

- 263

S7 D4

4th July, 1884

3



REMARKS
OF
WILMOT G. DESAUSSURE,
PRESIDENT,

ON OFFERING THE REGULAR TOAST OF THE DAY,
AT THE ANNIVERSARY MEETING,
4TH JULY, 1884.

GENTLEMEN OF THE STATE SOCIETY OF
THE CINCINNATI OF SOUTH CAROLINA:

In rising to propose to you the regular standing toast of this day, I ask your permission to preface it with some remarks which I would hope may not be uninteresting to you.

So far as South Carolina is concerned, the controversy with Great Britain may be said to have commenced in 1762, when Governor Thomas Boone having advised a revision of the Election Laws, the Commons House of Assembly of the Province declined to make such revision, holding that the law as it stood was sufficient. General (then Mr.) Christopher Gadsden having been elected a member of the Commons, was presented to Governor Boone, and, the Governor refused to recognize the election. Much angry feeling was excited, and the Commons House of Assembly protested against Governor Boone's action, as an infringement of their rights and privileges. By this controversy South Carolina was prepared to unite with her Sister Colonies in the Continental Congress which assembled in New York upon the passage of the Stamp Act in 1764. This Stamp Act was resisted by all of the Colonies, on the ground that it was an attempt to tax them without representation, and was destructive of their rights as freemen.

Great Britain insisted despite the remonstrances of the Colonies, in sending the Stamps to America. "When the

Stamps arrived in Charleston, nobody would accept the office of Receiver, and they were landed in Fort Johnson, which at that time was a strong Fortress, but very negligently guarded. One hundred and fifty men were secretly organized, armed, and sent down in open boats to the Fort, to destroy the Stamps, or otherwise get rid of them. They surprised the Fort, possessed themselves of the Stamps, manned and loaded the heavy cannon, hoisted a flag, and were prepared for action by the dawn of day. The Captain of the armed ship which brought the Stamps, came to a parley with them, and was assured that they would destroy the Stamps unless he pledged himself to take them away with him immediately, and not land them anywhere in America. The condition was acceded to, the pledge given and the obnoxious Stamps immediately taken away." *Johnson's Traditions of the Revolution, 13.* In all the other Colonies resistance was made to their reception and use, and this with so united and determined spirit, that the action of the Colonies, and the attitude taken by the New York Congress induced the Parliament of Great Britain to repeal the Act; but the repealing Act contained the principle of the right of the mother country to impose taxes upon the Provinces. The repeal was received with great rejoicing in the Colonies, and the bulk of the Colonists supposed that Great Britain had yielded the point. Not so, however, with all: some of the more clear sighted saw the danger which loomed up, and perceived that the struggle must recommence, and probably in some more threatening manner. The news of the repeal was received in Charles Town. "Under a wide spreading live oak, a little north of the residence of Christopher Gadsden—the Samuel Adams of South Carolina—the patriots used to assemble during the summer and autumn of 1765, and also the following summer when the Stamp Act was repealed. There they discussed the political questions of the day. From this circumstance the green oak was called, like the Great Elm in Boston, Liberty Tree. There Gadsden assembled some of his political friends after the repeal of the Stamp Act in 1766, and while bonfires were blazing, cannons were pealing for joy, and the Legislature of South Carolina was voting a statue in honor of Pitt, he warned them not to be deceived by this mere show of justice. His keen perception comprehended the Declaratory Act in all its deformity, and while others were loud in their praises of the King and Parliament, he ceased not to proclaim the

E263
.S7D4

P.

Mr. W. C. Ford.

whole proceeding a deceptive and wicked scheme to lull the Americans into a dangerous inactivity. And more; it is claimed and generally believed in South Carolina that under Liberty Tree, Christopher Gadsden first spoke of American Independence. How early is not known, but supposed to be as early as 1764." *Lossing's Field Book of the Revolution*, vol. 2, p. 542.

