioned by Governor Ritner,³¹ December 5, 1835. Upon the expiration of this commission he was again elected, and commissioned by Governor Porter,³² August 3, 1842. He

County Tyrone, Ireland, January 12, 1792. His father, taking an active part in the Rebellion of 1798, escaped to America and settled in Delaware county, Pa. Here Robert attended the neighborhood school. The late Mordecai D. Lewis, his schoolmate, took pride in exhibiting a list of fifteen boys who attended that school the same winter, who went into business in Philadelphia, and succeeded, and fourteen of them were alive at the end of half a century. General Patterson outlived them all. He accompanied his father's family to Tennessee in 1811, but returned in 1812, and entered the counting-room of Edward Thompson. War breaking out with England soon after, he received a Second Lieutenant's commission in the Twenty-second Infantry; serving to the end of the war, and reaching the rank of Captain. Re-entering mercantile life, he continued actively in it until his death, in 1881. He served in the Mexican War, and the War of the Rebellion with the rank of Major-General.

³¹ Joseph Ritner, the eighth and last Governor under the Constitution of 1790, was born in Berks county, Pa., the 25th of March, 1780, and removed to Westmoreland county soon after his marriage in 1800. He was elected to the Legislature in 1820, and served in that body six years, being Speaker two years. He was defeated for Governor in 1829 and 1832, but elected in 1835, and served three years. Governor Ritner was a friend of the public school system, and helped to put it in successful operation.

³² David R. Porter, was a son of General Andrew Porter, an officer of

selected for his aides-de-camp two of the most popular young men within the bounds of his division: John O. James,³³ of Bucks, and John H. Shelmire,³⁴ of Montgomery county, both being commissioned with the rank of Major. Major James served on the staff until he removed to Philadelphia, in 1840, to engage in mercantile pursuits, where he became a successful merchant. How long Major

the Revolution, and was born at Norristown, Montgomery county, Pa., October 17, 1788. He removed to Huntingdon county, Pa., when grown to manhood, where he married in 1820. After filling various county offices, and serving in the State Senate and Assembly, he was nominated and elected Governor in 1838, and re-elected in 1841. He was the first Governor elected under the amended Constitution of 1838. He died August 6, 1867.

³³ John O. James, the great-grandson of John James, who came from Wales and settled on the eastern border of Montgomery county, in 1711, was the son of Abel H. James, who was born at Newtown, Bucks county, Pa., January 1, 1770. His mother was a daughter of Owen Owen, of Hilltown, where he was born about 1809. Mr. James began his mercantile life in his native township, but removed to Philadelphia about 1840, where he became a leading merchant and one of the most respected citizens. His personal character was admirable, public-spirited, generous, hospitable, and honorable in all things. He was a member of the Board of Finance of the Centennial Celebration of 1876. He died June 26, 1883. It was at his store, in Hilltown, that Mina, the murderer of Doctor Chapman, was captured after his escape from the Doylestown jail, in 1832. He called to buy a pair of shoes.

³⁴ John H. Shelmire, a son of Jacob Shelmire, a miller and farmer on Pennypack creek, Moreland township, Montgomery county, Pa., was born February 14, 1814. He took an early interest in military affairs. At the breaking out of the Civil War he raised a company for the First New Jersey Cavalry, in which he rose to the rank of Major, and was killed at the battle at Brandy Station, Va., June 9, 1863. He was a gallant officer.

Shelmire served we cannot now say. When the Civil War, 1861-65, broke out, he entered the service and fell in battle.

While General Davis was in commission as Major-General, he was active in State military affairs, and did a great deal to advance the interest of the volunteer system. During that time he commanded at four encampments of volunteers, three in Bucks county and one in Berks. The first was in Northampton township, near the village of Addisville,³⁵ in August, 1837, and was called Camp Washington. This was probably the first time troops had been put under canvas in the county since the "Fries Rebellion,"³⁶ in 1799. The following year several hundred volunteers were encamped near the Buck tavern,³⁷ in Southampton township. This was called Camp Jefferson. These two efforts were so successful, and their good effect on the troops so marked, General Davis repeated them in August, 1843, near

³⁵ Addisville is a small hamlet adjoining Richborough, making with it a continuous village, and has a tavern, store, post office, and several dwellings. In olden times these two villages enjoyed the glories that waited on "battalion day."

³⁶ The "Fries Rebellion," in Milford township, Bucks county, Pa., 1799, was an armed opposition to the house tax of Mr. Adams' administration. John Fries, the head and front of it, was captured by the military, tried and sentenced to be hanged, but pardoned by the President.

³⁷ The Buck tavern, in Southampton, was a noted inn in its day, and has been the scene of many hilarious bouts. It is the only known place in the township at which a tavern has ever been kept. John Ogilby, who was licensed in 1744, probably kept at that place.

Doylestown, under the name of Camp Jackson. On each occasion some five hundred volunteers were in camp for four or five days ; they were handsomely uniformed and well equipped ; the regulations were enforced, and drills frequent, with daily reviews, dress parades, etc. The major part of the troops were from Bucks county, and, at the encampment at Doylestown, the cadets from the military school at the old Bristol College were present. Captain Isaac R. Diller, son of Adjutant-General Diller, of Pennsylvania, one of the publishers of *The Citizen Soldier*, a journal of that day in the interest of the volunteers, visited Camp Jackson and spoke of it as follows :

“ We were struck in our passage through the tents by their uncommon neatness and regularity, and an air of cleanliness and order reigned throughout. The streets were wide and well-arranged, and, in fact, everything bore the most conclusive evidence of the skill and judgment of those on whom devolved the duty of arranging and laying out the camp. We have been in many camps, but never remember to have seen one more beautifully planned. On the whole the encampment was truly a splendid affair, and the order and discipline there displayed were the subject of general remark from citizens and military.”

In the spring of 1842, General Davis was invited to take command of an encampment to be held at Reading,^{3*} Pa., which he accepted. It opened the

^{3*} The seat of justice of Berks county, Pa., a prosperous and wealthy town, with a population of about 50,000.

18th of May and continued to the 24th, and was considered the most successful military camp held in the State down to that time. Eight hundred men were under arms; and the camp was located on an elevated spot overlooking the town. It was called Camp Kosciusko.³⁹ Strict discipline was maintained. On one day the troops were reviewed by Major-General Winfield Scott,⁴⁰ Commanding General of the United States army, and Governor Porter of the State, and the occasion called together a very large concourse. An account of this encampment, published shortly afterward, in a military magazine, said :

³⁹ Thaddeus Kosciusko was born in Lithuania, in 1736, and came of an ancient and noble family. He was educated at the military school in Warsaw, and afterward studied in France. Franklin recommended him to Washington, who made him a member of his staff. He served through the Revolution as an engineer. At its close he returned to Poland, and was made a Major-General under Poniatowski. After the Poles had been conquered, he retired to Switzerland, where he died in 1817. He was highly esteemed by the American officers. He visited the United States in 1797, and received a vote of land from Congress for his services.

⁴⁰ Winfield Scott was born in Virginia, in 1786, and died at West Point, N. Y., in 1866. After leaving college he studied law and was admitted to the bar, but entered the army in 1808, as a Captain of light artillery. In July, 1812, he was made Lieutenant-Colonel, and ordered to the Canada frontier, where he distinguished himself, and was badly wounded. He was made a Brigadier-General in March, 1814, and a Major-General at the close of the war. His campaign in Mexico was brilliant, and one of the most successful in history. He was the Whig candidate for President in 1852, but was defeated by General Franklin Pierce, who had served under him in Mexico.

“It was conceded, on all hands, that this encampment was superior to any other that had been formed by volunteers for many years, in any part of the Union. General Davis, by his gentlemanly, and soldier-like, deportment, won the admiration of all under his command; while the latter, by their courtesy and discipline, obtained a high, and flattering, compliment from him.”

Captain Alden Partridge,⁴¹ president of the Norwich Military University, Vermont, was the camp instructor; he taught the officers and men practical duties during the day, and lectured on history and military subjects in the evening.

In conclusion of this subject I repeat what has already been said, that the period of which we have

⁴¹ Alden Partridge, the son of a farmer, of Norwich, Vermont, who had been a soldier of the Revolution and was present at the surrender of Burgoyne, was born January 12, 1785. He entered Dartmouth College in 1802, but was shortly appointed a cadet of artillery at West Point. He was transferred to the engineers in 1806, and commissioned a First Lieutenant and assistant professor of mathematics. He was acting superintendent at various times between 1808 and 1815, when he was appointed superintendent, filling the position till 1817. He was promoted Captain of engineers in 1810. In April, that year, he resigned his commission. From the time of his resignation he occupied himself in instructing young men and organizations in the art of war. He was the father of the system of combining military instruction with college education. He established two excellent military schools, at Norwich, Vermont, and Middletown, Connecticut, in 1820-25, where hundreds of young men were educated; and subsequently established similar schools at Portsmouth, Va., near Bristol, Bucks county, Pa., Harrisburg, and Brandywine Springs, Delaware. He did a great deal to raise the standard of drill and discipline among the citizen soldiery, probably more than any other one man. He was a member of the Vermont Legislature several sessions. He was a man of great learning and a skilled scientist. He died at Norwich, January 17, 1854.

written was the most prosperous the State military ever knew. The volunteer system was wholly without State aid, except in the matter of arms and equipments, and all expenses were borne by the officers and men; nevertheless, young men of the best families freely entered the ranks, moved by public spirit and a love for the profession of arms. The ranks were full, and we frequently saw over a hundred privates in one company. What they lacked in knowledge of the art of war at their drills, they made up by their enthusiasm and patriotism. That system has passed away never to return, and been replaced by one that approaches nearer to the regular army. The Civil War was so exhaustive of the martial spirit of the young men of the State, that when it closed there were but few military organizations. No one appeared willing to take up arms to "play soldier" in this county, and for several years there was not a company in it. The militia system, organized since the war, differs in all essential particulars from the volunteer system of half a century ago. It has little, if any, of the volunteer element about it. The troops are regularly mustered into the service of the State; armed, equipped, and uniformed at her expense, and when they go into camp the men are paid and rationed by her. Under the old system, sustained by martial ardor and public spirit, Bucks county had some twenty well-equipped companies under arms at one time, while

under the National Guard system, sustained by the State, she has but one. While it gives little encouragement to the martial spirit of our young men, the best bulwark of the country in time of war, it provides a small, compact, and disciplined body of troops ready for service at all times.

CHAPTER VI.

We have now reached that period in the life of General Davis that embraces his career as politician and man of affairs. While not brilliant, nor as distinguished as that of many others, it was highly honorable to himself and friends, and important enough to record on these pages. In all that he did, or was, we see the extraordinary good sense that marked his whole life. Men of the greatest renown do not always make the most lasting mark, for good, on society.

Being a Democrat from conviction, General Davis identified himself with that party from his first settlement in Bucks, and took a deep interest in all political movements. He was a natural politician, and had great influence with men. He was steadfast to his party as long as he lived, and fought many battles in its behalf, but at the same time he did not hesitate to condemn what was wrong in its declarations or practices. He was the sworn enemy of all political corruption. He was sturdy in his advocacy of what he believed to be right, and strong in the reasons and facts on which his conclusions were founded. His activity and intelligent zeal early attracted the attention of his party friends, and he was urged to be a candidate for office; but, as he

was unwilling to sacrifice his private business, so early in life, to politics, he declined such solicitation. He soon became a leader, and had a large following, but was fifteen years in the county before he would allow his name to be used in connection with any nomination for office. He was one of the few men who did not attempt to use his political influence for his own aggrandizement. With him politics had a higher aim than the mere elevation of himself or others to office.

Although active from the first in the support of his party nominees, General Davis was especially so in the Presidential campaign of 1824, between Jackson¹ and Adams.² He was an ardent admirer of General Jackson, as he was, in fact, of all men who

¹ Andrew Jackson, seventh President, was born in South Carolina, March 15, 1767. His career was a remarkable one. Without education, other than what he picked up, he was admitted to the bar, assisted to frame the Constitution of Tennessee; was elected to the House, and the Senate of the United States, and Judge of the Supreme Court of Tennessee. He commanded in a successful campaign against the Creek Indians in 1813, and his military services culminated with his defeat of the British army before New Orleans, in 1815. He was elected President in 1828 and re-elected in 1832. He died June 8, 1845.

² John Quincy Adams, son of John Adams, the second President, and born in Massachusetts, July 11, 1767, was the sixth President of the United States. Finishing his education in Europe, he was admitted to the bar in 1791; was Ambassador to the Hague, in 1794; Minister to Prussia; Minister to Russia, in 1809; Commissioner to negotiate the Treaty of Peace with England, in 1814; Minister to England in 1815; Secretary of State under Monroe, and was elected President by the House of Representatives in 1824. He subsequently served several terms in Congress, and died February 23, 1848.

risked their lives in defence of the country, and he entered into the contest with great warmth. The result of that election made him the stern enemy of what is known as the "Adams-Clay coalition"³ that defeated Jackson, and he took a leading part in producing the enthusiasm that led to his triumphant election in 1828. A friend, writing of the part he took in that contest, says:

"A favorite meeting place for farmers, at that time (1828), was the local smith's shop in a neighborhood, and, on this occasion, John Davis was present at an accidental meeting of his friends and acquaintance at the cross roads where Davisville now stands. He was in the prime of life, healthy, rugged, clear-headed, and bold in defence of his political opinions. In the gathering were William Purdy, Christopher Search, John Horner and others. Some of them were opposed to Jackson, and defended, not only the means by which Adams had been elected, but the details of his administration. The answer of John Davis, to the defenders of Adams and opponents of Jackson, made an impression on my mind, young as I was, still keen and vivid. He used plain, terse language, and marshalled his facts in such compact style as to bear down all antago-

³ The "Adams-Clay coalition," so-called, grew out of Mr. Clay throwing his strength for Mr. Adams in the House of Representatives, in 1825, which elected him President, and Mr. C.'s acceptance of the office of Secretary of State. It was charged there was a bargain between them, and was the cause of much political scandal and bitterness. At the time, the coalition was generally believed, but the friends of both parties denied it. Mr. Clay admitted he made a mistake in accepting the office. He was not the same popular favorite afterward.

nism of a successful character. Some notice taken of the boy, who displayed such attention on this occasion, laid the foundation of an intimacy which lasted until the speaker was laid away to rest in the old graveyard at Southampton."

The campaign of 1828 was one of exceeding bitterness, probably the bitterest during the century. Personal animosities were engendered that lasted for years, and some were never healed. These extended into all circles, and friends of almost a life-time were estranged. In the re-election of Jackson, in 1832, and his Democratic successor, in 1836, General Davis was equally active.

Upon the election of General Jackson, in 1828, the friends of Samuel D. Ingham,⁴ the foremost man in Bucks, and one of the ablest statesmen in Con-

⁴ Samuel D. Ingham was a descendant of Jonas Ingham, an English Friend, who came from Old to New England in 1705, and settled in Solebury, Bucks county, Pa., in 1730. He purchased the Great Spring Farm, near New Hope, of James Logan, which his son Jonathan inherited. He left three sons, the younger, Jonathan, becoming a distinguished physician and scholar; who gave his professional services to the Continental army, and died of yellow fever, in 1793. His son Samuel was born at the family homestead, September 6, 1779. The death of his father interrupted his studies, and he was indentured to learn the paper-making business at a mill on the Pennypack. He was a close student during his apprenticeship, and when through it, at the age of twenty-one, he returned home and took charge of the mills and farm. He entered public life early. He was elected to the Assembly in 1805-6-7; was in Congress from 1812 to 1829, with the exception of the three years he was Secretary of Commonwealth. During the war with England, 1812-15, he was a leading member of Congress, and advocated the war. Mr. Ingham died at Trenton, N. J., June 5, 1860.

gress, presented him for a seat in the new Cabinet. The most active in this movement were John Fox, John Davis and Lewis S. Coryell, of this county, and others in Eastern Pennsylvania. The effort was successful; Mr. Ingham was appointed, and entered upon his duties as Secretary of the Treasury, the 4th of March, 1829. This appointment gave great satisfaction to his friends in Bucks, and strengthened the Democratic party. Some of his friends looked forward to higher honors for him. At a 4th of July celebration, the same year, Colonel Davis proposed the following toast in honor of the county's favorite son: "Samuel D. Ingham, Pennsylvania's talented son; may the people of the United States duly appreciate his exalted worth as a statesmen at the termination of Andrew Jackson's administration." Mr. Ingham took with him to Washington, as clerk in the Treasury, Gilbert Rodman,⁶ a brother-in-law of Judge Fox, and at that time practicing law at Lancaster, Pa. This move changed his destiny. He spent his life at the Federal capital, buried in the

⁶ Gilbert Rodman, the son of Gilbert Rodman, of Bensalem, Bucks county, Pa., was born August 21, 1800. He was a clerk in the mercantile house of Joseph S. Lewis & Co., Philadelphia, in early life; subsequently studied law with Judge Fox; completed his studies in the office of George M. Dallas, and commenced practice at Lancaster. He rose to be Chief Clerk of the Treasury Department, and his experience and ability rendered his services almost invaluable. In Taylor's administration he was sent to California to investigate fraudulent transactions in the Custom House. Mr. Rodman died at Washington, January 15, 1862.

Treasury department, when his talents and acquirements fitted him for any position. He could get no higher than chief clerk, which he held for several years, and was occasionally Acting Secretary of the Treasury. Mr. Rodman was one of Bucks county's brightest sons.

A number of persons are still living who remember the excitement, more than half a century ago, caused by an attempt, in Congress, to prohibit the carrying of the United States mails on Sunday. For the time being it was the most exciting question of the period. It came up in Congress as early as 1815, on a remonstrance from the inhabitants of Chester District, South Carolina. During that session eighty-five petitions were presented to the House on this subject, and referred to the Postmaster-General. He made a formal report, in which he gave the law on the subject of carrying the mails, and opposed the stoppage of their running and opening on Sunday. The Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads deemed it inexpedient to interfere with the present arrangement of the post office establishment, and there the subject ended for the present. It was again brought up in Congress at the session of 1828-29, when a more determined effort was made to accomplish the purpose of the petitioners. This time it was taken up by the churches, and a religious crusade preached against carrying and opening mails on Sunday. The 19th of January, 1829, Richard M.

Johnson,⁶ Senator from Kentucky, made his famous report to the Senate against granting the prayer of the petitioners; saying, among other things, he believed legislation on the subject would have a tendency to unite religion with our political institutions. It was again before the House in December, 1830.

The "Sunday mail question," as it was called, became the subject of public and private discussion all over the country, and a good deal of bad blood was stirred. In Bucks county, General Davis arrayed himself against the movement, and, with his accustomed independence, spoke his mind freely. So prominent did his name become in connection with the question, and so weighty his influence with the people, that an effort to break it down was determined upon. The Rev. A. O. Halsey,⁷ an able Dutch Reformed minister, pastor of the church at

⁶ Richard M. Johnson was born in Kentucky, in 1780, and died in 1850. He served many years in Congress and the Senate; was elected Vice-President by the Senate in 1837, on the failure to elect by ballot, and was defeated for the same office with Mr. VanBuren in 1840. He served with great distinction on the frontier in the War of 1812-15, and it is claimed he killed the famous Indian warrior Tecumseh. In the Senate his chief effort was against the discontinuance of the Sunday mails. He was the author of the law to abolish imprisonment for debt in Kentucky.

⁷ Reverend Abram Oatwout Halsey was called to the Low Dutch Reformed Church of North and Southampton, in 1829. He was a man of learning and a strong preacher. His sermons were sometimes three hours long, and tired the patience of his hearers. The church flourished under him. He died August 29, 1868, within eight months of completing a pastorate of forty years.



Smoketown, now Churchville,* was prevailed upon to challenge him. The challenge was accepted and the time and place of meeting fixed. The debate was held in the school house near the church, and was filled to overflowing, many who came to listen not being able to get in. The exact time is not remembered, but it was in the winter of 1829 or '30. A gentleman, then a boy well-grown to manhood, who was present at the debate, writes us the following account of this somewhat noted discussion of an important question:

“The reverend gentleman was on his own ground and surrounded by his own friends. He had studied the question attentively, and mastered his side of the controversy. General Davis was cool and self-possessed as usual. Mr. Halsey opened the debate, and appealed to the audience to save the country from the undermining influence of such desecration of the Sabbath, as that involved in transporting the mails on that day. He then presented the old argument in favor of the action asked for, and took his seat. His friends were jubilant. General Davis arose and, after, in a mild and dignified manner, brushing away all idea of danger to the Sabbath by transporting a few mail bags on that day, presented such a broad, sensible, and statesmanlike view of the whole subject, as to completely demolish the structure raised by Mr. Halsey in his opening address.