The names of those patriots who used to assemble under that old Live Oak or Liberty Tree, should be very dear to the heart of every South Carolinian. Under its wide spreading branches were wont to gather, Christopher Gadsden, John Calvert, William Johnson, H. Y. Bookless, Joseph Verree, I. Barlow, John Fullerton, Tunis Tebout, James Brown, Peter Munclear, Nathaniel Lebby, William Trusler, George Flagg, Robert Howard, Thomas Coleman, Alexander Alexander, John Hall, Edward Weyman, William Field, Thomas Swaile, Robert Jones, William Laughton, John Loughton, Daniel Cannon, Uz. Rodgers, Benjamin Hawes. *Johnson's Traditions of the Revolution*. *Gibbes' Documentary History*.

All were of the yeomen of the country, chiefly mechanics and artisans. These determined patriots, these sturdy lovers of liberty, were they who strengthened and upheld, Heyward, Lynch, Middleton, and Rutledges, in the stand subsequently taken in the Continental Congress in July 1776, when it was declared "that the United Colonies are, and of a right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connexion between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved."

We of the Cincinnati Society, instituted to perpetuate the remembrance of that vast event, owe it as a solemn duty to the purposes of our institution, as well as a reverent love for those who dared to raise their voices and arms in the assertion and maintenance of political freedom, to preserve the memories and names of these true patriots, and to transmit them to our posterity, that they, too, may join in preserving in ever fresh remembrance the names of such noble men.

In the paper of George Flagg, the survivor of those who so assembled, in giving their names and speaking of a meeting in 1766, he says, "on this occasion the above persons invited Mr. Gadsden to join them, and to meet them at an oak tree just beyond Gadsden's Green, over the creek at Hampstead, to a collation prepared at their joint expense for the occasion. Here they talked over the mischiefs which the Stamp Act would have induced, and congratulated each

other on its repeal. On this occasion Mr. Gadsden delivered to them an address, stating their rights, and encouraging them to defend them against all foreign taxation. Upon which, joining hands around the tree, they associated themselves as defenders and supporters of American liberty, and from that time the oak was called Liberty Tree, and public meetings were occasionally holden there." *Gibbes' Documentary History, 1764-76, p. 10.*

In this connection, it cannot but be of interest to learn what became of this Liberty Tree. In Johnson's Traditions of the Revolution we are told as follows: "The Liberty Tree continued to be a favorite place for social and political meetings. When the Declaration of Independence was received by Governor Rutledge from Congress, he and his privy council determined that it should be proclaimed with the most imposing ceremonies ever witnessed at that time in South Carolina. The clergy of all denominations, all the military that could be paraded were joined by all the civil authorities and all the citizens in procession, and all their families in carriages proceeded up to this favorite place of resort. When Charleston was surrendered to Sir Henry Clinton, this tree was still in its original beauty. But the name and associations in history rendered it an object for destruction to the British authorities. The tree was not only cut down, but a fire made over the still upright stem, by piling its branches around it, that the destruction might be complete. I remember to have seen the low black stump after the Revolution. When the piece of land was purchased by Mr. William Dewees, and enclosed for building, the late Judge William Johnson, of the Federal Court, requested that the root when grubbed up might be given to him. He had portions of it cut and turned into cane heads, one of which was given by him to President Jefferson, and others to different friends. A part of it was sawed into thin boards and made into a neat ballot box, which he presented to the '76 Association. When the great fire of 1838 destroyed Mr. Seyle's establishment, at which their Society held their meetings, this interesting relic was consumed with the minutes of the Association recording his letter and donation."

Whenever any of us pass along Charlotte Street, east of Alexander, and nearly midway to Washington Street, let each one of us remember that we stand on or near the locality of Liberty Tree, and do silent, but grateful, homage to the principles of political liberty there promulgated in South Carolina, and to the memories of the brave men who there

dared to associate themselves as defenders and supporters of American liberty.

The keen perception of Christopher Gadsden had truly comprehended the Declaratory Act in all its deformity. The British government was determined to tax the Colonists, and but a few brief years had passed before the determination was shown in the tax on tea.

The consequences which ensued in Boston are well known to all of us. But the part which the citizens of South Carolina took, is possibly not so well known. Lossing, in his *Field Book of the Revolution*, says: "When tea was sent to America under the provisions of a new Act of 1773, the South Carolinians were as firm in their opposition to the landing of the cargoes for sale, as were the people of Boston. It was stored in the warehouses, and there rotted, for not a pound was allowed to be sold."