* Churchville, a post village of Southampton township, Bucks county, Pa., on the Bristol road eighteen miles from Philadelphia. It contains a church, Low Dutch Reformed, and a number of dwellings. The Newtown railroad runs near by.

No single speech ever produced greater effect upon an audience, and from this point the interest in the debate ceased. Public sentiment in the community settled down under the facts presented and enforced by General Davis, and shortly the efforts to prevent the transportation of the mails on the Sabbath were relinquished."

Although General Davis had repeatedly refused to accept nomination for public office at the hands of his political friends, he could not always withstand their solicitation. He therefore consented to stand for Sheriff in 1827, and was nominated with little opposition. The Federal party took up Stephen Brock, who made a popular candidate, and the campaign was a very lively one. Under ordinary circumstances, General Davis would have been elected, for the county was Democratic then, as now, but some dissatisfaction in the party helped to elect his opponent. As he had not sought the nomination, the defeat made no impression upon him, and, as soon as the election was over, he resumed his business as if there had been no interruption. His defeat was probably a blessing, as the duties of the Sheriff's office would have compelled an entire relinquishment of his private business.

In 1829 the Democratic nomination for Governor fell upon George Wolf,⁹ of Easton, Northampton

⁹ George Wolf, the seventh Governor of Pennsylvania, was of German parentage, and born in Northampton county, Pa., in 1777. He was well educated. After filling some local offices, including postmaster at Easton, he

county. He was a prominent citizen, and stood high in the confidence of his party. He then represented in Congress the district, of which Bucks county formed a part, and included Northampton, Pike and Wayne, but resigned to accept the nomination. This district elected two members, Mr. Wolf's colleague being Samuel D. Ingham, who, shortly before, had resigned his seat to accept the portfolio of the Treasury under General Jackson. General Davis was a warm advocate of the nomination and election of George Wolf, and possessed the confidence of his administration. Governor Wolf made such a popular executive, he was renominated and elected for a second term, in 1832.

In 1833 Governor Wolf tendered to General Davis the first and only State office he ever held, that of member of the Board of Appraisers for the Public Works, which, by the advice of friends, he accepted, and was commissioned July 25th. It was the duty of this board to assess the damages done by the State to private property in the construction of her canals and railroads. He held the office three years, and took great pleasure in the discharge of its duties. They called him to all sections of the

was elected to Congress in 1824, and served six years; was elected Governor in 1829, and re-elected in 1832; was first Comptroller of the Treasury under Jackson, and Collector of the Port of Philadelphia under VanBuren. He died, suddenly, March 11th, 1840. Governor Wolf was the father of the common school system of Pennsylvania.

State, and as the board traveled on horseback the members had an excellent opportunity to see the country. They spent a portion of each winter at Harrisburg preparing a report of their work. While thus engaged, General Davis made the acquaintance of many prominent men, and formed friendships that lasted through life. At the end of his term, he retired from office, and again gave personal attention to his private business, which he never relinquished.

During the absence of General Davis from home, in the service of the State, or otherwise engaged, he kept up a lively correspondence with his family. One of his letters, written to the author, then a small boy at school, and dated "Harrisburg, January 30, 1833," we deem worthy of insertion:

"As I promised to write you from Harrisburg, I now take up my pen to perform that promise; believing that we ought to make no engagement, or promise, we do not intend, at the time, to fulfil. As it is important to instill this principle into the youthful mind, it is therefore my desire that you should adopt it as the rule of action in your intercourse with all your schoolmates, and others; and not make any promise but what you intend to perform."

A father could not well give better advice to a son, and "the rule of action" he lays down would be excellent capital for any young man to begin life on.

Few events of that day produced greater excitement in political circles, than the breach between

President Jackson and Mr. Ingham, his Secretary of the Treasury, with the causes that led to it, followed by his resignation, in May, 1831.¹⁰ His friends were indignant at the treatment he received, and determined to give him a royal welcome home. A public meeting was held and arrangements made, in which no one took more interest than General Davis. Mr. Ingham reached the county on Saturday, the 26th of June. He was met in Philadelphia, by Judge Fox¹¹ and John Pugh,¹² who accompanied him to the Sorrel

¹⁰ The ostensible cause of Mr. Ingham leaving General Jackson's Cabinet was the refusal of Mrs. Ingham to associate with Mrs. Eaton, wife of the Secretary of War. Behind that, however, was some political irritation, Mr. Ingham was a strong friend of Mr. Calhoun, the Vice-President, a political rival of Jackson. The two causes created the breach and raised animosities that were never healed.

¹¹ John Fox, the son of Edward Fox, an Englishman from Ireland, who came to America, and settled in Philadelphia prior to the Revolution, was born in that city, April 26, 1787. His mother was a daughter of Jonathan Dickinson Sergeant, a distinguished lawyer. After graduating at the University of Pennsylvania he studied law with Alexander J. Dallis, was admitted to the bar, and settled at Newtown. He removed to Doylestown with the county seat, in 1813. He was appointed Deputy Attorney-General for the county, in 1814, by Governor McKeen; and relinquished his business to serve on the staff of General Worrill in the campaign of the fall of that year. He took an interest in military affairs, and was elected Major-General of the division, but we believe never equipped. He was President Judge of the courts of Bucks and Montgomery, from 1830 to 1840. He married a daughter of Gilbert Rodman, a prominent citizen of the county. He was a man of great ability, a fine lawyer and a wise political leader, but would never accept public office, except the Judgeship. He held intimate relations with several of the leading statesmen of the country. Judge Fox died at Doylestown, April 15, 1849.

¹² John Pugh, son of Daniel and Rebecca Pugh, and born in Hill-

Horse tavern,¹³ in Montgomery county. Here he was received by a number of his personal and political friends on horseback, and escorted to the line of Bucks county, where he was welcomed by a large assemblage of his fellow-citizens. A cavalcade was now formed, with General William T. Rogers, and Colonel John Davis, as marshals, which escorted the distinguished guest up the Middle Road to the Black Bear tavern, where the formal reception and welcome took place. A long line of vehicles preceded and followed the carriage in which Mr. Ingham rode; and in the one immediately in front were General Samuel Smith and Captain Francis Baird, Revolutionary veterans. Horsemen rode on each side of the carriage in open order. A large concourse of people awaited the arrival of the guest at the Bear, where his reception was most cordial. After he had received their congratulations and rested from the fatigues of the journey, he was conducted to a sumptuous table spread in the shade of some venerable trees. Dinner through with, the distinguished guest was presented with a formal address of wel-

town township, Bucks county, Pa., June 2, 1761, was a descendant of Hugh Pugh, who came from Wales and settled in Chester county in 1725. He became prominent in the county; served four years in the Assembly, four years in Congress, was Register of Wills and Recorder for eleven years, and several years Justice of the Peace. He died at Doylestown, July 12, 1842.

¹³ A popular inn, in its day, on the Middle Road, in Moreland township, Montgomery county, Pa., one mile from the Bucks county line, and fourteen miles from Philadelphia.

come, by Henry Chapman, Esq.,¹⁴ and Captain Baird,¹⁵ signed by thirty of the leading citizens of the county. To this Mr. Ingham made a lengthy reply, reviewing the events that led to his resignation, and the facts connected with the supposed attempt to assassinate him. At the close of these exercises, he proceeded to his home in Solebury township, near New Hope, accompanied by the committee.

The movement that led to the incorporation of the word "white" in the State Constitution of 1838, was started in Bucks county, and General Davis was one of the most active promoters of it. At the October election of 1837, negroes appeared at several of the polls and offered their votes. They were received at Middletown,¹⁶ and it was claimed they

¹⁴ Henry Chapman is the son of Abraham Chapman, a member of the Bucks county bar, and a descendant of John and Jane Chapman, who settled in Wrightstown, in 1684. He was admitted to the bar in 1825; became an able lawyer, and was prominent in politics. He filled several public stations; was elected to the State Senate, in 1843; appointed President Judge of the Chester and Delaware district, in 1847, but declined the nomination in 1851, when the office was made elective; and was elected President Judge of the Bucks and Montgomery district, in 1861, serving a full term of ten years. Judge Chapman gave great satisfaction on the bench, and the State has had few, if any, abler jurists. He was elected to Congress, in 1856, but declined a renomination when he could have had it without opposition. Since that time he has refused all judicial and political honors, and lives a retired life, respected by all.

¹⁵ Captain Francis Baird, a soldier of the Revolutionary war, was born in Warwick township, Bucks county, Pa., in 1758, and died on the same farm, June 27, 1835. He served his country before he was of age.

¹⁶ Middletown, a township of Bucks county, Pa., organized in 1692, was called "The Middle Township" and "Middle Lots" down to 1703. The

elected one or more of the candidates on the Whig ticket. This caused considerable political excitement among the Democrats, who were not willing to concede the right to vote to the colored man. If negroes had ever before voted in the county, they were not in sufficient numbers to control the election or attract attention. Steps were immediately taken to test in the courts the right of negroes to the ballot. General Davis was one of the number who believed the Constitution and laws did not confer the right of suffrage upon that class, and he seconded every effort to have the question tested by the highest judicial authority. At that day the most ardent dreamers could not have looked forward to the events of 1861-65.

A public meeting, to consider this question, was held at the White Bear tavern,¹⁷ the 21st of October, at which General Davis presided, and addresses were made by C. E. Wright¹⁸ and S. L. Roberts, Esqs.¹⁹

township is large, and rich, with a population of about 2,500. It was settled by some of the Welcome passengers. It lies in the lower part of the county, within a few miles of the Delaware.

¹⁷ The White Bear is at Addisville, a few hundred yards above the Black Bear, on the same road, and at the intersection of the road from Newtown. A tavern has been kept there over half a century. It took the name of Addisville from Amos Addis, in 1817. Probably the first "White Bear" was named after this animal.

¹⁸ Caleb E. Wright is the son of Joseph Wright, whose father moved from New Jersey to Wilkesbarre, where he was born. Mr. Wright read law with Chester Butler and completed his studies at Danville; was admitted to the bar in 1832-33; came to Doylestown and practiced until 1853, when

General William T. Rogers was chairman of the committee which reported a preamble and resolutions, the former, said to have been drawn by Judge Fox, being an able presentation of the political status of the negro from the settlement of the State. Committees were likewise appointed to get signers to a memorial to the Legislature, requesting that body to investigate the charge of illegal voting by negroes ; to take steps to contest the election in the courts of the county, and to present the proceedings of this meeting to one to be held by the Germans at Buck's tavern,²⁰ the 28th of October. A general county meeting was called at Doylestown, the 6th of December, "to adopt such other measures as may be deemed necessary," etc.

The question came before the Court of Quarter

he returned to Wilkesbarre ; came back to Doylestown in 1876, where he is now in practice. He is a licensed minister in the Methodist church.

¹⁹ Stokes L. Roberts was a descendant of Edward Roberts, who, in the spring of 1716, with his wife Mary and daughter, and all their worldly goods, came up through the woods from Byberry, on horseback, and settled in Richland township, Bucks county. He married Mary Bolton, of Cheltenham, whose lineage can be traced back to the Earls of Murcia. Stokes L. was the son of David Roberts, and born at Newtown ; read law and was admitted to the bar. He served two terms in the Assembly ; was nominated for Congress, but defeated at the polls ; elected Additional Law Judge of the courts of Bucks and Montgomery, in 1872, but resigned soon after he took his seat. He died at Doylestown, February 22, 1882.

²⁰ Buck's tavern, now Bucksville, in Nockamixon township, Bucks county, Pa., is an old tavern stand. We do not know when first licensed. It was a political centre, and a meeting place for the military of the upper end of the county fifty years ago. It took its name from the Buck family, prominent in that township, and among the earliest settlers there.

Sessions of Bucks County, the 28th of December, 1837, on petition and complaint in writing, to contest the election of Abraham Fretz,²¹ returned elected to the office of County Commissioner. Judge Fox was on the bench. After the question had been ably argued, the Court, in a learned and exhaustive opinion, decided that negroes had no right to vote in Pennsylvania, and directed the complainant to take the means necessary to ascertain the truth of the facts alleged in the complaint.

The agitation of the subject was continued until the convention, to amend the State Constitution, assembled the following year, when it was brought before that body. After some discussion, the word "white" was inserted in the new Constitution by a vote of 77 to 45. This was the supreme law of the State until the adoption of the Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. Of those active at the Bear meeting, as officers, speakers, members of committees, etc., some forty in number, but two are known to be living after the lapse of forty-nine years.

²¹ Abraham Fretz was a plain citizen of the county, and brought into local prominence as the representative of his party.

CHAPTER VII.

The revision of the Constitution of Pennsylvania became the subject of discussion during the administration of Governor Wolf. That of 1790, then in force, was deficient in several respects, and the want of a new fundamental law was seriously felt. Public opinion gradually settled down in its favor, and an act was passed, at the session of 1835-36, authorizing the assembling of a convention, and providing for an election of delegates the following October. Bucks county was allowed four delegates under the apportionment; and, when the Democratic nominating convention met, General Davis was placed upon the ticket.¹ The contest, not a very spirited one, resulted in the election of the Whig candidates, who took their seats in the convention.² That this defeat did not weaken General Davis, in the confidence of his party and political friends, is proved by what

¹ The election for delegates to the Constitutional Convention was held Friday, November 4, 1836. The vote in Bucks county was as follows: John Davis, 2,990; J. Kooker, 3,014; C. E. DuBois, 3,146; Thomas Ross, 2,827; E. T. McDowell, 3,376; S. Carey, 3,240; J. Houpt, 3,302; P. Jenks, 3,192.

² The Constitutional Convention of 1837 met at Harrisburg, the 2d of May, and elected John Sergeant, president; adjourned in July; met again in October, and removed to Philadelphia, where they completed their labors the 22d of February, 1838. The amendments were ratified at the polls by a small majority.

took place in the near future. Bucks county then formed a Congressional district, and a member of the House of Representatives of the United States was to be chosen at the October election of 1838. His name was presented to the Congressional convention, and he was nominated with little opposition.³ The *Doylestown Democrat*, the organ of the party, thus spoke of the nominee :

“ From the time of his return to his native county, General Davis has been distinguished for the energy of his character as a man of business, for his sound judgment and his thirst of knowledge. Few men in the county are possessed of more general information, or are better fitted to command attention in a deliberate assembly. He is naturally a good public speaker. His ideas are expressed with great perspicuity and force, and his voice and manners are such as to command attention and respect. His perseverance and industry are untiring. He is also a self-made man. By his own industry, energy, fortitude and integrity, he has placed himself in the position he now occupies before the people.”

The Whig party nominated, about the same time, Mathias Morris, Esq.,⁴ a member of the Bucks county

³ The convention, that nominated General Davis for Congress, met in the court house, at Doylestown, the 17th of September, 1838, and was presided over by Jesse Johnson, of Northampton township. The election was held October 9th, and the following was the vote: John Davis, 4,552; Mathias Morris, 4,128.

⁴ Mathias Morris, a descendant of Thomas Morris, who settled in Hilltown township, Bucks county, Pa., the first quarter of the last century, was born in 1787, and died at Doylestown, in 1839. He studied law with

bar, who then represented the district in Congress, and asked a re-election. These two gentlemen went before the people with their political claims, and made an active canvass. When the votes were counted, it was found that General Davis was returned by a majority of 424. Of course this result brought joy to the winners and sorrow to the losers, but it is always thus in politics.

The election of General Davis gave satisfaction to his party friends, judging by the usual indications in such cases. At a Democratic meeting, at the public house of Jacob Bertles, Haycock, the 16th of November, 1838, the following regular toasts, among others, were drunk :

Samuel Afferbach: "General John Davis: His gentlemanly deportment endears him to us, and we are proud of our county to be represented by such a distinguished and worthy citizen, who is entitled to our future confidence."

Samuel Roudenbush: "General John Davis: His election to Congress has nullified the Federalists, Abolitionists, and British-Red-Flag party, which met

his cousin, Enos Morris, at Newtown; was admitted to the bar, in 1809, and came to Doylestown with the removal of the county seat in 1813. Mr. Morris was appointed Deputy Attorney-General for Bucks, in 1819; was elected to the State Senate in 1828, and to Congress in 1836, serving one term. He married a daughter of Abraham Chapman, in 1829, and his widow is still living in Doylestown, in 1886. The Morrises were English Friends, but became Baptists on settling in America.

at Burson's. Such nullification we will always support."

At a celebration at Point Pleasant,⁵ November 30, 1838, the following sentiment was drunk:

"Our Congressman, General John Davis, Senator, General Rogers, and Field, Roberts and Penrose, members of the Legislature, will be on the ground to sustain the principles upon which they were elected."

At a meeting at the Harrow,⁶ Nockamixon, December 26, 1838, the following regular toast was drunk:

"Our Congressman-elect, General John Davis, a Democrat, good and true."

General Davis took his seat in the XXVI Congress of the United States, the first Monday of December, 1839, and served through it with credit to himself, his constituents and the country. We venture the assertion, that few enter the Federal Legislature better equipped for the discharge of their important duties than the new member from Bucks. He was scarcely ever absent from his seat, and gave close attention to the public business. He was well

⁵ Point Pleasant, a small village at the mouth of the Tohickon creek, on the Delaware, lies partly in Tinicum and partly in Plumstead township. It contains about thirty families, with stores, taverns, etc. The post office was granted in 1821. The Delaware is here spanned by a wooden bridge.

⁶ The Harrow tavern was so called as early as 1785. In more modern days it was a place of meeting for the military. A post office, called Ridge, was recently established there.

versed in all public questions, and prepared to deal with them intelligently. During his Congressional term the Independent Treasury bill was introduced and passed into a law.⁷ He took great interest in it, and was zealous in its favor. This measure, which meant a divorce of the government from the banks, in the matter of taking care of, and disbursing, its own money, excited deep interest and caused no little popular clamor. It was bitterly opposed by the banks and all in the interest of the money power of the country; and they made the most strenuous exertions to defeat it, but without success. It became the law of the land and is still in force. It would be well for the States were they to adopt a similar law, and take care of their own money, instead of allowing the banks to have it to trade upon.

General Davis not only felt a deep interest in the passage of the bill, but participated in the debate upon it. The speech he delivered June 27, 1840, was acknowledged to be one of the ablest on the subject. He opened his remarks by reading the following extract from the Boston *Courier*, a Whig newspaper of that day:

“What mischiefs are sure to be enacted when a

⁷ The Independent or Sub-Treasury system was made possible by Gen'l Jackson's attack on the banks and his removal of the deposits. It inaugurated the sound policy of the government taking care of its own funds, and in all the wild financial schemes of the present day no one makes an attempt to repeal the law. The practice of allowing the State banks to be the custodians of the public money was a pernicious one.

man, born to nothing but the plough-tail, undertakes to legislate."

To this General Davis replied :

"I am the kind of man herein described. I was born to no inheritance but the 'plough-tail,' and I have ploughed all day, from sun-up until dark, since I was elected to a seat on this floor. I know, very well, this is not an uncommon opinion in a certain quarter. It is as old as the Constitution under which we live."

His speech, from an untrained statesman, was received with great favor, and published far and near. The Pottsville* (Pa.) *Emporium* said of it :

"We have enjoyed the perusal of an excellent speech, in favor of the Independent Treasury bill, by the Hon. John Davis, member of Congress from Bucks county, and we find it the production of an intelligent and independent Democratic farmer. The speech is an excellent one, and well worthy the clear head and sound heart of him who delivered it."

The Washington *Globe*, which published the speech in full, said :

"General Davis is one of the plain Republicans of Pennsylvania, so noted for their freedom, indepen-

* Pottsville, the capital of Schuylkill county, Pa., was laid out by John Potts, Sr., in 1816. The site was first settled in 1800, by John Reed, who accompanied men thither to make a dam and race preparatory to building a furnace and forge. John Potts, Sr., removed there with his family in 1810, and built a large stone grist mill, still standing. Houses were erected in the neighborhood, and it soon grew into a town. It is now a wealthy and populous place, and the shipping point for extensive coal fields.

dence and shrewdness of their remarks, and the integrity of their principles. If the Republican farmers would see how easily one of their strong-minded men can handle the greatest political questions, they have only to read the plain, but most powerful, speech of General Davis. When it was delivered in the hall, it made a strong impression upon the House, as we heard from several of the members. That it will still take deeper hold upon the unsophisticated Democracy of the country we do not doubt. This speech will prove that an honest, clear-sighted man, seeking truth, guided by principle, is an over match for the most artful and cunning professional sophist. The Pennsylvania farmer demolishes the Philadelphia lawyer in debate as easily as he could have done in another manner with his 'huge paws.'"

In the course of his speech General Davis took occasion to defend the policy of Mr. VanBuren* and his administration from the assaults of his enemies. For this the President thanked him, personally, and assured him of his warmest regard.

He took equal interest in other measures before Congress. On the 19th of February, 1841, when the House was in Committee of the Whole, on the bill

* Martin VanBuren, the eighth President of the United States, was born, of Dutch ancestors, at Kinderhook, N. Y., December 5, 1782. He was educated to the law. At thirty he was a member of the State Senate; elected to the United States Senate in 1821, and Governor of New York in 1829; was Jackson's first Secretary of State; appointed Minister to England, but not confirmed; elected Vice President in 1832, and President, to succeed Jackson, in 1836. He was renominated in 1840, but defeated by General Harrison.

“to extend for five years the law, approved July 7, 1838, granting pensions to certain widows and soldiers of the Revolution,” he made a speech in support of the measure. He said:

“He was pleased to say, there was no party in the district, he had the honor to represent, opposed to this bill. If there ever was a law that met the universal approbation in that district, it is,” said he, “your law granting pensions to officers and soldiers of the Revolution, and to their widows, to keep them from want in their declining years. Sir,” said Mr. Davis, “we owe to that class of our fellow-citizens a debt of gratitude we shall never be able to pay. To the soldiers of the Revolution we are indebted for the blessings of the government. Yes, sir, for the right to assemble in this hall to discuss their claims; and yet, gentlemen talk about dollars and cents when such claims as these are presented for their consideration.”¹⁰

The speech was not lengthy, but much to the point, and was exceedingly well received, judging from the comments upon it. The *Keystone*, in referring to it, said:

“The old soldiers, and the descendants of old

¹⁰ General Davis stated, in the course of his speech, that the whole number of Revolutionary officers, soldiers and widows, pensioned under the various acts of Congress, was 62,374; of this number 40,105 were reported to be still on the pension rolls, although it was believed many of them were deceased, of whose death no notice had yet been given.

soldiers, will feel the force of the remarks of Mr. John Davis, of Bucks, made in the House of Representatives, Washington, upon the subject of the pension list. Mr. Davis, in a brief, but clear, exposition advocates the continuance of the present system until the roll shall summon the survivors from earth, and the free people of America shall hear of the last of the race like

“‘The sun in its stainless set.’”

The *Reporter*, likewise printed at Harrisburg,¹¹ after indulging in words of thanks for the course taken on the bill, said :

“ Mr. Davis did not often speak while in Congress, but, whenever he did, his remarks were characterized by strong good sense, pertinent, clear and convincing. We wish there were more such as Mr. Davis in Congress and in our Legislature. There would be less said and more done. We consider Mr. Davis one of our most useful men.”

General Davis served on several committees in Congress, and, among them, that of Manufactures, of which John Quincy Adams was chairman ; and we risk nothing in saying he was one of its most useful and intelligent members. He had made the

¹¹ Harrisburg, the capital of Pennsylvania, is situated on the east bank of the Susquehanna, one hundred miles west of Philadelphia. John Harris, an Indian trader, located on the river, where Harrisburg now stands, soon after 1705, and the town that grew up was named after him. He received a grant of 800 acres, in 1725-6, covering the present site of the town. He died in 1748. The Penns granted a ferry at the crossing to John Harris, Jr., in 1753, which was called Harris' Ferry, until it was created a borough, in 1791. It was made the capital of the State in 1812.

tariff and kindred subjects his careful study, and acquired a great amount of information about them.¹² He took a deep interest in the labors of the committee, and joined in the discussions on the questions that came before it. His position on the committee was one of great importance and responsibility, as he held the balance between the two great parties, one of which was for fostering, by heavy taxes, vast schemes of manufacturing and internal improvements, while the other party looked with extreme jealousy upon any action of the general government in relation to the subject. From some action of the committee, the report had gone abroad he was opposed to the principle of protection to American manufacturers, in adjusting a tariff. To set the public right, in this matter, three members of the committee, who, with himself, made a majority, put their names to a paper, of which the following is a copy:

“WASHINGTON, April 17, 1840.

“At a meeting of the Committee of Manufactures of the House of Representatives, held at their committee room, this morning, for the purpose of considering a resolution, introduced into said committee by Mr. Adams, chairman of the committee, calling

¹² The tariff seems to have been a hobby with Gen'l Davis when a young man. At a 4th of July celebration, at Hatboro, in 1824, he drunk the following toast: “The present tariff: may it realize the expectations of its friends, and disappoint the fears of its enemies; the members of Congress who supported it deserve well of their country.” Nine guns and six cheers.

upon the Secretary of the Treasury to submit to the House of Representatives, at the commencement of its next session, the plan of a bill for the revision of the tariff, having a due regard to the raising of revenue and the protection of manufactures; on the question to strike out the latter part of said resolution, to wit, the clause relating to the protection of manufactures, Mr. Davis, of Pennsylvania, one of said committee, stated, that he had had a private conversation with the Secretary of the Treasury upon the subject, and that the Secretary informed him it would make no difference whether the committee passed such a resolution or not, that he should submit a plan to Congress at the opening of the next session. Mr. Davis also stated that he was in favor of the principle of protection, and when a bill should come into the House it would receive his support; but he did not think the country expected the subject should be agitated before the next session of Congress, and that he thought it would be injurious to the interests of the manufacturers to have the subject agitated at this session of Congress.

“ [Signed,]

“ GEORGE C. DROMGOOLE,

“ IRA A. EASTMAN,

“ JOHN T. H. WORTHINGTON.”¹³

We recall a little episode that occurred while General Davis was at Washington attending the session of Congress, and in which he bore a part. One evening, at a reception given by Asbury Dickens,

¹³ George C. Dromgoole was a representative in Congress from Virginia; Ira A. Eastman from New Hampshire, and John T. H. Worthington from Ohio.

Secretary of the Senate, he espied a young man among the guests wearing full beard and heavy mustache, something few respectable men had the courage to indulge. In fact a man thus arrayed was set down, at that day, as a rogue. Advancing to his host, General Davis said to him, pointing out the well-whiskered young man, "Mr. Dickens, who is that ugly fellow with hair all over his face?" He replied, "General, that is my son." This would have embarrassed most men, but General Davis was not one of that kind. Nothing daunted, he said to Mr. Dickens, "You will do him a great kindness if you take him to a barber." Those who overheard the colloquy enjoyed it, and thought the General had the best of it.

The contest for President, in 1840, between Martin VanBuren and William Henry Harrison¹⁴ was a very lively one. It is known as the "Hard Cider and Log Cabin"¹⁵ campaign, and the juice of the

¹⁴ William Henry Harrison, born in Virginia, in 1773, was the ninth President of the United States. He was aide-de-camp to Wayne in his expedition against the Western Indians, in 1792. He resigned from the army, in 1797, to accept the Secretaryship of the Northwest Territory. He was, in succession, a delegate in Congress from that Territory; Governor of the Territory of Indiana; Major-General in the army, and gained the battles of Tippecanoe and the Thames; a member of Congress and the United States Senate, and Minister to Columbia. He was defeated for President in 1836, but elected in 1840, dying April 4, 1841, one month after his inauguration.

¹⁵ The Presidential contest of 1840 was called the "Log Cabin and Hard Cider" campaign because log cabins were carried to the meetings on

apple flowed from many a cabin at public meetings, while the real or pretended statesmen discussed the political issues. General Davis took an active part for Mr. VanBuren. He made several speeches, in which he discussed the finance and tariff. The Independent Treasury bill, which had not yet passed, was attacked with savage fierceness, and the most improbable stories told of the effect it would have upon the country, should it become a law. It had a good deal to do with deciding the contest. The speeches of General Davis attracted the attention of John Quincy Adams, while on the stump in New Jersey, and he thought them important enough to reply to. The campaign resulted in the defeat of Mr. VanBuren, and the election of General Harrison.

General Davis maintained friendly relations with Mr. VanBuren after he retired from the Presidency, and some correspondence passed between them. In a letter written from Kinderhook, in November, 1842, the ex-President says :

“ I beg you to accept my unfeigned thanks for the friendly sentiments contained in your letter, and to be assured that they are very sincerely reciprocated. I shall always remember, with pleasure, the frank and honest character of our intercourse while in the public service, and, it is with great sincerity, that I

wheels, and from them strong cider was served to all comers. On some occasions the political meetings were akin to orgies. The practice was demoralizing.

say to you, that I found none in whose integrity and patriotism I reposed greater confidence."

This was a high compliment coming from such a distinguished source. He was twice renominated for Congress, but defeated at the polls by a small majority because of some disaffection in the Democratic ranks.

The able and consistent course of General Davis in Congress made him a prominent man in Pennsylvania politics, and few wielded greater influence. His name was mentioned in several parts of the State in connection with the next Democratic nomination for Governor. A prominent gentleman, in the West, wrote him on this subject, under date of October 26, 1841 :

"A number of men, strong and influential in the West, have hit upon you as the successor of David R. Porter. This conclusion is come to, not from any sinister, or pecuniary, motives, but from the simple fact that you are the man, and the only man, who will meet the wishes and expectations of the Democratic party in the State. A delicacy, probably, on your part, would say that you should not be a candidate, but that delicacy must be overcome, when the fact is known, that the interests of the party are to be benefited by an approval, upon your part, in your real, genuine and true friends. We will receive no denial. Leave yourself in the hands of those who will endeavor to manage matters in their proper light, and there will be no danger. I have watched your course while a member of Congress, and it



meets my decided approbation. It is from this circumstance I, and those with whom I act, have thought proper to pursue this course."

He received other letters to the same import, but nothing came of it. His defeat for re-election to Congress, in 1842, may have diverted attention from him. The choice of the party fell upon that excellent gentleman, Francis R. Shunk,¹⁶ a warm personal and political friend of General Davis, and whose nomination and election he supported with zeal.

General Davis closed his Congressional career with the session of 1840-41, and returned home to resume his private business. His two years in Congress gave him the opportunity of making the acquaintance of the leading statesmen of the country. Among others, he enjoyed the confidence and esteem of John C. Calhoun,¹⁷ Thomas H. Benton,¹⁸

¹⁶ Francis R. Shunk was born at the Trappe, Montgomery county, Pa., August 7, 1788; his grandfather having immigrated from the Palatinate of the Rhine, in 1715. He was brought up to labor, but devoted his spare time to study. He was a school teacher at fifteen, and at twenty was appointed a clerk in the Surveyor-General's office, Harrisburg. While thus employed he read law. He was Assistant Clerk, and Clerk of the House of Representatives; Secretary to the Board of Canal Commissioners; and was chosen Secretary of State, by Governor Porter, in 1838. He was elected Governor of Pennsylvania in 1844, and re-elected in 1847, but was prostrated by the fatal disease that terminated his life soon after he entered upon his second term. He died, in July, 1848, the day he wrote his resignation. Governor Shunk was a self-made man, of high character and noble ambition.

¹⁷ John C. Calhoun was a native of South Carolina, and bred to the profession of the law. He first entered Congress in 1811, and soon took a

James Buchanan, afterward President of the United States; Dixon H. Lewis,¹⁹ and Silas Wright.²⁰ With some of them he was an occasional, or frequent, correspondent, and maintained friendly relations to their death, he surviving them all. Although out of

prominent position. He was a strong advocate of war with Great Britain. He was appointed Secretary of War, by Monroe, in 1817; and chosen Vice President of the United States in 1824. He resigned that office to accept a seat in the United States Senate, of which he became one of the most distinguished members. He was a leader in the Nullification excitement. Mr. Calhoun died in 1850, at the age of sixty-eight.

¹⁸ Thomas Hart Benton was born in North Carolina in 1782, and died in Washington in 1858. He removed to Tennessee with his mother, where he read law, and soon rose to eminence in his profession. He was aide-de-camp to General Jackson in the War of 1812-15, and after peace was declared removed to Missouri, where he devoted himself to his profession, but soon entered into politics. He was elected to the United States Senate soon after Missouri was admitted, and sat in it almost continuously until his death. Mr. Benton was a man of commanding intellect, and exerted great influence in public affairs, but was arbitrary and domineering. His "Thirty Years' View" was the work of his closing years. He bore a conspicuous part in the debate on the Compromise measures of 1850. The country has had few abler public men. His influence in Missouri, at one time, was almost autocratic. He was mainly instrumental in causing the resolution of censure, against President Jackson, for removing the public deposits from the United States bank, to be expunged.

¹⁹ Dixon H. Lewis was several years a member of Congress from Alabama, and then transferred to the Senate. He was the largest man, physically, in either House, and of very considerable mental power.

²⁰ Silas Wright, a Senator in Congress from New York, was one of the ablest men that State ever produced. He declined to accept the nomination for Vice President, in 1844, on the ticket with Mr. Polk, because his friend Martin VanBuren was not selected for the first place. To accept would lay him open to the charge of bargain and sale. Public men are not always so conscientious and honorable.

public life, and closely confined by business affairs, he was not unmindful of what was going on in the political world. He was active in county, State and Federal politics, and his influence was felt whenever a ticket was to be nominated and elected. His advice, in party councils, was always prudent, and frequently adopted. He made frequent visits to Harrisburg and Washington, to renew old acquaintance, and compare notes with party leaders, and was a pretty regular attendant at State and National conventions. During a thunder storm, in the summer of 1839, his barn was struck by lightning and burned to the ground with the contents, but that did not deter him from starting to Harrisburg the next morning to attend a Democratic convention. Barn or no barn, the interests of his party could not be neglected. He was too deeply attached to his party to lose sight of its inside and outside workings. This interest was maintained to his death.

CHAPTER VIII.

They, who remember the Presidential contest of 1844, will call to mind that it was one of the most heated the country had ever witnessed. The Democrats nominated James K. Polk,¹ of Tennessee, a conservative statesman long in public life; while the Whigs selected Henry Clay,² one of the foremost men of the land, and with great personal popularity, for their standard-bearer. The country was fairly alive with meetings. Long processions, with flags, banners and music, and graced with the presence of

¹ James K. Polk, the eleventh President, was born in North Carolina, and removed with his parents to Tennessee in boyhood. He studied law and was admitted to the bar; was elected to the Legislature, and then entered Congress, of which he was Speaker fourteen years. He was elected Governor in 1839, and President in 1844. His administration, a successful one, embraced the period of the Mexican War, which pushed our boundaries to the Rio Grande and the Pacific. This acquisition of territory was of incalculable value to the country.

² Henry Clay, one of the most distinguished of American statesmen, was born in Virginia, the 12th of April, 1777, and died July 29, 1852. He was a member of Congress, and four times Speaker, a Senator, and four times nominated for President, but defeated on each occasion. He was a prominent advocate of the declaration of war against Great Britain, and one of the Commissioners to conclude the treaty of peace. He was prominently identified with the passage of the Missouri Compromise, and was the author of the "American system" of levying duties on imports. He left his impress upon the legislation of the country. Mr. Clay's eloquence was very persuasive, and he was the idol of his political friends.

women, traversed the land. The political rostrum had never known so many, nor such eloquent, stumpers, and hundreds of coming statesmen drew their maiden swords in that campaign. The body politic, from Maine to the then far West, and from the Great Lakes to the Gulf, seemed stirred to its deepest depths. It was probably the best example of a popular election ever held in the United States.

General Davis, still in the prime of life, and in full intellectual vigor, threw himself into the contest with all his might. The tariff was again the issue, and he was found fully prepared to grapple with the theories of those who opposed the doctrine of the Democratic party. He took the stump at the opening of the campaign, and only laid aside his weapons and hauled down his flag when the battle was over and the victory won. He made many speeches, at home and abroad, and discussed the tariff and other issues with all worthy foemen who threw down their glove.

So prominent did he become as a controversialist, and so hard were the blows he dealt at adverse systems, the Whig leaders of Philadelphia thought it best to defend against him. For this purpose they sent Josiah Randall, Esq.,³ father of ex-Speaker

³ Josiah Randall, a distinguished lawyer of Philadelphia, was born in that city July 21, 1789, and died September 10, 1866. He read law with Joseph Reed, and was appointed clerk of the Mayor's court soon after his admission to the bar. He was a member of the Junior Artillerists, in 1812,

Randall, and an able member of that bar, and Edward Joy Morris, Esq.,* a prominent political leader, into Bucks county to break the force of his arguments. He met them in discussion at several points, and the victory was generally acknowledged to remain with the Bucks county farmer. Their rhetoric and eloquence were not a match for his facts. One of these discussions took place in the court house, at Doylestown. These debates attracted general attention in the State and out of it, and Mr. Polk, the Democratic candidate, was especially interested in them. He believed his election impossible without carrying Pennsylvania, and the effective work done by General Davis, and those who held his views on the tariff, and none were more active than he, gave Mr. Polk the electoral vote of the State, and secured his election.

When the new administration came into power, the 4th of March, 1845, the valuable services, rendered by General Davis during the campaign, were not forgotten. He was appointed Surveyor of the

and Colonel at the close of the war. He was a member of the Legislature, in 1819, but held no other office. He was a devoted friend of Henry Clay, and a warm advocate of his "American system."

* Edward Joy Morris was born in Philadelphia, July 16, 1815, and was graduated at Harvard College. He was a member of the Legislature, in 1841-2-3, and 1856, and a member of the Twenty-eighth, Thirty-fifth, Thirty-sixth and Thirty-seventh Congress. He was Charge d'Affairs at Naples, 1850-54, and Minister to Turkey, 1861-70. He was the author of several books, including "The Turkish Empire, Civil and Political."

Port of Philadelphia, the first appointment made after the confirmation of the Cabinet. This office he held for four years, and discharged the duties in the most satisfactory manner. Major John P. Heiss,⁵ of Nashville, Tennessee, but formerly of Bristol, Bucks county, and an intimate friend of Mr. Polk, wrote him from Washington the 15th of March, congratulating him on his appointment, and said: "It was only necessary for the name of John Davis to be placed before the President to secure anything in his gift. He acted immediately on the reading of your papers." Major Heiss presented the General a handsome hickory cane cut from the Hermitage, General Jackson's residence, mounted with a silver head

⁵ John P. Heiss, the son of Captain John P. Heiss, of Bristol, Bucks county, Pa., was born in 1814. He married and went into business early, but lost his wife and failed. He now went South, and found employment in a printing office at Nashville, Tennessee. Here it was his fortune to rescue, from the hands of an assailant, an old gentleman, a warm friend of General Jackson, who, riding by at the time, thanked him. He was invited to dine at the Hermitage, a few days afterward, where he met many prominent people, including him whom he had rescued. This accidental encounter in the streets of Nashville made him powerful friends, who pushed his fortune. He took a warm interest in the nomination of Mr. Polk, and an active part in his election. He accompanied him to Washington, and through the influence of the President and General Jackson was made a partner with Mr. Ritchie in the publication of the *Washington Union*, the organ of the administration. He was afterward interested in mining in Mexico, but lost the greater part of his fortune. He died at sea, on his return from Mexico, August 22, 1865. Among his last words, and now inscribed on his tombstone, were, "I am willing to die; there is rest in heaven."

suitably inscribed, in token of his appreciation of his services in the campaign. This souvenir is still in the family.

When the new Surveyor of the Port came to appoint his staff of assistants, he made John W. Forney,⁶ the bosom friend of James Buchanan, his deputy, and his neighbor, David Marple,⁷ of Warminster, his

⁶ John W. Forney was born in Lancaster, Pa., about 1818, and died in Philadelphia at the age of sixty-four. He was a man of great ability and had a brilliant career. He took charge of the Lancaster *Intelligencer* at twenty; was editor of the *Pennsylvanian*, and Deputy Surveyor of the Port of Philadelphia from 1845 to 1849. He was the editor of the Washington *Union* during President Pierce's administration, and established *The Press* in 1857. He was Clerk of the House of Representatives, and Secretary of the Senate, of the United States. He was a powerful writer, and in his best days wielded great influence. In manners he was a polished gentleman; was loyal to his friends, and hated his enemies.