A crisis was at hand: the determined stand of the Colonies against the Stamp Act, had led to the repeal of such Act: but Great Britain regarded the Colonists as her subjects, and to be governed as the British Parliament deemed best. This second resistance must be crushed out by force and the strong hand of power. To accomplish this, the Boston Port Bill was enacted, and troops were sent to enforce it; to enforce it, among other ways, by taking from the Colonists their arms and ammunition. Lossing says: "The closing of the Port of Boston by Act of Parliament, on the 1st January, 1774, aroused the indignation and sympathy of the South Carolinians, and substantial aid was freely sent to the suffering inhabitants of that city."

Under the teachings of the inspired madman James Otis, and the determined spirit of Samuel Adams and others, the people of Boston resolved upon resistance, and invited the Sister Colonies to meet in Congress, and confer upon the course deemed most advisable. Again, let Lossing speak: "When the proposition for a general Congress went forth, the affirmative voice of South Carolina was among the first in response." And Bancroft, says: "As the united American people spread through the vast expanse over which their jurisdiction now extends, be it remembered that the blessing of union is due to the warm-heartedness of South Carolina. "She was alive and felt at every pore." And when we count up those, who, above others, contributed to the great result, we are to name the inspired madman James Otis, and the great statesman, the magnanimous, unwavering, faultless lover of his country, Christopher Gadsden."

Of the Boston resolutions, 10th May, 1774, that single-hearted, brave old patriot, General William Moultrie, first President of our Society, in his "Revolution" says: "On the vote being received in Charlestown, a meeting of all the inhabitants then in town was requested to meet at the corner, when a great number was convened, a chairman was chosen, and the vote laid before them. The business was of so much consequence that after some conversation, the present meeting thought it best to call as many of the inhabitants together as they could get, by sending expresses to every part of the country to request their attendance in Charlestown on the 6th July, 1774, on business of great importance; accordingly, on that day, a great number met in Charlestown, under the Exchange."

At this meeting of 6th July, 1774, Christopher Gadsden, Thomas Lynch, John Rutledge, and Edward Rutledge, were appointed as the delegates from South Carolina, to the proposed Congress to be held in Philadelphia on 5th September, 1774. Let General Moultrie continue the narrative: he says: "The delegates to the Continental Congress having returned and reported to the Committee of 96, the report was considered, and they 'found matters had become more serious.' They therefore determined to call a Provincial Congress, by sending out writs of election to every Parish and District, to elect Representatives (agreeably to the election law), to meet in Charlestown on 11th January, 1775." "On the 11th January, 1775, the gentlemen, who, on the 19th ulto., and 9th inst., had been elected deputies by such of its inhabitants of this Colony as were qualified to vote for members of the Commons House of Assembly, met in Provincial Congress, at Charlestown, where they unanimously chose Colonel Charles Pinckney to be President, and Peter Timothy, a member, to be their Secretary. The Provincial Congress then proceeded to consider "the important affairs of the Colony and the present critical situation of America." Various important matters were considered, and the 11th February was set apart as a day of fasting, humiliation and prayer. General Moultrie continues his narrative. "The Provincial Congress met at the State House on the 17th February, being the day appointed by Congress, as a day of fasting, humiliation and prayer; every place of worship in Charlestown was crowded with the inhabitants, and Congress went to St. Philip's in a body from the State House, agreeably to their resolve, and most of them in their military array; on entering the church the organ began a solemn

piece of music, and continued playing until they were seated; it was an affecting scene, as every one knew the occasion, and all joined in fervent prayer to the Lord, to support and defend us, in this our great struggle in the cause of Liberty and our Country. And the Rev. Dr. Smith, at the request of the Provincial Congress, delivered an excellent and suitable discourse upon the occasion, which very much animated the men; whilst the female part of the congregation were affected in quite a different manner; floods of tears rolled down their cheeks, from the sad reflection of their nearest and dearest friends and relations entering into a dreadful civil war, the worst of wars, and, what was most to be lamented, it could not be avoided." Drayton says: "On this occasion, the Commons House of Assembly, with their mace before them, went in procession to St. Philip's Church," &c.