⁷ David Marple, the son of Nathan and Elizabeth Yerkes Marple, born at Hatboro, Montgomery county, Pa., September 30, 1795, was married to Eliza Ann, daughter of Joseph Hart, of Warminster, December 2, 1817. The family originally came from Wales and settled in Delaware county, where a township and post office bear the name. He settled in Bucks, where he spent the greater part of his life; was the father of a large family of children, and a prominent citizen. He served as Orderly Sergeant in the campaign of 1814, and after peace took an active part in military affairs, reaching the rank of Colonel. He was Register of Wills of the county, and four years chief clerk of General Davis, Surveyor of the Port of Philadelphia, from 1845 to 1849. The family removed to Kansas after the death of his wife, where he died April 5, 1878. Few families furnished more soldiers to the Federal army during the Civil War; five sons fought for the Union, and made good records. Alfred and William Warren were Captains in the One Hundred and Fourth Pa. Regiment, the latter being promoted to Colonel of the Thirty-fourth United States Colored Troops. Joseph and Silas enlisted in the Eleventh Kansas, the latter being commissioned Lieutenant in the Sixty-fifth United States Colored Troops,

clerk. He continued to reside at Davisville, during his term of office, driving into town Monday morning, and returning home Saturday evening. At that day there were no convenient railroad trains to carry one to and from the city, daily. He left the Surveyor's Office in March, 1849, soon after the inauguration of President Taylor,* and the appointment of a successor. His accounts, always kept in good shape, were quickly settled, and he again laid aside the cares of office and took up the more agreeable roll of private citizen. He again gave his entire attention to private business.

The war with Mexico was the feature of Mr. Polk's administration.⁹ While it was severely criticized, it

and both died in service. Nathan was Lieutenant in the One Hundred and Twenty-eighth Pennsylvania Regiment, and was taken prisoner at Chancellorsville. The wife of Colonel Marple, when a young girl, read the articles of emancipation to her father's slaves in the northeast room of the Warminster mansion.

* Zachary Taylor, the twelfth President, was born in Virginia, reared in Kentucky, and a soldier by profession. He entered the army in 1808, and distinguished himself in the War of 1812-15, and the Seminole War. He rendered important services in the Mexican War, and his victory at Buena Vista had an important influence on the termination of the contest. He was elected President in 1848, and fell sick while Congress was discussing the "Omnibus bill," brought forward by Henry Clay to settle the questions growing out of the acquisition of new territory under the treaty with Mexico, and died July 9, 1850.

⁹ The Mexican War was hastened by the annexation of Texas by Tyler's administration, March 1, 1845, and ratified by the Texan Legislature the 4th of July following. In January, 1846, General Taylor, with about 2,500 troops, was ordered to advance to the Rio Grande, and on the 8th and 9th of May were fought the battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la

is an undeniable fact, that the series of outrages committed on citizens of the United States, for which there was no redress, would have caused war with any European power years before. At its close, this remarkable feature was presented: The United States bound herself, by treaty obligation, to pay a money value for territory already hers by right of conquest. It gave us an undisputed title to California and the great central region of the Continent, rich, beyond compute, in mineral wealth, and extended our southwestern boundary to the Rio Grande del Norte.¹⁰ The result of the war was a great benefit to the United States, and we doubt whether its most bitter opponent would be willing to restore our anti-war boundaries.

Since then our progress has been little less than marvelous. At the close of the war the population of the United States was 22,000,000, and the Union

Palma, in which our little army was victorious with small loss. When this news reached Washington, Congress declared that war already existed by the act of the Mexican government, and the President was authorized to accept the services of 50,000 volunteers, and ten millions of money were placed at his disposal. This was followed by the invasion of Mexico, by armies under Scott and Taylor, and a series of brilliant victories. A treaty was concluded on the 2d of February, 1848; was ratified by both governments, and President Polk issued a proclamation of peace on the 4th of July.

¹⁰ The Rio Grande, the "Great River" in both Spanish and Portuguese, rises in the Rocky mountains in the southwest of Colorado, and has a course of 1,800 miles to the Gulf of Mexico, forming for 1,100 miles the boundary between the United States and Mexico. Owing to the shallowness of its current, it is only navigable 450 miles.

composed of thirty States. Now it is almost 60,000,000, and the Union has grown to thirty-eight States. Then there were but four States and one Territory west of the Mississippi, and the vast remainder, reaching across the continent, was a wilderness of plain and mountain and desert, except the few Mexican settlements fringing the Rio Grande, and the Mormon emigrants which had just planted themselves on Salt Lake. Within this region are now twelve States and eight organized Territories, one of the States containing a million and a half of inhabitants. It is traversed by numerous railroads, several uniting the Atlantic with the Pacific, and one carries the iron horse to the Halls of the Montezumas. This wonderful development was, in a great measure, the legitimate outcome of the Mexican War. The possession of the Pacific coast, and the discovery of gold in California, stimulated enterprise almost beyond belief, and lifted the country forward a quarter of a century in the race of empire. The importance of these acquisitions was only second to that which secured to us the undisputed possession of both banks of the Mississippi. The time will come when the administration of James K. Polk will be considered one of the most brilliant in our history.

The Mexican War was a series of skillful and brilliant movements. We always fought against odds, and the enemy generally selected the theatre of operations. The Mexicans make good soldiers ;

possess great powers of endurance, and yield readily to discipline, but they are not as well led and handled as our own or European armies. Scott entered the Valley of Mexico with but ten thousand men, cutting himself clear of his base of supplies. All the approaches to the capital were well fortified by nature and art ; were manned by a superior force and should have been held against inferior numbers. The march from the Gulf to the Valley was quite as audacious and brilliant as that of Hernando Cortez three centuries and a quarter before.

That war made General Taylor President. His name was first publicly mentioned, in connection with the nomination, by an officer of my own regiment, at a 4th of July dinner, at Monterey, in 1847. When the occasion was about to close, a Lieutenant arose and drank : "General Taylor, we hail him as the next President." The General arose and returned thanks, and sat down amid cheers. When the Whig convention met, in 1848, he was put at the head of the ticket, and Millard Fillmore,¹¹ of New York, was nomi-

¹¹ Millard Fillmore, thirteenth President, was born in Cayuga county, New York, January 7th, 1800. He received but little education, and at 14 was apprenticed to the fullers trade. He bought the last year of his time to commence the study of the law, paying his way by working and teaching. He was admitted to the bar at 23, and settled at Aurora. He gradually grew in the confidence of the public, and into practice, and removed to Buffalo, in 1830. He was elected to the Legislature in 1828, serving three terms ; to Congress in 1832, and four times re-elected, retiring in March, 1843 ; and was made State Controller, in 1847. He was elected Vice Presi-

nated for Vice President. On the Democratic side, Lewis Cass,¹² of Michigan, was the candidate for President and William O. Butler,¹³ of Kentucky, for Vice President. A split in the Democratic ranks elected the Whig ticket. General Davis was a warm supporter of the war; not only because he believed right to be

dent, with General Taylor, in 1848, and on the latter dying, July 9, 1850, he was inaugurated President. He died March 8, 1874.

¹² Lewis Cass, the son of Jonathan Cass, a Captain in the Revolutionary Army, was born in New Hampshire, October 9, 1782. The family removed to Ohio, near Zanesville, in 1799, where Lewis read law, was admitted to the bar, and married. He was, soon afterward, elected to the Ohio Legislature. He served with distinction in the War of 1812-15, raising to the rank of Brigadier-General, and about its close was appointed Governor of Michigan Territory. He removed his family to Detroit, in 1815, and made that his residence for life. He administered the affairs of the Territory with great ability. He was appointed Secretary of War in 1831, and Ambassador to France in 1836. While there he was instrumental in defeating the Quintuple Treaty, which yielded the right of search to Great Britain. He returned home at the close of 1842. He took his seat in the United States Senate, in December, 1845, and served therein, with distinction, until March, 1857, when he took a seat in Mr. Buchanan's Cabinet, as Secretary of State, with which he closed his public life. He died June 17th, 1866. General Cass held broad views on all subjects, was cultured, and thoroughly American.

¹³ William Orlando Butler was born in Kentucky, in 1792, whither his father had removed from Pennsylvania, in 1784. He distinguished himself in the War of 1812-15; was breveted Major at New Orleans, and was Aide-de-camp to General Jackson. He resigned his commission in 1817, and resumed the profession of the law. He sat in Congress from 1839 to 1843; was candidate for Governor of Kentucky, in 1844, but defeated by the influence of Mr. Clay. He was Major-General in the War with Mexico, and succeeded General Scott in command. Congress voted him a sword in testimony of his services, in 1847. He was nominated for Vice President in 1858, after his return from Mexico, but defeated. He and General Davis sat in Congress together.

on our side, but because his only son was one of the combattants. Holding an important public office prevented him taking the active part, he usually took, in the political campaign of 1848, but he gave the ticket a warm support. The Democratic platform endorsed the Mexican War, while the Whig party presented the anomaly of opposing the war, while they voted for one of the heroes of it.

In the summer following his retirement from the Surveyor's Office, he made a trip to Ohio, accompanied by one of his daughters, to visit his aged mother, whom he had not seen since 1816, the year the family removed from Maryland. The meeting was an interesting, and affecting, one. His mother was then in her 85th year, and, although she had not seen her son for thirty-three years, she recognized him on sight, and gave him a most cordial welcome. This was their last meeting on earth, as she died the following year. He returned home by the way of the Great Lakes, which afforded him an opportunity of observing the wonderful progress the country was making in that region.

Although General Davis had reached an age when the average man loses interest in the affairs of life, especially politics, he retained his accustomed hold on them. The Presidential campaign of 1852, between Franklin Pierce¹⁴ and Winfield Scott, in which

¹⁴ Franklin Pierce, the fourteenth President of the United States,

the former was elected by an overwhelming majority, found him prepared for an active participation, and he again took the stump. The election of General Pierce gave him great satisfaction, and he was a warm supporter of his administration.

General Davis had been almost a life-long friend of James Buchanan,¹⁵ and to see him elevated to the Presidency was one of his darling objects. The Democratic party of Pennsylvania had pushed him to the front for many years, as her favorite son, and considered him the embodiment of their political hopes. General Davis was one of the most active in every movement favorable to his elevation to the

a descendant of a Revolutionary soldier, was born in New Hampshire, in 1804, and graduated at Bowdoin College. He was bred to the law, and was a politician and statesman of ability. He was a General of brigade in the Mexican War; and served a term in the United States Senate. He was nominated for President, by the Democrats, in 1852, and elected over General Winfield Scott. He died October 8th, 1869.

¹⁵ James Buchanan, the fifteenth President of the United States, was born in Franklin county, Pa., the 13th of April, 1791. He was educated to the profession of the law, but entered politics soon after his admission to the bar. He had served several years in Congress, where he took a leading part, when President Jackson appointed him Minister to Russia, in 1831. On his return he was elected to the Senate of the United States, and from that position he was called to the office of Secretary of State under President Polk. In 1853 he was appointed Minister to England, which he held until he was nominated for President, in 1856. He was elected over John C. Fremont, by planting himself on a platform of principles, in which the doctrine of the Kansas-Nebraska bill was distinctly affirmed. His administration was a stormy one, and closed on the eve of the great Civil War. He was a statesman of great ability and purity of public and private character. Mr. Buchanan died at Lancaster, June 1, 1868.

exalted position he sought, and his nomination, in 1856, was, therefore, exceedingly gratifying. The Republican party had just come into existence, and was pitted against the Democratic for the first time. This fact, probably, increased the warmth of the campaign. Its candidate, John C. Fremont,¹⁶ was popular with his party, and the contest was a close one. General Davis made many speeches in the campaign, in various parts of the State, and when the counting of the votes showed his old friend to be elected, it seemed the crowning satisfaction of a lifetime of politics. At the first visit he paid the President after the new administration had come into power, Mr. Buchanan asked him what office he wished. He replied he neither asked for, nor would he accept anything, having outlived his ambition for public employment.

Their intimate relations were interrupted during Mr. Buchanan's term of office and never renewed. The breach was caused by the Kansas-Nebraska policy¹⁷ of the administration, which proved a

¹⁶ John Charles Fremont, the son of a French father and an American mother, was born at Savannah, Ga., in 1813. In early life he was Professor of Mathematics in the Navy; then a surveyor and railroad engineer. In 1838 President VanBuren appointed him a Lieutenant of Topographical Engineers, and in the next six years he made his explorations across the continent. He took a prominent part in the operations that gave us possession of California, in 1846, on the breaking out of the Mexican War. He resigned his commission, Lieutenant-Colonel, in 1848. His services in the Civil War, and his political course, are well known.

¹⁷ The "Kansas-Nebraska Policy," as it was known at that day, grew

skeleton in the closet to political ties of a lifetime. It was made a party question, and Democrats, who did not acquiesce, were read out of the political brotherhood, "without benefit of clergy." General Davis was one of the men who refused to endorse this policy. He believed it to be contrary to what the party had announced in its National platform, and he had advocated on the stump. He was not willing to stultify himself. He was in favor of carrying out, after the election, the pledges made to the people before it. He would not allow an administration, he had assisted to bring into power, to dictate views to him on a great question, different from those agreed upon in the nominating convention. He had advocated Mr. Buchanan's election in good faith, and he could not consistently follow him in what he considered a repudiation of principle. This separation of old friends was unfortunate. The estrangements on this account were many, and it was the cause of great bitterness toward Mr.

out of a bill introduced by Senator Douglass into the United States Senate, in January, 1854. It provided for the organization of the Territories of Kansas and Nebraska, and in it was a clause giving the people of those Territories, in forming their Constitutions, *the right to decide for themselves*, whether the new States should be free or slave-holding. This was a virtual repeal of the Missouri Compromise, as these Territories lay north of the parallel of 36 degrees, 30 minutes, and gave rise to violent opposition. The bill was debated from January until May, when it passed and was signed by the President. It was thought to be a compromise, but it increased sectional antagonisms, and made Kansas a battle-field for contending parties. It probably hastened the war.

Buchanan, even to the extent of charging him with treason in the days immediately preceding the breaking out of the Civil War. This charge, however, could not be sustained, and history has already vindicated him.

When the Presidential election of 1860 came round, General Davis, although past the age of threescore and ten, again buckled on his armor and took the field. There was great division in the Democratic party, caused by the Slavery question, and two candidates were placed in nomination, Stephen A. Douglass,¹⁸ of Illinois, and John C. Breckenridge,¹⁹ of Kentucky. The former was the

¹⁸ Stephen Arnold Douglass, the son of a physician of Brandon, Vermont, was born April 23, 1813. His father died when he was an infant. He had to struggle with poverty in his youth, but finished his education, and settled at Jacksonville, Illinois, in 1833. Here he taught school, clerked, studied law, and was admitted to the bar in 1834. He soon acquired a large practice, and rose rapidly in public estimation. He was appointed Attorney-General of the State in 1835; elected to the Legislature in 1837; Judge of the Supreme Court of Illinois, in 1841; to Congress in 1843; and to the Senate in March, 1847, where he remained, a leading member, until his death, June 3, 1861. He was a chief promotor of the measures which led to the annexation of Texas, and brought on the Mexican War. He was the author of what is known as "Popular Sovereignty," and made vigorous opposition to the admission of Kansas under the Lecompton Constitution. He was one of the Democratic candidates for President in 1860, and received a large vote. When the Civil War broke out he denounced secession as criminal, and was one of the strongest advocates for maintaining the integrity of the Union. Mr. Douglass was one of the foremost statesmen, and his death was a great loss to the country.

¹⁹ John C. Breckenridge was born near Lexington, Kentucky, January

regularly nominated candidate, while the latter was the nominee of the minority of the convention, which seceded. General Davis, who was his personal friend, supported Mr. Douglass, and endorsed his views on the great questions of the day. This division in the Democratic party led to the election of Mr. Lincoln.²⁰ The defeat of Mr. Douglass was a calamity to the country, and General Davis predicted the disastrous results that followed. In looking into the

16, 1821; educated at Centre College, Kentucky, spent a few months at Princeton, studied law at the Transylvania Institute, and was admitted to the bar at Lexington. He emigrated to Iowa, where he remained for a time and then returned to Kentucky. He was Major of Infantry in the Mexican War, and counsel for General Pillow when court-martialed. On his return from Mexico he was elected to the Legislature; and served in Congress from 1851 to 1855. In 1856 he was elected Vice President on the ticket with Mr. Buchanan; in 1860, the seceders from the Democratic National Convention nominated him for President; in 1861 he succeeded Mr. Crittenden in the United States Senate, and expelled from that body the 4th of December. He entered the Rebellion as Major-General, and died at Lexington, Ky., May 17, 1875.

²⁰ Abraham Lincoln, the sixteenth President of the United States, was the son of Thomas and Nancy Lincoln, and was born in Kentucky in 1809. His father removed with his family to Indiana, in 1816, and Abraham took up his residence there in 1830. As his father's family were very poor, he grew up in great indigence, and received very little education. He read law, was admitted to the bar, gradually grew into practice, and developed his wonderful qualities, especially his control over men. His life was a struggle, and, before he came to the bar, tried various employments; flatboatman, clerk in a store, merchandising, etc. He commanded a company in the Black Hawk War; was four times a member of the Legislature, and elected to Congress in 1846. He was twice elected President, in 1860 and 1864, and was assassinated in Ford's Theatre, Washington, the evening of April 14th, 1865. Mr. Lincoln was a remarkable man, and will occupy one of the first places in history.

future, he foresaw the fierce struggle that stained the country with the blood of its sons, and so severely tried the stability of our institutions. This was his last active participation in party politics, and he deeply regretted it did not close with better augury for the welfare of the country. He had predicted, for many years, that unless agitation on the slavery question should cease, it would rend the country and lead to war between the sections. It was one of the regrets of his life that he lived to see his own prediction verified.

CHAPTER IX.

The period covered by the active political life of General Davis, from about 1820 to 1860, reaching through almost half a century, was the "Golden Era" of the Democratic party in the State and country. Its management was in strong hands, and in Bucks, especially, there was an array of leaders seldom equaled. The party was never so strong before nor since. Its principles were well defined, boldly announced, and adhered to with great tenacity. In those days there was little shuffling, and the time-server soon "found his occupation gone." General harmony prevailed; and whenever defeat overtook the party, the "lesson of adversity" was not disregarded. Practical politics were purer then than now; there was no money in it, nor the same greed of office. As a rule, the office sought the man; and the writer is old enough to remember when he, who pushed his own claims for an elective office, was looked upon with suspicion. A public office was considered a public trust and not a perquisite. That was the day of political leaders, not bosses, and what is now known as machine politics had not been fashioned. It would be better for the country and her institutions were the management of parties relegated to the methods of half a century ago.

Among those active in State politics during all, or part, of the period of which we write, and we refer only to the Democratic leaders, may be mentioned James Buchanan, Samuel D. Ingham, George M. Dallas,¹ Jeremiah S. Black,² Francis R. Shunk, George Wolf, Henry A. Muhlenberg,³ David R.

¹ George Mifflin Dallas, son of Alexander J. Dallas, was born at Philadelphia, July 10, 1792, and died in that city, January 1, 1864. He was educated at Princeton, read law in his father's office, and was admitted to the bar in 1813. He reached distinction in politics. He was appointed Deputy Attorney-General, for Philadelphia, in 1817; United States District Attorney, in 1829; was elected Mayor of the city; elected United States Senator, in 1831; Attorney-General of Pennsylvania; Minister to Russia; was elected Vice President, in 1844, and represented the United States at the Court of Great Britain during Mr. Buchanan's administration.

² Jeremiah S. Black, whose father was a man of prominence, and at one time a member of Congress, was born in Somerset county, Pa., January 10, 1810. He was admitted to the bar in 1830; became Deputy Attorney-General for Somerset county, in 1831; was elected President Judge of the Judicial District, in 1842; Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State, in 1851, and re-elected in 1854. He was Attorney-General of the United States, in 1857; Secretary of State, in 1860, both under Mr. Buchanan's administration; Reporter of the Supreme Court of the United States, in 1862, and member of the Constitutional Convention, in 1872 and 1873. Judge Black was one of the ablest jurists the country has produced, and a man of the most spotless integrity. He was genial in manners, and his conversation was embellished by wit and humor that sparkled like diamonds.

³ Henry Augustus Muhlenberg, son of the Rev. Henry E. Muhlenberg, was born at Lancaster, Pa., May 13, 1782. He studied theology, was licensed to preach, and took charge of a parish at Reading, Pa., but his health becoming impaired, he left the ministry. He was elected to Congress, in 1829, by the Democrats of the Berks District, Pa., and served with distinction until 1838, when President VanBuren appointed him Ambassador to Austria, where he remained until 1840. He was nominated for Governor by a portion of the Democratic party, in 1844, and died, suddenly, August 11th, two months prior to the election.

Porter, Simon Cameron,⁴ James M. Porter,⁵ David Wilmot,⁶ Richard Vaux, John W. Forney, John

⁴ Simon Cameron was born in Lancaster county, Pa., March 8, 1799. He learned the printing trade, and came to Doylestown to edit the *Messenger* before he was twenty-one. He subsequently edited a newspaper at Harrisburg. He became active in business affairs early in life; and established the Middletown bank in 1832. Shortly before this Governor Shultze appointed him Adjutant-General of Pennsylvania. He was an active politician, and one of the founders of the Republican party. He was four times elected to the United States Senate; in 1845, 1857, 1867, and 1873. He resigned his seat in the Senate, in 1861, to become Secretary of War under President Lincoln, which he relinquished within a year to accept the appointment of Minister to Russia, but remained abroad only part of his term. He was one of the very first to recognize the magnitude of the War of the Rebellion, and no one more warmly advocated its vigorous prosecution.

⁵ James Madison Porter, son of General Andrew Porter of the Continental Army, was born in 1792. He studied law, settled at Easton, Northampton county, and became a distinguished lawyer. He sat in the Constitutional Convention of 1838, and, in 1843, President Tyler appointed him Secretary of War, which he held to the close of the administration, and subsequently held several places of honor and trust. He was one of the founders of Lafayette College, Easton, Pa. He died November 11, 1862.

⁶ David Wilmot was born in Wayne county, Pa., January 20, 1814; educated at local academies; commenced the study of the law at Wilkesbarre at eighteen; admitted to the bar in 1834, and settled at Towanda. He was elected to Congress in 1844, '46, and '48, and introduced his celebrated "Proviso," the 8th of August, 1846. He was President Judge of his Judicial District from 1853 to 1861. On the formation of the Republican party he espoused its principles and acted with it. He declined the nomination for Vice President on the ticket with Fremont, in 1856; and was defeated for Governor by William F. Packer, in 1857. He was United States Senator from 1861 to 1863, filling the unexpired term of Simon Cameron, appointed Secretary of War. In 1863 he was appointed a Judge of the Court of Claims, which he filled to his death, at Towanda, March 16, 1868.

Hickman,⁷ Henry Welsh,⁸ William F. Packer,⁹ Richard Brodhead,¹⁰ John O. James, and others. These gentlemen, with but a single exception, began their political career in the ranks of the Democratic

⁷ John Hickman was born near the battle-field of Brandywine, Chester county, September 11, 1810. He was admitted to the bar in 1832, and soon took a prominent place in the profession as an advocate. He entered warmly into politics, and became quite a famous stump speaker. After filling the office of District Attorney, he was elected to Congress in 1854, and served several terms. He took an active part in all the discussions on the slavery question, in its various forms, preceding the Rebellion, and became a leader among the Republicans. He was an able debater, and a scholarly man. He died several years ago.

⁸ Henry Welsh was a prominent citizen and merchant of York county, and active in the councils of the Democratic party. When President Polk came into office, he appointed him Naval Officer at Philadelphia, which office he held four years. He and General Davis were on terms of intimacy. He has been dead several years.

⁹ William F. Packer was born in Centre county, April 2, 1807. Thrown on his own resources, by his father dying when he was young, he learned the printing trade, and was interested in the publication of several newspapers. He assisted to establish *The Keystone*, at Harrisburg, which, for some time, was the recognized organ of the Democratic party of the State. Mr. Packer first entered public life as a member of the Board of Canal Commissioners, in 1839. Following this he was appointed Auditor-General, in 1842; elected to the House of Representatives in 1847, and re-elected in 1848; to the State Senate in 1849, of which he was an active and useful member. He was nominated for Governor in 1857, and elected over David Wilmot. His administration was a successful one, and he was on the right side of the great questions then absorbing public opinion. He and General Davis were warm personal friends. Governor Packer's mother was Charity Bye, of Bucks county.

¹⁰ Richard Brodhead was a descendant of Colonel Brodhead, of Revolutionary fame. After admission to the bar, he settled to the practice of the law at Easton, Northampton county. He served in the Legislature, and was afterward elected to the United States Senate. He is deceased.

party, but several went over to the opposition, and became prominent. The slavery question, and issues hinging on it, were the moving cause.

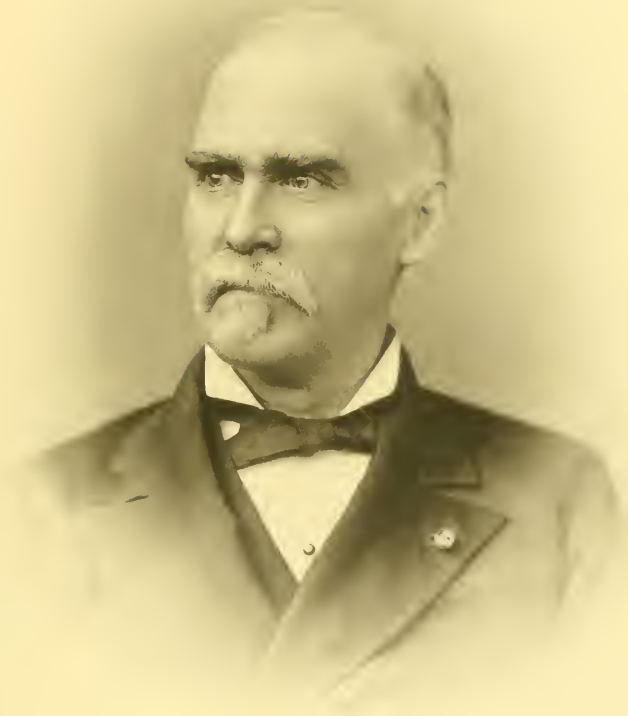
Mr. Wilmot achieved quite considerable distinction. He was in Congress during the Mexican War, as a Democrat, and favored the annexation of Texas. While the bill was pending to appropriate \$2,000,000 for the purchase of a part of Mexico, he moved, August 8, 1846, to add an amendment: "That as an express and fundamental condition to the acquisition of any territory from the Republic of Mexico, by the United States, neither slavery nor involuntary servitude shall ever exist in any part of said territory." This proposition, known as the "Wilmot Proviso," was adopted in the House, but failed in the Senate. From that time Mr. Wilmot may be considered in the ranks of the opposition, where he finished his political career. He was a man of very strong convictions, and outspoken in his opinions; greatly beloved by his friends, and unsparingly hated by his enemies; a forcible speaker, and keen in debate. He and General Davis were warm personal friends while serving under the same political banner, and always had great respect for each other. John O. James was not an active leader, but wise in counsel, and enjoyed an acquaintance with the leading men of both parties.

The county leaders, most active and influential, were Samuel D. Ingham, John Fox, Henry Chap-

man, John Davis, Lewis S. Coryell,¹¹ Charles H. Matthews, William T. Rogers, John S. Bryan, Thomas Ross, Samuel A. Smith, William Purdy, Andrew Apple,¹² and Paul Applebach. They did not always agree, for their ambitions too often ran

¹¹ Lewis S. Coryell, a man of mark in his day, and the son of Joseph Coryell, was born on the site of Lambertville, N. J., in December, 1788. He apprenticed himself at fifteen, for six years and one month, to learn the carpenter trade, and, at the end of three years and nine months, bought his time for \$40, and formed a copartnership with Thomas Martin, an elder apprentice. They carried on business several years at Morrisville. Mr. Coryell next established himself in the lumber business, at New Hope, with Joseph D. Murray, under the firm name of Coryell & Murray. He was a man of extensive information and a good practical engineer. He was an early advocate of internal improvements; and, in 1818, was appointed one of the commissioners to improve the rafting and boating channels of the Delaware. He was an active politician, and wielded large influence, but never held public office. He had an extensive acquaintance with the statesmen of the country, and enjoyed their confidence. He was a favorite of President Monroe, and a frequent guest at the White House while he occupied it. In the "Buckshot War," 1838, he assisted Thaddeus Stevens through a back window of the House of Representatives, at Harrisburg, to escape the fury of the enraged Democrats. Under Mr. Tyler's administration, Mr. Coryell was appointed Secret Agent to bring Texas into the Union. He was an active supporter of the War of 1812-15, and served as baggage-master at camp Marcus Hook. He died at New Hope, in 1865.

¹² Andrew Apple was the grandson of John Apple, born in Germany in 1726, came to America when a young man, settled in Lower Saucon, Northampton county, and died in 1803, and the youngest son of Paul Apple, born in 1759, and died in 1827. Andrew Apple was born in Springfield township, Bucks county, in 1791, and died in 1875. He was prominent in county politics and had great influence with the Germans. He filled, in succession, the offices of County Commissioner, Treasurer, Director of the Poor, and was twice elected Associate-Judge of the county. He served a tour of duty at Marcus Hook, in command of a company of militia.



in the same channel. At times they gave and received heavy blows within their own lines, and occasionally want of harmony led to a defeat of their candidates, but they never lost their respect for each other. Most of them reached positions of prominence and influence. Mr. Ingham, after serving several terms in Congress, left the House for the Treasury; Messrs. Chapman, Ross and Davis sat in Congress, and Chapman and Fox worthily wore the ermine, but neither Fox nor Coryell would accept political office. Rogers served eight years in the State Senate, and was Speaker of the same his last session, the only presiding officer of either House Bucks county has had since the Revolution. Judge Chapman, the only one of these leaders now living, 1886, is in the enjoyment of an honored old age.

Of the mentioned State leaders, General Cameron is the only one living. He was a Democrat down to some time in the fifties, and an active participant in State and local politics. He was an able leader. He and General Davis were warm personal, as well as political, friends, and their personal friendship was maintained until General Davis' death. They became acquainted early in life. In 1820, Simon Cameron, then a young jour printer, just out of his time, was invited to Doylestown to take charge of the *Bucks County Messenger*, one of the rival Democratic newspapers assisting each other to tear the party to

pieces. Benjamin Mifflin,¹³ from Philadelphia, was the proprietor of the *Democrat*. The coming of young Cameron had been heralded, and considerable interest felt in the arrival of the "new printer." He and Mifflin came up in the stage together from Philadelphia, but were unknown to each other. The passengers freely discussed the newspaper situation at Doylestown, and the new editor for the *Messenger*, but Cameron wisely kept his peace. When the stage stopped at the hotel, and the young stranger was greeted as "Mr. Cameron," by the friends who expected him, there was some dismay on the other side. He issued his first number January 2, 1821, but before the year was out the rival papers were consolidated under the late General William T. Rogers, and there was peace again in the Democratic household. General Cameron, who has had one of the most remarkable careers of any public man in the country, is living at the ripe old age of eighty-seven, respected by all.

A history of the politics of the county, for this period, would make an interesting chapter, but we have no room for it here. We have often thought the leaders made the political movements of that

¹³ Benjamin Mifflin came from Philadelphia to take charge of the *Democrat*, which he purchased in December, 1820, whither he returned after the two papers were consolidated. He was one of the proprietors of the *Pennsylvanian* several years, and died in that city. Of his descent and parentage we know nothing.

day a more serious business than now. The county conventions were always largely attended; at times the proceedings were deeply interesting, and there were warm debates. That was the day, at least down to within thirty years, of militia and volunteer trainings, and these martial displays were an important factor in local politics. To be a military officer was considered a stepping-stone to political preferment. The battalion trainings were attended by the leading politicians of both parties, for the purpose of conferring about party affairs, and not infrequently made the occasion of putting candidates in the field.

The military trainings, in the upper end, drew together a large concourse of people. The young Germans, male and female, flocked thither, and made them the occasion of much enjoyment. It was the habit of many of the German girls, forty years ago, to go to the "Battalion," the name for these martial gatherings, bare-footed, carrying their shoes and stockings, which they put on when the dancing began. If the young people of that day lacked grace when they "tripped the light fantastic toe," they made it up in the earnest way they went about the business. Certain public houses were resorted to by politicians to learn, and discuss, the news. We have already mentioned the Black Bear, in Northampton township, as a political trysting place. Keichline's tavern,¹⁴ now Pipersville, in Bedminster,

¹⁴ Keichline's tavern was a famous hostelry, at the intersection of the

was noted as a stopping place for politicians, going to or returning from the upper end. Colonel Keichline¹⁵ and his wife were both deeply interested in politics. Mrs. Keichline,¹⁶ the daughter of Colonel Piper, was a born Democrat, and took to politics as readily as Richelieu¹⁷ to statecraft. Many an anxious candidate received timely advice from her that saved his fortunes.

Durham and Easton roads, in Bedminster township, for many years. The centre building was erected about 1759; the parlor and dining-room were added in 1784; and the kitchen and small room at the west end in 1790 and 1801. Colonel George Piper was its landlord from 1778 to his death, in 1823, when he was succeeded by Jacob Keichline, who married his daughter, and was its landlord to his death, in 1861. During this long period it sheltered a number of the most distinguished men of the country, including Benjamin Franklin and Joseph Bonaparte. The old tavern was torn down some years ago. Its history would be an interesting one.

¹⁵ Jacob Keichline, the grandson of John Peter Keichline, who immigrated from Heidelberg, Germany, and settled in Bedminster about 1742, and the son of Andrew, was born in that township, September 8, 1776, and died February 26, 1861. He was the landlord of the inn thirty-six years, and was well-known to the leading men of the county.

¹⁶ Mrs. Keichline was the daughter of Colonel George Piper born on the Wissahickon, Philadelphia county, November 11, 1755. About the time he arrived at manhood, he removed to Bedminster and married a daughter of Arnold Lear, of Tinicum. He was an officer in the Continental Army and a Colonel of militia. How long after her marriage she became the popular hostess of the "Bucks county hotel," we do not know. The writer remembers her with pleasure, and frequently enjoyed her doughnuts and gingerbread. She was a wise counselor, and as true as steel to her friends. Dr. William Keichline, of Philadelphia, is her son.

¹⁷ Richelieu Armand du Plessis, Cardinal de, the greatest French statesman of the 17th century, was born in 1585, and died in 1642. He had great desire for distinction as a man of letters, and wrote several works, among which the greatest interest attaches to his *Mémoires*.

The Buchanan-Forney quarrel, soon after the former became President, and still fresh in the minds of many, was understood by few. A minute detail of this unfortunate episode would be out of place here, but a brief reference thereto seems proper, inasmuch as General Davis was the friend and confidant of both parties, and cognizant of all the facts. It makes a part of the political history of the times.

James Buchanan was the personal and political idol of John W. Forney from his boyhood. He labored in season and out of season to advance his fortunes; and to see him elected to the Presidential chair was the darling object of his life. In whatever political work he undertook, he had that for his end and aim. When Franklin Pierce became President, Colonel Forney was placed in charge of the Washington *Union*, the administration organ, and was full partner in the contract to do the public printing. His interest was estimated at \$100,000.

The candidacy of Mr. Buchanan, for nomination for President, in 1856, found Colonel Forney in the situation mentioned. He was not only editor of President Pierce's organ, but his favorite and trusted companion. It was well known the President was a candidate for renomination. Forney was placed in a dilemma. His sense of honor forbade a divided allegiance. What was he to do? Whom should he serve? General Pierce's magnanimous conduct relieved him of his embarrassment. Knowing the

long, and affectionate, intimacy between him and Mr. Buchanan, and appreciating the extreme delicacy of his position, he voluntarily absolved Colonel Forney from all allegiance to himself, and gave his full consent for him to advocate the claims of Mr. Buchanan. This was what might have been expected of a man of General Pierce's chivalrous character, but few would have played so generous a part. Being now a free man, Colonel Forney went to work. His task was herculean, but he succeeded in it. He so popularized Mr. Buchanan with the country, he was nominated at the Cincinnati convention with little difficulty. We give the credit of this mainly to Colonel Forney, for he deserves it. It was his work; and we are not alone in believing, had there been no Forney, James Buchanan would never have reached the Presidential chair.

Shortly after his nomination, Mr. Buchanan invited Colonel Forney to come to Lancaster and conduct his campaign, saying, if he were elected, he would take him back to Washington under better auspices than before. At the back of this was the promise, expressed or implied, and which both parties understood, that Colonel Forney was to be the editor of the administration organ. He did not hesitate a moment when his friend called him to his side. He relinquished his interest in his newspaper and printing contract, without a dollar of compensation, removed to Lancaster and stripped for the

fight. We need not rehearse the campaign of 1856. In the hands of Colonel Forney it was made the most brilliant, and probably the ablest, campaign the country had ever seen. He was made chairman of the Democratic State Committee, with headquarters at Philadelphia. It resulted in the election of Mr. Buchanan, and Colonel Forney was the hero of the fight.

It is the general impression that Colonel Forney quarreled with Mr. Buchanan, because he was not made a member of his Cabinet, or given some other important place. Nothing could be more erroneous. He never asked for, nor wanted, an office, and refused those offered him, including that of American Consul at Liverpool. He had but one ambition—to be put back into the place he had relinquished to conduct the campaign, and made the editor of the administration organ. The promise made him was not redeemed, and that was at the bottom of their estrangement, which lasted until the grave closed over them. Shortly after it was known that Mr. Buchanan was elected, he was besought by politicians, mainly from the South, not to allow Colonel Forney to occupy that position, and, unfortunately for himself, the party, his administration, and we may say, for the country, he yielded, and thus lost the support of the ablest, and most unselfish, friend he ever had. The effect of this mistake of Mr. Buchanan was far-reaching, and had a greater bear-

ing on subsequent events than will be generally admitted.

We have already said General Davis was the friend of both Mr. Buchanan and Colonel Forney, and tried hard to reconcile them, but it was impossible. We have often heard him relate the particulars of these events, as we have also Colonel Forney, and are satisfied the facts are as we state them. A few months before General Davis' death, he was visited by an old acquaintance,¹⁸ a retired journalist and friend of Colonel Forney, when the conversation led up to the Buchanan episode. In the report of the interview, as published in a county newspaper,¹⁹ it is stated, that after discussing men and events of the past, the General, all at once, as it were, quick as change could be made, adverted to Mr. Buchanan, with whom he was for many years on intimate terms, and his administration of national affairs; and, as if it followed, as a natural sequence, rising from his couch, in an impressive manner continued:

“Let me tell you, sir, that John W. Forney has

¹⁸ John P. Rogers is the son of the late General William T. Rogers, of Doylestown. He learned the printing trade in the office of the *Lancaster Intelligencer*, when John W. Forney was the editor and proprietor, and was one of his most devoted friends. He was a journalist many years, and connected with several newspapers, including the *Doylestown Democrat* and *Bucks County Intelligencer*.

¹⁹ The interview was printed in the *Bucks County Intelligencer*, the oldest newspaper in the county, having been established by Asher Miner in 1804.

never had justice done him, as regards his differences with Mr. Buchanan. It was told that Forney was ambitious, disappointed, jealous. Let me tell you, sir, I, of all other men, knew all about it, and it was not true; not one single word of it; and it should be told now. Forney, sir, always had it in his power to prove the falsity of these charges, and he ought to have done it long ago; but he preferred to keep still. Now, if you would like to hear the real reason that separated them, I will tell it all."

"Indeed would I, General," was the response of his interviewer.