The Revolution was hastening on apace. In pursuance of the determination to disarm the Colonists, General Gage sent British troops to seize the Massachusetts stores. The battle of Lexington ensued; the fire of war was kindled to blaze through many dreary years, oftentimes smoldering in the patriots camp until nearly dying out from want of supplies, but lighted again and again, until at Yorktown, the Independence of the Colonies was achieved by the ring of battle fire which encircled the haughty Earl Cornwallis, and forced him to capitulate, with his well equipped army of British veterans, to the illy clad, and almost famished patriots, whose zeal in their cause and confidence in its final success had long been the only reward, or hope of reward, which they did or could expect.

Let General Moultrie, in his own words, resume the story: "In this situation were we when the battle of Lexington was fought, without arms or ammunition; some there were in the King's stores, but we could not get them without committing some violent act. A few gentlemen went to Captain Cochran (the King's storekeeper), and demanded the keys of him; he said: 'He could not give them up, neither could he hinder them from breaking open the doors;' this hint was enough; there was no time for hesitation; and that night a number of gentlemen went and broke open the doors and carried away to their own keeping 1200 good stand of arms; Lieutenant Governor Bull offered a reward of one hundred pounds sterling to any person who would discover the persons concerned in the business; but to no purpose.

"We had now got the arms, but no ammunition; the next

thing to be done was breaking open of the magazines ; as we were fairly entered into the business, we could not step back, and the next day we broke open the magazines and found in that at Hobca 1700 pounds, at the ship yard 600 pounds, some little at Fort Charlotte, in the back country, and in private stores, the whole making about 3000 pounds, which was all we had to begin the great Revolution. * * In consequence of the battle of Lexington, the General Committee immediately summoned the Provincial Congress to meet on the first day of June. * * On our first meeting they determined upon a defensive war: and on the fourth day it was resolved to raise two regiments of five hundred men each. * * The day after the officers of the first and second regiments were balloted for, it was resolved to raise a regiment of Cavalry Rangers of five hundred men."

Speaking of the course pursued by South Carolina, Lossing says: "Having resolved on rebellion, the people of Charleston were not afraid to commit acts of legal treason."

The South Carolinians having by their acts of legal treason obtained some military stores, were not niggard in sharing with the sister Colonies. Boston was beleaguered by the American army, and the need of ammunition was very great. South Carolina was threatened by an Indian war, stirred up by British emissaries. But the South Carolina warm-heartedness, of which Bancroft speaks, led her of her scant and urgently needed supply, to furnish, at least, a part to the army around Boston. John Adams, writing to his wife on 30th July, 1775, says that "four or five tons (powder) have arrived from South Carolina."

The seizure of the arms and ammunition, and the raising of troops in South Carolina, was succeeded by the organization of a civil government. General Moultrie again tells: "The Provincial Congress having now raised troops, it was necessary to have some civil executive body to carry on the business of the Colony, during the recess of Congress; accordingly the following thirteen gentleman were elected as a Council of Safety, viz., Colonel Henry Laurens, Colonel Charles Pinckney, the Honorable Rawlins Lowndes, Thomas Ferguson, Miles Brewton, Arthur Middleton, Thomas Heyward Jr., Thomas Bee, John Huger, Colonel James Parsons, Honorable William Henry Drayton, Benjamin Elliott and William Williamson. The Committee of Safety had great power and authority vested in them; the entire command of the army, to contract debts, to stamp and issue money, to liquidate and pay all accounts, and to sign commissions for the army and navy."

Of this organization, Lossing says: "With this organization, civil government upon a republican basis was begun."

In the autumn and winter of 1775-6 the Indian War stirred up by the British emissaries broke upon the frontiers, and the South Carolina troops, under the directions of the Committee of Safety, successfully conducted the "snow campaign," and restored peace and safety.