"Well, sir," he continued, "you know that for some cause after his election a coolness sprang up between Forney and Buchanan. Now, as one of his old friends, the incoming President sent for me to come on to Wheatland and have an interview with him. While in Philadelphia, on my way there, as luck would have it, I met Colonel Forney, and he and I naturally fell into conversation in reference to the personnel and policy which would be pursued; and from that drifted, as we were intimate, as to how he should be rewarded for his services. I remember perfectly well, because it greatly surprised me at the time, that Forney remarked that the only position he would have would be to return to the one he had relinquished in Washington. I thought it strange then; I think it strange still; but, sir, such was the fact, as I will soon satisfy you I have ample reason for remembering. I proceeded to Lancaster, where I soon found lots of Southern statesmen in consultation with Mr. Buchanan; it was Kansas, you know, that was the bone of contention. Well, we had our interview, and just as I was about leaving,

Forney was mentioned by one or the other, and Mr. Buchanan remarked that he owed so much to him that he would do anything in his power as partial compensation in return for favors which he would never be able to cancel. On my return I met Forney, communicated to him the fact that Buchanan was astonished that he would be satisfied to hold his former editorial position, and that it was finally and satisfactorily agreed upon ; and that, too, in despite of my earnest protestation that he ought to have, and certainly would receive from the President, almost any office within his gift. Now, sir, more than all that ; I happen to know of my own personal knowledge that when these difficulties between them were thus satisfactorily adjusted, Mr. Buchanan himself suggested that as Forney had been invited to deliver an address before the Democratic Association of Philadelphia, on the coming eighth of January, scarce two months prior to his inauguration, and as it would naturally be expected that he would of right be able to anticipate and announce what his (Buchanan's) policy would be, that the proof sheets of that address should be sent to him for correction and revision. That these proofs were so forwarded, that they were cautiously perused by Buchanan, that they embraced and enunciated in all their breadth and depth the Douglass doctrine, and that Buchanan declared he so heartily and fully approved its sentiments that, to use his own language, 'it did not need at his hands the dotting even of an i or the crossing of a t,' I also know, for I had it direct from himself. Now, these things transpired in the early winter following Buchanan's election, and the events afterwards are matters of his-

tory. This is only stated to entirely free Colonel Forney from the groundless charge that he was actuated in his subsequent opposition to the administration by any feelings of personal disappointment. No ; that, or any accusation kindred to it is base and untrue."

General Davis, at this time, was nearly ninety years of age, but in possession of all his faculties, with his wonderful memory as tenacious as ever. He could not do less than come to the defense of his old friend and Deputy Surveyor of the Port, for whom he retained great fondness, in spite of a severance of political relations.

CHAPTER X.

Whatever may be a man's public life, and however well he may stand therein, we look for his chiefest glory to be won in his relations as citizen, friend, neighbor, husband, father and man of business. These bring out the fine gold in his character, and not infrequently require more courage and forbearance than the most exalted station. In all these relations the life of General Davis was without reproach.

Born to no inheritance, he early realized the necessity of labor, and that that, and integrity of character, must be the foundation of whatever success he might achieve. He therefore took hold of his work as if his heart were in it, and he meant to succeed. He began life a farmer, and closed it engaged in this honorable and most independent of all pursuits. As we have stated, shortly after his marriage he moved to the farm in Southampton, belonging to Mrs. Hart, his mother-in-law, and which he purchased at her death, in 1815. On it was a saw-mill, the only one within several miles; and as timber was abundant then it was constantly employed, and yielded a handsome revenue. We have often heard him say it was the best piece of property he ever owned. For several winters it was his custom

to go to the mill two or three hours before daylight and set it running, thus getting on with his work while his neighbors were asleep. Sometimes he hitched up his team, before it was light, and started to the woods for a load of logs, getting back by breakfast time. He was so much impressed with the value of it, he frequently remarked to his children, in after years, that whenever he should set up a coat-of-arms, it would be an exact copy of the old saw-mill. Many great families trace their arms and crest back to a less worthy source. The mill cut hard wood exclusively, for which he found a ready market in Philadelphia, seventeen miles distant. He purchased standing timber at all the sales, to keep the mill going, not relying upon custom work. He frequently bought both land and timber, and after the land was cleared sold it, and made a handsome profit by the transaction. He prospered while others, who began life with brighter prospects, made no headway. This was largely due to close attention to business. The dull times, following the War of 1812-15, ruined many in independent circumstances when it broke out. In all his public employments General Davis had the good sense to retain his hold on his private business, realizing it to be the only real source of living. Many men make the mistake of giving up business as soon as they obtain public office, and, in consequence, find themselves without occupation, or the means of living, when

their term expires. It is a difficult thing to start a second time in life, especially after enjoying the emoluments of office, and its supposed dignity, a few years. Many of the brightest men in the country have thus sacrificed themselves.

His first change in business relations was in 1826, when he built a store-house on the Street road, where Davisville stands, and opened store there the following spring. It was only a few hundred yards from his residence, across the meadow. He had previously built a dwelling, and wheelwright and blacksmith shops, at the cross roads, and laid the foundation of the village. In 1829 he put an addition to the dwelling adjoining the store, and in the spring of 1830 removed thither, with his family. He lived there almost half a century. After keeping store about twenty years, he turned it over to his son-in-law, Alfred T. Duffield.¹ A store is still kept

¹ Alfred T. Duffield was the son of Jacob Duffield, a soldier of the War of 1812-15, who died at Sackett's Harbor. The family were Norman French; came to England with William the Conqueror, and can trace their descent from the time of Edward II., when Richard Duffield was Bailiff of York. The Pennsylvania Duffields are descended from Benjamin, the son of Robert and Bridget, who was born in 1661, and landed at Burlington, N. J., in 1679. He was one of the delegation that came across the Delaware to welcome the arrival of William Penn, in 1682. He settled in Lower Dublin, Philadelphia county, married a daughter of Arthur Watts, and was the father of thirteen children. He was buried at Christ church. Alfred T. was the fifth in descent from Benjamin. Edward Duffield, the grandson of Benjamin, and distinguished for his scientific attainments, was the associate and friend of Rittenhouse, and one of the executors of Franklin. It is said the first consultation, held by Jefferson and com-

in the same building. While in trade he stimulated the business affairs of the neighborhood by his energy and activity, and proved that his coming was a fortunate circumstance for the community.

The farm and old saw-mill, meanwhile, were not neglected. Fertilizers and careful tillage for the land, and a supply of logs for the mill, increased the income therefrom year by year. A post office had been established at the dwelling of Joseph Warner,² on the Street road, a few hundred yards above the Southampton township line, in 1823; Mr. W. was appointed postmaster, and the office called Warminster. In 1827 the post office was removed to the store of Colonel Davis, down at the cross roads, where the new village had been born; he was appointed postmaster, and the post office called Davisville, the name it still bears. Thus the new town was started out on its career under favorable auspices. The founder led the way in improvements, erecting

patriots on the subject of Independence, was at the house of Edward Duffield, northwest corner of Eighth and Market streets, Philadelphia. The name is variously spelled: Du Fielde, De Duffeld, Duffeld or Duffield. It is the oldest on the records of Ripon Cathedral, where it is spelled Duffield, Duffeilde, Duffyield. William Duffield was Arch-deacon of Cleveland in 1435, and died in 1452.

² Joseph Warner, born in 1701, and the grandson of the first William, who died at Blockley, in 1706, settled in Wrightstown in 1726. He married Agnes Croasdale, of Middletown, in 1723, and it is thought their descendants number nearly two thousand souls. The old homestead is still standing in Wrightstown. Joseph Warner, of Warminster, was a descendant of the Joseph who settled in Wrightstown. He died about 1840.

dwellings and other buildings, etc. At one time he owned four of the five corners formed by the crossing roads, and sold lots at moderate prices, to encourage building, and he otherwise assisted persons of small means to secure homes for their families.

General Davis gradually acquired real estate in and around the village. In 1834 he bought, at public sale, the John White³ farm, of thirty-eight acres, lying in the angle formed by the Warminster township line, and the road leading to Southampton meeting house. Mr. White, a reputable farmer and man of family, died under painful circumstances. He went to Philadelphia, to market, accompanied by his wife, and stopped at the Bull's Head Inn,⁴ North Second Street. On waking in the morning, the wife found her husband dead by her side. General Davis, who chanced to be in the city, was sent for; and the author, a small boy, had the unpleasant duty of driving the sorrowing widow home. In 1837 he bought the John Engert farm, of forty-five acres, lying on the opposite side of the Southampton meeting house road, and between that and the Street road.⁵ As he already owned seventeen acres

³ We know nothing of John White except that he was a respectable farmer, and lived on his farm at Davisville from our earliest recollection to his death. Two or three of his children married and left descendants.

⁴ Quite a famous public house, on North Second Street, Philadelphia, where farmers put up when they go to market, and is still occupied as such.

⁵ The Street road, which runs from the Delaware many miles into the

adjoining it, the tract made a farm of sixty-two acres. In 1850, he made his most valuable purchase, the Watts farm, containing one hundred and thirty-six acres, from the estate of Richard Benson,⁶ of Philadelphia. It is one of the finest farms in that section, lying on the southwest side of the Street road, and adjoining his other real estate. This plantation came into possession of the Watts family from the Penns, through the Callowhills,⁷ in 1734, an hundred and fifty-two years ago. He purchased other real estate, in single fields, or small tracts, to round up a boundary, until he was the owner of about three hundred acres of the best land in the neighborhood. The management of this quantity of real estate, and other business occupation, with his social engagements, and politics thrown in as amusement, made him a very busy man, and occupied his whole attention.

The wife of General Davis being a member of

interior of the county, was one of the northwest highways projected by William Penn. The first section, from Dunk's ferry landing to the Bristol turnpike, was laid out in 1696, and the road was completed about 1737. It was intended to be four poles wide, but was opened only two pole.

⁶ Richard Fenson was a broker of Philadelphia, who made a large fortune and left sons and daughters to inherit it. Richard Dale Benson is a grandson.

⁷ Thomas Callowhill was the father-in-law of William Penn. Four hundred and seventeen acres, covering the site of Davisville, were surveyed to him April 20, 1705. John, Thomas, and Richard Penn inherited it from their grandfather, and 149 acres were patented to Stephen Watts, January 20, 1734.

Southampton Baptist church at her marriage, he connected himself with that organization. The pastor was the Rev. Thomas B. Montanye, one of the ablest ministers of that denomination, and a warm friendship was maintained between them until the death of the latter, in 1829. They worked in harmony in all movements calculated to advance the best interests of the neighborhood. He was a member of this congregation for almost forty years, and, although not a communicant, was active in promoting the welfare of the church. He served on the board of trustees several years, and his excellent business habits gave him the lead in that body. He assisted to establish a Sunday school at Southampton, and was its Superintendent. He was also one of the founders of the Bucks County Bible Society, in 1816, and its Vice President.

While he and his family maintained their connection with the Southampton church, they literally "kept open house." It was a general headquarters. Visiting clergymen and friends came to, and went from, his hospitable mansion at pleasure; and all comers were welcome to a seat at his table, and to shelter under his roof. When the Philadelphia Baptist Association* met at Southampton, it was a

* The Philadelphia Baptist Association, the oldest organization of the kind in America, was established in 1707. It began with five churches, which increased in number and influence, and extended from New York to the Carolinas. Some of its ministers were the most noted divines in America. In 1813 it contained twenty-five churches with 2,500 members.

genuine field-day at the Davis homestead, and hospitality was dispensed with a liberal hand. Some of these occasions brought together a notable company. Among those who gathered there were the Rev. Thomas B. Montanye, the pastor; Dr. Janeway,⁹ Rev. Horatio Gates Jones,¹⁰ Rev. Joseph Matthias,¹¹ and others, with their wives, or other members of their families. It was a season of genuine enjoyment. The death of Mr.

⁹ Dr. Janeway was a Baptist clergyman of New Jersey; who occasionally came over to Southampton to meet the Association, and on other occasions, but I am unable to trace him. He seems to have passed from view. A Dr. Janeway is mentioned in "Benedict's History of the Baptists," who may possibly be the same.

¹⁰ Horatio Gates Jones, the youngest son and child of Rev. David Jones, the celebrated Chaplain of the Revolution, was born in Chester county, Pa., in 1777. He passed his early youth there and at Southampton, Bucks county, where his father was pastor for a time. He was educated at the Bordentown Academy; made a profession of religion in 1798; licensed to preach in 1801, and ordained in 1802. After preaching elsewhere meanwhile, he organized the Roxborough Baptist church, in 1808, and was its pastor for forty-five years. Brown University conferred the degree of A. M. on him, in 1812, and Lewisburg their first degree of D. D., in 1852. He held many important positions in the church and out of it, was an able preacher and good pastor, and died December 12, 1853.

¹¹ Joseph Matthias was the grandson of John Matthias, born in Pembroke-shire, South Wales, at the close of the seventeenth century, and came to Pennsylvania with the Welsh immigrants. He settled in Montgomery county, a few miles northwest of Line Lexington, and died in 1747 or '48. Joseph was born May 8, 1778, baptized September 29, 1799, ordained July 22, 1806, and died March 11, 1851. During his pastoral life of almost half a century, he officiated at upwards of seven hundred funerals, and preached six thousand eight hundred and seventy-five sermons. He was pastor of Hilltown Baptist church forty-five years, and, as a man and minister of the gospel, was respected and beloved.

Montayne made a breach in these pleasant gatherings that was never filled, and was an irreparable loss to the church and neighborhood. During all this period, and in fact down to the day of his death, General Davis' dwelling was a social centre, where a large circle of friends and relatives gathered, and whither many resorted to discuss political affairs, and consult about party nominations. One of his latest visitors was Hon. Samuel J. Randall,¹² then Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States, whose father he had met in debate in the Presidential campaign of 1844. Having a family of daughters growing up to womanhood, in the same period, brought much young company to the house, and at times the number of visitors and vehicles gave the appearance of a public reception. Among the young men on terms of social intimacy with the family, and who afterwards reached distinction, may be mentioned William L. Lee,¹³ who

¹² Samuel J. Randall is the son of Josiah Randall, and was born in Philadelphia. He was partially educated at the Attleborough Academy, Bucks county, was in business for a time in Philadelphia, and then entered politics. He served one term in the State Senate, and was then elected to Congress, where he is a very conspicuous figure. He has twice filled the Speaker's chair, and is the best parliamentarian in the House. He is noted for his public integrity.

¹³ William L. Lee was born at Sandy Hill, New York; educated at Norwich University, Vermont, and finished his law studies at Cambridge University. He sailed for Oregon, in 1846, the vessel reaching Honolulu, Sandwich Islands, at the end of six months, water logged. The King appointed him a Judge on one of islands, and he subsequently rose to be

became Chief Justice of the Kingdom of Hawaii, Gershom Mott,¹⁴ a Major-General in the War of the Rebellion, Earl English,¹⁵ a Rear-Admiral in the United States Navy, John H. Michener,¹⁶ a prominent and wealthy merchant of Philadelphia, Edward J. Fox,¹⁷ the foremost member of the bar of Northampton county, Pa., Dr. Samuel Lilly,¹⁸ and others

Chief Justice and Chancellor of the Kingdom. He was sent to Washington as Minister Extraordinary, in 1855, to negotiate a treaty. He died at Honolulu, universally lamented. He was a man of great ability and purity of character.

¹⁴ Gershom Mott was a native of Mercer county, New Jersey, where he was born in 1822. At the breaking out of the Civil War, he was cashier of the Bordentown Banking Company, but resigned and entered the military service as Lieutenant-Colonel of the Fifth New Jersey Regiment. He was promoted a Brigadier-General for gallantry at the second battle of Bull Run, and afterward commissioned Major-General. He was four times wounded. He died suddenly, November 29, 1884, at New York, while Superintendent of the New Jersey State prison. General Mott served in the Mexican War as Lieutenant in the Tenth Regiment United States Infantry.

¹⁵ Earl English was born in New Jersey; entered the naval service in 1840; promoted to Passed-Midshipman, in 1846; Lieutenant, in 1855; Commander, in 1866; Captain, in 1871; Commodore, in 1880, and Rear-Admiral, in 1884. He served on the Atlantic coast and in the Gulf during the Civil War, with great credit.

¹⁶ John H. Michener was born in Moreland, Montgomery county, and early went into business in the city, where he met with great success.

¹⁷ Edward J. Fox is the son of Judge John Fox, of Doylestown; educated at Princeton College; read law with his father, and was admitted to the bar, in 1845. He settled at Easton, Pa., and has achieved success in his profession.

¹⁸ Dr. Samuel Lilly practiced medicine at Lambertville, N. J., several years; represented that district in Congress, and was afterward a lay member of the Court of Appeals. He married a daughter of Lewis S. Coryell. He and his wife are both dead.

who have made their mark on society.

General Davis and family severed their connection with the Southampton church, about 1850, and connected themselves with the Baptist church,¹⁹ at Hatboro, just over the county line in Montgomery, and where he was baptized in 1862 or '63, by the Rev. William S. Wood.²⁰ His interest in church matters was now visibly increased. Although the distance to drive was three miles, the weather was seldom bad enough, in summer or winter, day or night, to keep him from religious services. This connection lasted several years, and until increasing age warned him to seek church communion nearer home; when he and his family took letters to the Davisville Baptist

¹⁹ The Hatboro Baptist church, founded in 1835, had its origin in the religious seed sown by a Baptist camp meeting held in the neighborhood. It has grown to be a strong organization, and exerts a powerful influence for good. The pulpit has been filled by several able men. The congregation celebrated the semi-centennial in 1885. Rev. Louis Smith, a pastor of this church, went to New Mexico as Missionary, in 1852, and was one of the earliest Protestant ministers in that part of the continent. After a residence of several years at Santa Fé, he returned and died in Ohio.

²⁰ William S. Wood, son of William and Eleanor Wood, was born near New Geneva, Fayette county, Pa., November 10, 1834. He received his preliminary education at Green Academy, Greene county, Pa., and graduated at Jefferson College, in 1857. He studied at Lewisburg University; was licensed to preach in 1859; called to the Hatboro Baptist church, in 1863, and left in 1867. He next organized a congregation at Doylestown, Pa.; built a large house of worship, and was the pastor until April, 1870. Mr. Wood now lives at Mount Pleasant, Pa., and is engaged in organizing churches, and other evangelical work. He is an able man and strong preacher.

church,²¹ during the pastorate of Rev. William H. Conard.²² It was but a half mile from his dwelling, and his seat in the family pew was seldom vacant. Here he exhibited his accustomed activity in spiritual and secular matters. He was liberal in his donations; and in his private charities a proper subject never went away empty-handed. He carried the same sincerity into the church he practiced in business affairs. He did not believe religion consisted merely in profession; he thought doing good to others an important part of it. At eighty-two, General Davis represented his church at a Baptist conference at Boston,²³ Mass., and greatly enjoyed his visit.

²¹ The Davisville Baptist church, an offshoot of the Southampton church, was organized March 31, 1849, with thirty-one constituent members. A place of worship was built the same year; subsequently enlarged and improved and a parsonage erected. It has over two hundred members, with a large Sunday school. It is one of the most flourishing of the denomination in the county.

²² William H. Conard was born at Montgomery Square, Pa., October 8, 1832; was baptized January 1, 1855; graduated at Lewisburg University, in 1862; was ordained to preach the same year, and settled as pastor at Davisville Baptist church, where he remained fourteen years. He next became pastor of the church at Bristol, Pa., in 1876, and in 1880 was appointed Secretary of the Pennsylvania Baptist General Association, where he is still engaged. He is a member of the Board of Curators of the Lewisburg University. The mother of Mr. Conard spent her early years, and until married, in the family of Colonel Thomas Humphrey, of whom we have already written.

²³ Boston, the capital of Massachusetts, and the chief city of New England, was founded in 1630. It is the wealthiest city in the country according to the population, which is less than half a million. It is rich in educational institutions, and the inhabitants boast of their culture.

As the daughters of General Davis grew to womanhood, they married and left the parental home. Ann, the eldest, was the first to marry, December 10, 1835, to James Erwin, of Newtown, the son of Oliver Erwin, who took part in the Irish Rebellion of 1798, and was obliged to flee his country. They settled in Newtown, and afterward removed to Morrisville, where he died in 1844. The only surviving child, a daughter, married Henry Mercur,²⁴ of Towanda, Pa., in 1866, and was left a widow with three children. His second daughter, Rebecca, was married January 5, 1840, to Alfred T. Duffield, of Davisville, where he settled, as storekeeper and farmer, and passed the remainder of his life, dying in September, 1871. His wife died January 2, 1884. The eldest son, J. Davis Duffield, is a member of the Philadelphia bar, the younger, T. H. Benton Duffield, a farmer of Southampton, and the daughter, Amy, married Gustav A. Endlich,²⁵ of the Reading bar, a graduate of the Gymnasium at Stuttgart,²⁶ and the Col-

²⁴ Son of the late Henry Mercur, a merchant of Towanda, and a nephew of the Chief Justice.