Events were hastening; the Colonies were obliged to see that they must establish governments for themselves, and accordingly on 26th March, 1776, South Carolina adopted a constitution by which the Royal Government ceased, and a republican State government, under a President chosen by the State, became the civil and political establishment of the from thenceforth no longer Province, but State of South Carolina. In the address to the President John Rutledge, which immediately succeeded the adoption, this language is used: "We, the Legislative Council and General Assembly of South Carolina, convened under the authority of the equitable constitution of government, *established by a free people* in Congress, &c.

Colonel Carrington, in his *Battles of the Revolution*, speaking of this, says: "South Carolina thus boldly led the way to General Independence by asserting her own under John Rutledge as President, with Henry Laurens as Vice President, and William Henry Drayton as Chief Justice. An army and navy were created; Privy Council and Assembly were elected, and the issue of \$600,000 of paper money was authorized, as well as the issue of coin; and the first Republic of the New World began its life. * * * Massachusetts had begun the year with substantial freedom; South Carolina put all the machinery of a nation into operation with the opening of Spring."

Flattering as it would be to believe that our State was the first Republic of the New World, yet regard for historical truth requires me to say, that the statement is chronologically incorrect. Far away among the granite hills of New Hampshire, the Congress or Convention of that Province, on 5th January, 1776, had adopted a constitution substantially, although far more tersely worded, the same as that adopted by South Carolina on 26th March, 1776. To the patriots, therefore, of New Hampshire, must be accorded chronological priority in this vast event. South Carolina quickly followed, and probably organized more fully.

It will not be uninteresting to you to state here, that in the issue of money, ordered on 26th June, 1775, to be made

by South Carolina, the device and motto for the £5 note was: "Device, a bundle of rods or arrows tied together, representing the twelve United Colonies of America. Motto—Auspicius Salutis—1775."

Of the events which succeeded, it is not now practicable to tell. Time forbids, and some member better able should gather these together, as the contribution of the Cincinnati of South Carolina to the history of the State. A history comparatively little written, and that little so scattered, that patient toil is necessary to gather the fragments into something like a connected narrative. We are associated "to perpetuate the remembrance of the vast event," and it has been thought not inappropriate, on this day, to group together, in something like connected order, the part which South Carolina took in the inauguration of the vast event. What she did during the struggle which followed, should also be gathered. After the capitulation of Charleston, in May, 1880, Lowell, in his "Hessians in the Revolution," says: "These States were now given up to plunder and blood. The war in the Carolinas and Virginia was marked by a degree of barbarity which had no parallel in the Eastern or Middle States, except in the small plundering expeditions in the neighborhood of New York. Already, in the preceding year, Prevost's soldiers had begun this barbarous style of warfare. The marks of their plundering were visible in every house on the islands they had occupied near Charleston." Overrun, plundered, bleeding, absolutely prostrate at the feet of a ruthless and cruel foe, let some one of our members take up the story of the State's redemption by the valor and devotion of her sons; let him begin at that first blow struck at Beckhamville by McClure and his brave compatriots, that first blow, which successful, taught the haughty invaders that—

"Freedom's battles once begun, bequeathed from bleeding sire to son,
Though baffled oft, is ever won."

Let him follow those achievements up to the memorable day so feelingly, yet simply told of by our revered first President, Gen. Moultrie, as follows: "On Saturday, the 14th of December, 1782, the British troops evacuated Charleston, after having possession two years, seven months and two days. The evacuation took place in the following manner: Brig. Gen. Wayne was ordered to cross Ashley River with three hundred light infantry and eighty of Lee's cavalry, and twenty artillery, with two six-pounders; to move down

towards the British lines, which was near Col. Shubrick's, and consisted of three redoubts. Gen. Leslie, who commanded in town, sent a message to Gen. Wayne, informing him that he would next day leave the town, and for the peace and security of the inhabitants of the town, would propose to leave their advanced works next day at the firing of the morning gun; at which time Gen. Wayne should move on slowly and take possession, and from thence to follow the British troops into town, keeping at a respectful distance, (say about 200 yards,) and when the British troops, after passing through the town gate, should file off to Gadsden's wharf, Gen. Wayne was to proceed into town, which was done with great order and regularity, except now and then the British called to Gen. Wayne that he came too fast upon them, which occasioned him to halt a little. About 11 o'clock, A. M., the American troops marched into town and took post at the State House.