²⁵ Gustav A. Endlich, the son of John Endlich, United States Consul at Bâle, Switzerland, under President Buchanan, was born in Berks county, Pa., January 29, 1856. He studied at Stuttgart, Tuebingen, and Darmstadt, Germany, from 1879 to 1872; graduated at Princeton, 1875; was admitted to the Reading bar, 1877; wrote, in 1882, "The Law of Building Associations in the United States;" in 1884, "The Law of Affidavits of Defense in Pennsylvania," and edited, in 1885, two volumes, "Woodward's Decisions,"

²⁶ Stuttgart, the capital of Wurtemberg, Germany, is on a branch of the

lege of New Jersey,²⁷ Princeton, December 12, 1883.

The most serious breach in the domestic circle at Davisville was caused by the death of Mrs. Davis, August 17, 1847. It was sudden, and the illness brief. She enjoyed her usual good health down to her last sickness. It was a great shock to the family, coming wholly unexpected. She was buried at Southampton, followed to the grave by an unusually large concourse of relatives and friends. The funeral discourse was preached by Rev. Joseph Matthias, of Hilltown Baptist church.²⁸ Mrs. Davis was one of the best of women; and as wife, mother, neighbor and friend, was never excelled. She was a fine singer, and the writer can almost hear her sweet voice, after the lapse of more than half a century, singing

Neckar. The population was 56,103, in 1861. It is surrounded by gardens and vineyards, and contains many public buildings, including a public library of 200,000 volumes. Printing and bookbinding form the chief industry. Its foundation is of ancient date, and owes its name to a castle which existed prior to 1080. It is a beautiful city.

²⁷ The College of New Jersey, at Princeton, 40 miles northeast of Philadelphia, was founded in 1746, and was presided over by Rev. Aaron Burr and Rev. Jonathan Edwards. It is one of the foremost educational institutions in the country. A sharp conflict took place there January 3, 1777, between the Americans, under Washington, and British troops, under Colonel Mawhood.

²⁸ The Hilltown Baptist church, Bucks county, Pa., an offshoot of the Montgomery Baptist church, was constituted in 1781, with fifty-four members; services having been held there for several years previously, the members going down to Montgomery to take communion. The first pastor was Rev. John Thomas, born at Radnor, in 1711, and called to the ministry, in 1751. The pastorate of Rev. Joseph Matthias extended from 1806 to 1851, forty-five years.

the favorite hymns she sang to him when a child. When she died the poor of the neighborhood lost their best friend. The next members of the family to marry were the daughters Sarah and Amy, both on the same day, June 12, 1850, in the parlor at Davisville, the former to Ulysses Mercur, of Towanda,²⁹ Pa., a lawyer by profession, and the latter to Holmes Sells,³⁰ a practicing physician of Dublin, Ohio. The former is now Chief Justice of Pennsylvania, with a family of four sons and one daughter, and three of them married. Two of the sons, Rodney and James, are lawyers, and one, John, is a physician settled in Philadelphia. The daughter, Mary, married B. F. Eshleman,³¹ of the Lancaster³² bar. The youngest son is a student at Cambridge University.³³ Dr. Sells

²⁹ Towanda, the county seat of Bradford county, Pa., on the right bank of the Susquehanna river, was laid out in 1812, and incorporated in 1828. Its growth was slow for several years, but it is now a flourishing town of about 8,000 inhabitants, with three lines of railroads centering there.

³⁰ The family settled in Ohio in the early days of the State. Dr. Sells finished his medical studies at one of the Philadelphia schools, and commenced practice at Dublin, on the Sciota, ten miles above Columbus. He went South in 1859.

³¹ The Eshlemans are an old German family of wealth and standing, long settled in Lancaster county. B. F. was admitted to the bar several years ago; is now in good practice, and an active man in Republican politics.

³² Lancaster, the county seat of the county of the same name, one of the richest in Pa., was laid out in 1730, and incorporated in 1742. It was settled by Germans, whose descendants largely predominate. The Pennsylvania Railroad runs through the city.

³³ Harvard College, or Cambridge University, as it is frequently called, was founded by the General Court of Massachusetts, in 1636, endowed by John Harvard, in 1638, and the first class graduated in 1642. Henry

and wife have been residents of Atlanta, Georgia, since 1860. They lived there during its siege, by Sherman's army, 1864, and had some very rough experience. Their only son, John D. Sells, is settled in the practice of the law at Pottsville, Pa.

The only son of the family, W. W. H. Davis, was married, June 24, 1856, to Anna Carpenter,³⁴ of Brooklyn,³⁵ New York. They had seven children, of whom three, one son and two daughters, are living. The eldest daughter, Margaret Sprague, was married February 18, 1886, to Samuel A. W. Patterson,³⁶ son of Rear-Admiral Thomas H. Patterson,³⁷ U. S. N.,

Dunster was the first President. It is now a strong institution of learning and richly endowed. About 1,500 students study annually in its various schools.

³⁴ A daughter of Jacob Carpenter, of Brooklyn, whose family came from Germany, about the close of the Napoleonic Wars. Her mother was the daughter of English parents, and descended from the family of Admiral Blake, through a sister, and was a relative of King, the great English composer.

³⁵ Brooklyn, the county seat of Kings county, New York, is situated on Staten Island, and separated from New York by the East River. It is called the City of Churches, and contains many beautiful edifices and streets. The population was 350,000 in 1865, and is now considerably over half a million.

³⁶ Mr. Patterson entered the Naval Academy in 1876, and graduated in 1882. After making several cruises while in the academy, upon graduation he was attached to the Flag Ship Hartford, of the Pacific station, where he served two years, making a notable cruise of 50,000 miles. He was highly recommended for his seamanship.

³⁷ Thomas H. Patterson, Rear-Admiral, U. S. N., retired, son of Commodore Daniel T. Patterson, a Midshipman on the Philadelphia frigate when captured before Tripoli, in 1801, and Commander of Jackson's gunboats on the Mississippi, when he made the night attack on the British, De-

and a graduate of the Naval Academy.³⁸ Mrs. Davis died April 3, 1881. Mr. Davis is a graduate of the Norwich Military University;³⁹ studied law; was admitted to the bar, and completed his legal studies at Dane Law School, Harvard College, and practiced five years. He has filled several public stations; was an officer in the Mexican, and War of the Rebellion, in the latter breveted Brigadier-General for meritorious services at the siege of Charleston; was four years in the civil service of the government in New Mexico,⁴⁰ as United States District Attorney, Secretary of Territory, Superintendent of Indian Affairs, and Acting Governor; was Honorary Commissioner of the United States to the Paris Exposition, 1878; was Democratic candidate for Congress in the Seventh District, in 1882, and for the State-at-large, in 1884. The nominations were tendered him, and, in both instances, he ran ahead of his

ember 23, 1814, was born at New Orleans in 1820. He entered the Navy, in 1836; was promoted to Passed-Midshipman, in 1842; Master, in 1848; Lieutenant, in 1849; Commander, in 1862; Captain, in 1866; Commodore, in 1871, and Rear-Admiral, in 1878. His last active command was the Asiatic Squadron, and was placed on the retired list in 1883.

³⁸ A Naval School was established at Newport, R. I. After some years it was removed to Annapolis, Md., in the administration of President Polk, about 1846, and the Academy organized. Here young men are educated for the Naval service; the course of studies is extensive and exact, and the discipline severe.

³⁹ The school was established by Captain Alden Partridge, about 1824, and afterward chartered by the State.

⁴⁰ Acquired from Mexico under the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, in 1848.

ticket. He is now United States Pension Agent at Philadelphia, which office he was not an applicant for. The fifth daughter, Elizabeth, never married, and has been the recognized female head of the family since the death of her mother. She possesses the noblest traits of character, and has fine capacity for business.

He was an excellent business man, straight and frank in all his dealings, and the man never lived who had greater regard for his word. We never knew a person who had such hatred for a liar, or a distorter of the truth. Whoever deceived him never recovered his confidence. One of the earliest lessons he taught his children, was absolute fealty to a promise. He was especially sensitive in money matters, and, if he promised to pay a debt at a certain time, no human influence could prevent him keeping his word. He expected others to be governed by the same standard, but he often realized he had placed it too high to be reached by all. He was very considerate of others, and could not be induced to wound the feelings of the humblest individual. No man possessed more of the instincts of a true gentleman, and he carried them with him alway. Toward women he was as gentle and polite as a knight of old. His public and private integrity were delightful to contemplate; and nothing could influence him to depart from the right. In this he was unyielding. Nature had endowed him with

honest instincts, and he applied them in his private and public life. He was free from guile and deceit, and was, in the highest sense, a man of honor. His intellectual abilities were of the highest order; his mind was analytical, and his memory tenacious. Possessing such mental endowments, added to excellent physical health, he might have reached the highest public stations had he been blessed with a scholastic education in his youth. He was a warm advocate of temperance, and a total abstainer the last thirty years of his life, but was never a member of any organization. He was the first man in his neighborhood to withhold liquor from workmen, and increase their wages in consequence. Others followed his example and the evil practice was gradually abandoned.

General Davis was the promoter of all movements calculated to advance young and old, in intellectual pursuits. He was an early friend of debating schools, and encouraged the discussion of public questions at all suitable times and places. He believed this to be one of the best methods of disseminating knowledge among the people. Forty or fifty years ago, nearly every neighborhood had its debating society, generally in the school house, where many a statesman received his first forensic training. These debates he attended and participated in, whenever the question to be discussed interested him. He was a pleasant, fluent, and forcible speaker,

and his earnest way of presenting his views impressed all listeners, and frequently carried conviction. His friendship was worth having, for he stuck to his friends "closer than a brother." No allurements, threats or promises could induce him to desert them. Both friends and enemies knew just where to find him at all times, and under all circumstances. A friend, who knew him well, writes:

"The hold, John Davis obtained, and kept, upon men, was mainly owing to his strong, bold, earnest and truthful character. He saw the truth clearly, and enforced it in a stalwart manner. He was a man of principle. If he antagonized a measure, or opposed a candidate, it was with such evident honesty and convictions of duty, he obtained, by degrees, a mastery over those who differed with him, on political measures. When in his prime he was a power in politics or out of it, and his stubborn facts were hard to gainsay or overthrow."

CHAPTER XI.

No man was more deeply imbued with patriotic impulses than General Davis. He was a believer in the sentiment, "Our country, may she always be right; but our country, right or wrong," and was ready to act upon it whenever the occasion required. He considered the 4th of July a political sabbath, and was in favor of celebrating it with proper ceremonies, including the beating of drums and the burning of gunpowder. He was never absent from these celebrations in his own neighborhood, and often drove several miles to attend one. He generally drank a patriotic toast, as was the custom at that day. In 1827 he was selected to read the Declaration of Independence, at a 4th of July celebration at New Hope, and a few years afterward was the orator of the day at the same place, on a similar occasion.

He was full of incidents of the Revolution, received from the lips of his father, and delighted to rehearse them to his children and others. Among these incidents we remember the following: While the American army occupied the western bank of the Delaware, and the British the eastern, in December, 1776, the soldiers of the two armies were in

the habit of going to the river for water. One day a Hessian came down with a bucket, and having a contempt for his enemy on this side, made a very insulting demonstration to the Americans. The latter could not stand this, and a soldier, named "Cobe" Scout,¹ drew a bead on the Hessian with a rifle of his own make, and killed him across the river. This took place about where Trenton stands, and the father of General Davis witnessed it. In 1860 a movement was put on foot to erect a monument to the memory of the American soldiers who fell at the Crooked Billet, now Hatboro, when surprised by the British, the first of May, 1778. He was one of the most active in the enterprise, and his name headed the subscription list.

When the Civil War broke out all his patriotism and love of country were aroused. He predicted the evil consequences that would follow the defeat of Mr. Douglass, in 1860, and used his best endeavors to prevent it. He considered the firing on the flag at Sumter² the crowning iniquity of the doctrine of

¹ Scout was a unique character, and quite noted in his day. He was a friend of John Fitch, who taught him silversmithing, to which he added gunmaking. He made his home at Charles Garrison's, in Warminster. His silver spoons were held in high estimation by the housewives of three-quarters of a century ago, and his long rifles were equally celebrated. He died in 1829, at the age of ninety. Fitch engraved his map of the "North-western part of the United States," in Cobe Scout's shop, and Scout witnessed the first trial of Fitch's steamboat, on Arthur Watts' dam, in Southampton.

² A strong fortress in Charleston harbor, at which the first gun was fired April 13, 1861, that brought on the War of the Rebellion.

secession. He did not hesitate a moment as to his course, and was among the first to raise his voice in favor of maintaining the integrity of the Union, and putting down rebellion by the strong arm. He looked forward to a long and bloody conflict, for he knew the quality of men we had to deal with. He took the ground there should be but one party while the war lasted, the party of the country, and that factional fights should cease while there was an armed enemy in the field.

When the President called for troops, in April, 1861, no man in the county or State, gave greater encouragement to the cause. He attended Union meetings, presiding and making speeches thereat; encouraged the young men to enter the military service; and was liberal in his contributions to fit out those who went to the field, and to maintain their families at home. He advocated the most energetic measures against those in arms against the constituted authorities. Had his age permitted, he would have been an active participant in the war. While the One Hundred and Fourth Regiment³ was being organized, he was a frequent visitor at their camp, at Doylestown. He paid a visit to the camp

³ The One Hundred and Fourth Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers, was recruited by W. W. H. Davis, and organized at Doylestown, September, 1861, to serve for three years, or during the war. The authority was received direct from the War Department.

of the Third Pennsylvania Reserves,⁴ at Easton,⁵ in which he had personal friends among the officers.⁶

⁴ The "Pennsylvania Reserve Corps" was a body of troops organized by Governor Andrew G. Curtin, by authority of the Legislature, at the breaking out of the Rebellion. It consisted of fifteen regiments, which rendered distinguished services during the war.

⁵ Easton is the seat of justice of Northampton county, Pa., on the Delaware, at the mouth of the Lehigh. In olden times it was known as "Forks of Delaware." The site was selected, and the town laid out, in 1752. It was a noted place for holding Indian treaties, and is rich in historical associations. It was incorporated in 1789, and has a population of about 16,000; with many industries, and railroad connections.

⁶ The following letter, from Dr. Joseph Thomas, Captain in the Third Reserves, a prominent citizen of Bucks county, and recently her representative in the State Senate, gives the views of General Davis on the subject of defending the Union :

QUAKERTOWN, Pa., August 7, 1886.

My Dear General :—Your note of the 6th instant is received. It recalls to my recollection the promise I made you, last spring, in a conversation about your father, whose biography you informed me you were preparing, to furnish you a brief reminiscence of an interview with him early in the war. It occurred at Easton, Pa., where several companies of the "Pennsylvania Reserve Corps" were then encamped for instruction; and among them were the three companies from this county, Beatty's, from Bristol; Feaster's, from Newtown, and mine from Applebachville. Your father had made a visit to the camp, to see the Bucks county boys, who had volunteered to defend the flag and the unity of the States. It was early in June, 1861. I had known him intimately for several years, and had greatly admired his political course and public record. I was then an ardent Democrat, and felt a curiosity to learn his views of the impending conflict, its magnitude, and its probable issue. He was intensely patriotic and zealous in the cause of putting down the Rebellion. I remember expressions of this character: "All party feelings, at such times as these, when the safety and integrity of the Union are threatened, must yield to the single thought of suppressing the Rebellion;" "No man, who has regard for his reputation and history in the future, can now afford to be lukewarm and indifferent in this cause;" "I am too old to take an active hand in the contest, but I felicitate you, and men of your age, in the stand

When Company A, First New Jersey Cavalry,⁷ raised chiefly in the counties of Montgomery and Bucks, left Hatboro, August 5, 1861, to join their regiment, at Trenton, N. J., he made the farewell address in the presence of a large concourse of neighbors and friends.

One of the most useful organizations in the county, to give aid and comfort to the soldiers and their families, during the War of the Rebellion, was the Hartsville Ladies' Aid Society. He presided at the second meeting; his daughter, Elizabeth was its president to the close of the war, and he one of its most active and useful members. It was organized in October, 1861, about the time the One Hundred and Fourth Regiment was ready for the field. A

you have taken, and the course you are pursuing;" "I remember the odium which attached and adhered to the Tories of the Revolution, and their descendants, down to the present time. A greater infamy awaits the memory of those who now turn their backs to their country in its hour of danger;" "Peace and unity first, then party." His age, his dignified demeanor, and his earnestness and candor made an indelible impression, in all that he said. A thousand pardons for my delay in fulfilling my promise. Yours very truly,

(Signed) JOSEPH THOMAS.

To Gen. W. W. H. Davis.

⁷ The First New Jersey Cavalry was recruited by William Halstead, of Trenton, in the summer of 1861, and went to Washington that fall. Halstead resigned soon afterwards, and it fell into abler hands. It became one of the best cavalry regiments in service. Company A held its first re-union at Hatboro, August 5, 1886, just twenty-five years after it left for the war, when an address was made on the occasion by General W. W. H. Davis, son of General John Davis, who made the farewell address just twenty-five years before.

few days before it left for Washington, it marched down to Hartsville, over a thousand strong, and the officers and men were entertained right royally by the inhabitants of that place and vicinity. They were dined at long tables set in a field below the public inn, on the Bristol road. Those most active in getting up this entertainment were the men and women engaged in organizing the Aid Society. The membership reached one hundred and forty-one during the winter. The amount paid into the treasury was \$2,986.93, and twenty-nine boxes, whose contents were valued at \$4,050, were forwarded to the army. The society was dissolved at the close of the war.

In all public affairs of the county, General Davis took a leading part, and was a pioneer of thought and opinion on all questions that interested his people. He was always ready to serve the public "without money and without price." This was notably the case in his opposition to the scheme to divide the county, one of the three original counties of the province.⁸ Several attempts were made during his residence⁹ in it. It was a political measure,

⁸ By virtue of an act of the Provincial Assembly, of March, 1683, Pennsylvania was divided into three counties, Philadelphia, Bucks and Chester. It was originally called "Fuckingham." "Bucks" gradually grew into use. The original seal of the county was a "tree and a vine."

⁹ An attempt was made to divide the county, in 1814, soon after the seat of justice was removed to Doylestown; then in 1816, again in 1821, 1827, and in 1836. The attempt of 1855 was the most serious, and came

which he bitterly opposed, and both wrote and spoke against it. The most desperate attempt at division was made in 1854. The bill had passed the Senate with little opposition, and the House committee was ready to report it favorably, when General Davis was waited on by some of his political enemies, and urged to go to Harrisburg and defeat the measure. It was conceded he was the only man in the county who could do it. When he appeared upon the scene, its friends were jubilant over the certainty of the passage of the bill. He took the matter in hand, and wielded his personal and political influence with such prudence and sagacity he defeated it without difficulty. The House committee reported against it, and it was allowed to sleep the sleep that knows no waking. The new Constitution makes it difficult to divide counties, and it is to be hoped that Bucks, once the home of William Penn the Founder, may never have her present boundaries disturbed.

General Davis never refused his support to any movement for good in his neighborhood. If he did not originate, he was one of the first to lend assistance. If a turnpike was to be built, a road opened ; if the public need required a railroad laid out through his section, a church or school house built, or a lyceum established, he was one of the first applied

the nearest to success. The new county, to be called "Penn," was to have a population of 29,381, of which 20,274 were to come from Bucks, and 9,107 from the six rural districts of Philadelphia.

to for encouragement, and it was seldom, if ever, refused.

He retained his interest in public affairs to the last. On the first day of February, 1878, he visited Newtown to take part in the opening of the railroad from Philadelphia. It was a bleak, wintry day, and the ground covered with snow; nevertheless he made a speech in the open air, and his voice was loud and clear. At this time he was within six months of ninety years of age. His health was good and he enjoyed the occasion exceedingly. On the first of March, a month later, he was present at the centennial celebration at Doylestown, another season of enjoyment for him. Among the prominent persons present were General Robert Patterson, General Simon Cameron, George W. Childs, Esq.,¹⁰ proprietor of the *Public Ledger*, and Count Dassi,¹¹ Presi-

¹⁰ George W. Childs was born in Maryland, and came to Philadelphia when fourteen. He began his business career as a shopboy in a bookstore, and next opened a small bookstore in the old *Ledger* Building, Third and Chestnut. In time he became a book publisher, and his firm, Childs & Peterson, was one of the most respected and enterprising. He turned aside to realize the crowning ambition of his life, in 1864, and became the proprietor of the *Public Ledger*. He lent all his energy and talent to make it a leading newspaper, and the net income of \$1,000 a day is evidence of its financial success. Mr. Childs is noted for his princely hospitality and generosity, his quiet acts of kindness flowing in a thousand channels. He is one of the richest and most respected citizens of Philadelphia and the country.

¹¹ Count Guisepe Dassi, President of the Italian Commission to the Centennial of 1876, is a distinguished patriot and citizen of Italy. He has spent several years of his life in political prisons, for opinion sake. He

dent of the Italian Centennial Commission. No one enjoyed the occasion more than he, and being surrounded with so many friends seemed to revive his youth. He returned home in the best of spirits, and it was not known that he was injuriously affected by the exposure.

He possessed great decision of character, and, if satisfied he was right, could not be moved. This trait was tested a few years after he settled in Southampton, when a young man. As he was driving a heavy load of sawed lumber to Philadelphia, he was met, just below the Fox Chase,¹² by a handsome carriage, with driver and outriders in livery. The mud was deep, with a single track, and it was impossible to turn out. Both parties halted, when the occupant of the carriage put his head out the window, and, in an imperative tone, ordered the young man with the team to turn out and let him pass. This he declined to do; whereupon the occupant of the carriage ordered one of his servants to seize the horses and

was a trusted friend of Garibaldi and Mazzini, in the Revolution that freed Italy from Austrian rule, and he was one of the triumvirs that governed the country at that critical period. He is a man of learning and a great linguist. He remained in Philadelphia, studying our institutions, until 1884, when he returned to Italy. The King decorated him for his services at the Centennial.

¹² The village of Fox Chase, on the Middle, or Oxford, road, in Philadelphia county, took its name from the sign of "a fox chase" that swung at the public house. It was a noted hostelry in its day, and much patronized by farmers and others. It is still in license as an inn.



turn them out in the mud. This brought things to a crisis. He now placed himself in front of his team, cart-whip in hand, and told his haughty opponent, in a quiet way, he would knock down the first man who touched his horses. This settled the controversy; the carriage turned out and drove on, and the team pursued its way to the city. The carriage stopped at the Fox Chase tavern, and the occupant inquired the name of the man with the team, saying he wished to prosecute him. But when told who he was, and the kind of man he had to deal with, he reversed his decision. The occupant of the carriage was a foreign Consul residing at Philadelphia. He may have been able to drive over plain people at home, but a Bucks county farmer taught him he could not do it in this country.

Among General Davis' peculiarities, and all men of his positive character have them, was that of talking to himself, on subjects he took an interest in, while walking about his farms, at his home, or driving around the country. The writer has often listened to him discuss the tariff and other questions, in the presence of an imaginary audience, and seen him gesticulate as if addressing a listening senate. He received the full benefit of these discourses, and frequently learned things not to be found in the books. One day one of his daughters, who understood this peculiarity of her father, heard him discussing some questions alone in the sitting room. When she came

in, shortly afterward, she said to him, "Papa, who were you talking to, a few minutes ago?" to which he replied, "Elizabeth, I was talking to a very sensible man." They mutually smiled, but nothing further was said. A few years before his death he built a cottage on the opposite side of the Street road for his daughter, Mrs. Duffield, but she never occupied it. In 1876, he removed his own family into it from the dwelling adjoining the store-house, where he had lived forty-six years, and there spent the remainder of his life. His daughter Elizabeth continued to preside over his household.

We now come to the close of this long and active life. His last illness was of short duration. Although blessed with general good health and seldom sick, he suffered many years from dyspepsia. He was taken to bed at the age of eighty, and his life despaired of, for a time, but he was restored, and seemed to enjoy better health than before. He was as well as usual, down to within less than thirty days of his death. There were indications of a slight attack of paralysis, but his last sickness was caused by the wearing out and running down of the machinery of life. He was confined to his bed about three weeks, when he passed peacefully to

"That undiscovered country"

the poet writes about, the first day of April, 1878, within four months of ninety. He was buried on the

4th, in the old graveyard of the Southampton Baptist church, where a granite monument marks the resting places of himself and wife. The estimation in which deceased was held was attested by the attendance at his funeral, one of the largest ever held in the county. A dozen clergymen were present, and the Rev. S. V. Marsh, pastor of the church, preached an appropriate sermon.

While the death of General Davis was a loss to all circles he moved in, it was most severely felt in the neighborhood where he had lived sixty-five years, and for which he had done so much. Taking him away was the removal of the central figure of the community. His character may be summed up in a few words; he was a sincere Christian, an affectionate husband and father, a good friend and neighbor, a just and upright man, a public-spirited citizen, and a lover of his country.

The death of General Davis was very generally noted in the newspapers of the State, and by a number out of it. Some of them published lengthy obituary notices; and in all, his high qualities as a man and citizen were recognized. The Bucks County Bible Society, which he had assisted to organize, and, at one time, was one of the Vice Presidents, took official notice of his decease, and acknowledged his services. At the sixty-second annual meeting, held the 19th of September, 1879, at the Neshaminy Presbyterian church, the following

preamble and resolutions, offered by Rev. William H. Conard, were unanimously adopted :

WHEREAS, Since the last meeting of this Society, our Heavenly Father has removed from earth, General John Davis, one of the founders of this Society, and for many years a Vice President, therefore, *resolved*,

1. That we bow in humble submission to the good will of God, who gives to his servants their day of labor and takes them to their reward.

2. We remember with gratitude the loving interest which General Davis ever manifested in the work of this Society, and the efficient aid which he was ever ready to afford in giving the Bible to the needy.

3. We thank God that he spared his servant to a good old age, and gave him the peaceful, happy death of the righteous.

4. We commend the family of our brother to the precious consolations of God, upon which his own hope for the future was founded.

General Davis was a link between the Old and the New. His life spanned the most interesting period of our history. He was born less than a year after the Constitution was formed; the same year the government went into operation; and before all the thirteen Colonies had entered the Union. When he died, he was as old as the government. He lived through the period our republican system was on trial; he witnessed the dangers that beset it, and shared in the rejoicings when they were met and overcome. He saw, and conversed with, the men

who gained our independence, and established the Union ; and survived the great struggle for its perpetuation eighty years afterward. In his lifetime, the republic grew from thirteen feeble States to thirty-eight powerful commonwealths ; the population was increased from less than four millions to fifty. He witnessed the same mighty changes in social and domestic life. When he was twenty-one, the simple and economic habits of the Revolution prevailed. He lived to see luxury and extravagance increase with the accumulation of riches ; and, when he died, the country was filled with nabobs whose habits were princely. The rapid growth of wealth had changed the habits of the people, and made them the most wasteful on earth. It is vouchsafed to few men, to live through such an eventful period. There have been greater men than John Davis, but none with nobler qualities of head and heart, nor with higher principles, nor of whom, in the discharge of all the duties of life, it can be more worthily said :

“ Well done, thou good and faithful servant.”

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX.

We have space for only the following newspaper notices of the death of General Davis :

The National Baptist.

General Davis was a representative man. He filled important positions in the government, and always to the joy of those who confided their trust to him ; whether as a military officer, member of Congress, Surveyor of the Port, Appraiser of Public Works, or any of the various positions in public, and private life, with which an appreciative people were constantly honoring him, he made every other question yield to that of strict justice. He was a man of very positive character, and where he set himself to gain a point it would require a host to prevent him securing it. But with all he was gentle and loving in his home, and greatly esteemed by all who knew him. He was a wise counselor, and a friend to the deserving youth of his neighborhood. He leaves behind him an honored family.

The Public Ledger.

General John Davis, who died at his home, in Bucks county, on Monday, and of whose public life a sketch is published in another column of the *Ledger*, to-day, was one of the class of farmer-statesmen whom Pennsylvania called upon to represent her more frequently half a century ago than to-day. He belonged to the school of citizens who feel they have duties to discharge as well as rights to assert. When duty called him he was always ready, whether it was to consider the affairs of the village in which he resided, the welfare of the county, or the State or the nation. He had full part in the councils of all of them, doing his share of the work whether it called him to the repair of the township road, the improvement of the local school, marching with his company of riflemen in defence of the country, or going to Congress. Though a resident of a somewhat secluded agricultural district, and his immediate home being in a small village, his influence forty to fifty years ago was felt all over the State.

During the active period of his political life General Davis was a leader of the Democratic party, in the days when Democracy meant something

more than a party cry at election time. He was sturdy in the faith, and strong in the reasons and the facts upon which his party convictions were founded, and it took a powerful adversary to cope with him successfully in debate, whether on the party platform or in Congress. He was close enough to the founders of the Republic to feel that political principles are vital things, for his voting days began under President Madison, and his life went back over the whole period covered by the Constitution of the United States. He lived far beyond the "three-score years and ten," being within four months of ninety years old at the time of his decease, and only a few weeks ago he was the picture of health. In private life he was a kindly, genial gentleman, charitable to those needing his help, a good and useful citizen, highly respected and confided in by the people of the State, beloved by his neighbors and family, and, as he advanced toward patriarchal age, held in just veneration.

The Times, Philadelphia.

After an uncommonly long, active and useful life, General John Davis, of Davisville, Bucks county, died at his residence in that place yesterday, (April 1), in the ninetieth year of his age. He came of good Revolutionary stock, his father having fought through the whole War of the Revolution, and assisted in carrying General Lafayette off the field, when wounded at the battle of Brandywine. He was born in this State, but at an early age he removed to Maryland, where he remained until the breaking out of the war with Great Britain, in 1812, when he returned to his native State, and located at what is now Davisville. * * *

* * * * For nearly half a century he was a prominent Democratic leader in the county and State, and also wielded a large influence in National affairs. He belonged to the upright, vigorous men of a former age, and his discharge of public duties was of the most pure and rigid character. He turned neither to the right nor the left, but took the straight line with pure heart and clean hands. He was intensely ardent in his love of country, and would have sacrificed his life and property on its altar, without a moment's hesitation. As an advocate he was sharp and incisive. As a political fighter he asked no quarter and gave none. But he was fair to an opponent, and only claimed what he thought was due to the facts he presented. No man ever held so long a lease of political power in a county as General Davis, and used that power with a more conscientious regard for the people with whom he was associated. As a soldier his record is without blemish. He rose from Ensign, through all the ranks of command, to Major-General of the

military division composed of Bucks and Montgomery counties, and as a drill master and disciplinarian never had an equal in the State. Under General Davis the volunteers of that section of the State acquired an enviable reputation. * * * * * In his immediate neighborhood he was truly a Good Samaritan, and his memory will long be embalmed in the recollection of a grateful people. He was an earnest, consistent Christian, and the close of his long career was hallowed by that calm and peaceful repose, which only religion can bestow.

Bucks County Intelligencer.

After an illness of about ten days, which, from the beginning, was expected by his physician and his family to be fatal, General John Davis died at his residence, in Davisville, Southampton township, on Monday forenoon. In a private capacity the life of General Davis was mostly spent as a merchant and farmer in the village of Davisville, where he kept the store and post office for a long number of years. The last public appearance of General Davis was on the occasion of the Centennial Celebration in Doylestown, just a month before his death, when he met and renewed former personal associations with General Cameron and several other old friends. * * * * * When the war for the Union broke out no man in Bucks county was more active and energetic in promoting enlistments, and encouraging the people to send help to the soldiers in the field. At the war meetings held in the vicinity, his voice was raised for the good cause, and substantial help was given by himself and his family to the Aid Societies within reach. In the bitter struggle of 1860, he had been a steadfast Douglass man, and he did not abandon his sentiments when the hour of trial came. * * * * * Those who sought to argue with him, on almost any subject, found him a formidable antagonist, always ready with pertinent facts and illustrations to enforce his particular views. Although a radical Democrat, he did not allow political differences to appear in his social life, and members of all parties were equally welcome at his fireside and generous board. To young men, especially, he was always kind and encouraging, helping them, whenever he could, by a word of timely advice, toward success and honor. In a word, General Davis was a fair type of the active, industrious and far-sighted men of the last generation, now fast disappearing, who did so much to build up the social and material features of the system of life we enjoy to-day.

A correspondent of the *Daily Herald*, Norristown, wrote :

General John Davis, of Davisville, Bucks county, died on Monday, April 1st. He was a soldier of 1812, the founder of the village which bears his name, an honored, useful and public-spirited citizen, prominent politician and Christian gentleman, having commenced life by labor in a saw-mill, which he still worked till his death. He was commander of the American forces which welcomed General Lafayette to the State of Pennsylvania on his visit to America, member of Congress, Surveyor of the Port of Philadelphia, etc.

His burial was very largely attended. Eleven ministers assisted at the funeral. There were eighteen bearers, among whom were General Robert Patterson, General H. G. Sickel, Judge Cadwalader, Judge Watson, Judge Ross, Hon. I. Newton Evans, Hon. Harman Yerkes, Hon. Charles H. Hill, and N. B. Johnson, Esq.

The attendance of friends of the deceased was immense. Three hundred persons took breakfast, and five hundred took dinner at his residence, while the entire community turned out.

The notable feature was the large number of old men present. So many gray-haired citizens were never seen together in this vicinity.

Funeral of General Davis.—The funeral ceremonies of the late General John Davis were held at his residence, in Davisville, and at the Southampton Baptist church, on Thursday. By ten o'clock in the forenoon the neighbors and friends began to assemble, and by eleven a very large company of people had gathered. The residents of the neighborhood were strongly represented, for General Davis had lived among them for more than sixty years, and was in all respects identified with them and their interests. There were also many present from a greater distance, including men who are widely known in public life. Among the company thus gathered were Judge Cadwalader, Judge Paxson, Judge Mercur (son-in-law of the deceased), Judge Yerkes, Judge Watson, Judge Ross, General Robert Patterson, Hon. Cal: b N. Taylor, Hon. I. N. Evans, Major John O. James, Col. Isaiah James, Senator Yerkes, Count Dassi, Rev. Mahlon Long, G. Rodman Fox, Esq., and many others more or less widely known in the community. At the house the ceremonies were very brief, consisting mainly of a prayer by Rev. W. E. Jones, of Hartsville. The arrangements for the funeral were under the direction of Rev. Mr. Marsh, pastor

of the Davisville church, with which General Davis was connected. The appearance of the remains was but little changed by death, and his strongly-marked features were easily recognized. The body was carried out by a number of his old friends and neighbors, and it was attended by six of the gentlemen from abroad as pall-bearers. The long procession of vehicles passed over the road by way of Southamptonville to the Southampton church, which was attended by the deceased many years ago, and in the burial-ground of which his wife was buried almost a generation since. Here the church was completely filled with people. The exercises in the building consisted of a prayer by Rev. Lewis Munger, of New Britain, reading of a portion of Scripture by Rev. Mahlon Long, prayer by Rev. Mr. Nimmo, the funeral sermon by Rev. Mr. Marsh, and a prayer by Rev. Mr. Bowman. Mr. Marsh's sermon was a well-prepared and eloquent one, and contained a warm tribute to the good qualities of General Davis as they had become known to the speaker since his residence in Davisville. Rev. W. H. Conard and Rev. George Hand, both of whom had lived for many years in close association with the deceased, were called upon and bore testimony to the great worth and many virtues of their old friend and neighbor. At the grave the ceremonies were brief, and were conducted by Revs. Spencer and Marsh. The sober and attentive demeanor of the audience through all the exercises was very noticeable, and nearly every one had some tribute of respect and regard to express toward the life and character of the deceased. It was three o'clock when the funeral was completed and the company had left the church and burial ground.—*Bucks County Intelligencer*.

The following letters were received, among others :

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WASHINGTON, D. C., April 2, 1878.

My Dear Sir :—I received this morning, with surprise and sorrow, the invitation to attend your father's funeral, at Davisville, on Thursday. After a long life of usefulness he has gone, and his family can look with pride to his conduct through life, both public and private. My public duties will not permit me to be present at the funeral, which is a source of much regret to me, but I beg that you convey to his family my most heartfelt condolence. Sincerely yours,

(Signed

SAML. J. RANDALL.

DOYLESTOWN, April 5, 1878.

Dear General:—I sincerely regret that I was unable to attend the funeral of your lamented father. Had I been well, I certainly would have united with his many friends in rendering the tribute due to the remains of a distinguished citizen and Christian gentleman. After a well-spent life he has passed away, full of years, and crowned with the respect and veneration of all who survive him. Faithfully yours,

(Signed)

HENRY CHAPMAN.

GERMANTOWN, Pa., April 2, 1878.

My Dear Sir:—I tender, to you and yours, my sincere sympathy in the sad bereavement that you have experienced in the loss of so kind a father, so eminent a citizen, and so exemplary a Christian. To me he was a friend and adviser when I was almost a stranger in your county, and to that pleasant acquaintance I have frequently recurred, and never shall I forget his clear judgment and strong convictions. He was truly a Saul among men—in mind, stature and age. "May my last end be like his." I hope to get up to the funeral. Very truly your friend,

(Signed)

CHAS. W. CARRIGAN.

PHILADELPHIA, April 4, 1878.

My Dear Wats:—I deeply regretted to hear, on Monday morning from Judge Mercur, the tidings of the death of your venerable and excellent father. As far back as my memory goes, his face has been a familiar one to me, and I have hoped to look upon it again in this world. But the last of my father's circle of devoted friends is gone, and it was not my privilege to see him once more. He was, indeed, like a shock of corn ripe for the harvest, and it is a source of great thankfulness, that the close of such a well spent life was undimmed by any cloud, but that with faculties unimpaired, with the unfaltering trust in Him who is mighty to save, he calmly laid down to rest, and that now, though absent from the body, he is present with the Lord. * * * * With my kindest regards to your sisters, believe me most truly, your old friend,

(Signed)

EDWARD J. FOX.

The Rev. William S. Wood, the pastor of General Davis, while he attended the Hatboro Baptist church, and under whose ministrations he became a member, and who baptized him, writes us, from Mount Pleasant, Pa., under date of June 8, 1885 :

I am glad you are going to write the life of General John Davis. His natural traits of character were strongly marked, and all he did and said bore the impress of his strong individuality. Physically, he was robust, close built, compact and sinewy. He had a clear-working, practical mind, with sound judgment and good sense (which Robert Hall says is the most uncommon kind of sense). He had a clear discernment of what ought to be done, and was fertile in expedients for accomplishing his ends. He had the courage of his convictions, and possessed remarkable energy and force of will, which carried him beyond all opposition. He was full of enterprise, and had the power of acting on others, so as to stir them up to do their duty ; and naturally was such a man as is invaluable to any community in a worldly point of view.

But I knew him better as a Christian man. He had been a leader in worldly matters ; he at once became equally prominent as a leader in religion. The decision, promptness, energy, liberality, and other traits for which he was remarkable in his unrenewed state, but sanctified, and under the impulse of nobler motives, and directed to nobler ends, he manifested in his Christian life. The man made the Christian. It is not so always. The world often complains that the church does not make better men. The material we have to work upon comes from the world. Let the world give us better material, and we will show them better Christians. But the fact is, the world has not got many such specimens as John Davis, and but few of them are called, and, for this reason, it is unfair to expect to find many in the church.

There is one thing that deserves special mention, which I have often referred to, when preaching elsewhere, his regularity in attending the meetings of the church. During the two years and three months I was pastor, after he connected with the church, he was present at every prayer meeting, church meeting and Sabbath service, except one. Without regard to the weather, or state of the roads, he was there, driving six miles to and from his home, and on the Sabbath twice.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., May 23, 1885.

W. W. H. DAVIS, ESQ.—*Dear Sir* :—* * * * *

* * * I began my pastorate at Davisville church in September, 1862. At that time, and for some time after, your father and his family worshipped with the Hatboro church, with which he united under the ministry of Rev. W. S. Wood. Though not a member with us, it was not long before I became acquainted with him, and was cordially welcomed to his home. After I had been at Davisville a few years, I had the pleasure of receiving him and his family into the fellowship of the church. Growing physical infirmity and the distance from Hatboro were among the chief reasons for changing his church relationship. I esteemed it a very great privilege to have him a member of our church. His influence in the community was of great advantage to us. He was very regular in his attendance upon all the services. He was always ready to do his duty in every department of church work. His presence and speech were an inspiration to pastor and people. As a son with a father I lived in intimate relation with him for fourteen years, and the longer I knew him the better I loved him. He left an impress for good on the community, in which he lived so long, that will influence generations to come. I have often referred to his life as an illustration of the influence one man can exert in a community for righteousness. I am grateful for the privilege of having had so intimate an acquaintance with him.

* * * * *

Yours very truly,

(Signed,)

W. H. CONARD.

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