At 3 o'clock, A. M., Gen. Greene conducted Gov. Mathewes and the Council, with some others of the citizens, into town. We marched in in the following order: An advance of an officer and thirty of Lee's dragoons; then followed the Governor and Gen. Greene; the next two were Gen. Gist and myself; after us followed the Council, citizens and officers, making altogether about fifty. One hundred and eighty cavalry brought up the rear. We halted on Broad street, opposite where the South Carolina Bank now stands. There we alighted, and the cavalry discharged to quarters. Afterwards, every one went where they pleased; some in viewing the town, others in visiting their friends. It was a grand and pleasing sight to see the enemy's fleet (upwards of three hundred sail), lying at anchor from Fort Johnson to Five Fathom Hole, in a curved line, as the current runs, and what made it more agreeable, they were ready to depart from the soil. The great joy that was felt on this day by the citizens and soldiers was inexpressible. The widows, the orphans, the aged men and others, who, from their particular situation, were obliged to remain in Charleston, many of whom had been cooped up in one room of their elegant houses for upwards of two years, whilst the other parts were occupied by the British officers, many of whom were a rude, uncivil set of gentlemen, their situations, and the many mortifying circumstances occurred to them in that time, must have been truly distressing. I cannot forget that happy day when we marched into Charleston with the American troops; it was a proud day to me, and I felt myself

much elated at seeing the balconies, the doors, the windows crowded with the patriotic fair, the aged citizens and others, congratulating us on our return home, saying "God bless you, gentlemen! You are welcome home, gentlemen." Both citizens and soldiers shed mutual tears of joy. It was an ample reward for the triumphant soldier, after all the hazards and fatigues of war, which he had gone through, to be the instrument of releasing his friends and fellow citizens from captivity and restoring to them their liberty, and possession of their city and country again."

And in telling of it, let him record as fully as he can how under Marion, Sumter, Pickens, Harden, the citizen soldiers bore privations and hardships, almost unparalleled; how the women and children with unflinching bravery endured every kind of ruthless, wanton cruelty which a barbarous enemy could put upon them, and cheered their husbands, parents, brothers and friends to persevere in the cause, and to strike, and again strike, until the great cause in which they had pledged themselves, their fortunes and their sacred honors, had triumphed.

When these are gathered by your instrumentality, the Cincinnati of South Carolina will have shewn that not in vain are they associated to perpetuate the remembrance of that great event. And by the instrumentality of its members, it will be shewn, not merely as a vague tradition, but by the certain light of history, that South Carolina, in that great contest for political liberty, bore her full, and honorable share, not only in its conception and inception, but in its full and final consummation.

The declaration of Independence was received in Charleston in the latter part of July, 1776, and its promulgation is noticed in the South Carolina and American Gazette, August 2 to 14, 1776, as follows: "Charlestown, August 14. On Monday last week the declaration of Independence was proclaimed here amidst the acclamation of a vast concourse of people." Moultrie says: "At the latter end of July the Declaration of Independence arrived in Charlestown, and was read at the head of the troops in the field by Major Barnard Elliott; after which an oration was delivered by Rev. Mr. Percy."

You will doubtless be interested in hearing how this anniversary was celebrated in Charleston on its first recurrence. It is thus noticed in the South Carolina and American Gazette, of July, 1777:

“ CHARLESTON, July 10.

Last Friday, July 4th, being the anniversary of that memorable day of American Independence, was ushered in with ringing of bells and a general display of the American colors on all the forts and shipping; the Charleston militia and artillery were reviewed by his Excellency, the President, accompanied by his Honor, the Vice-President, their honorable members of the Privy Council, etc. At one o'clock, the great guns of the different forts (Fort Moultrie beginning) were fired to the number of seventy-six, alluding to the year 1776, when the thirteen United States emancipated themselves from the British yoke. An elegant entertainment was given at the Council Chambers by his Excellency, the President, to such members of the Legislature as were in town, to the clergy, civil and military officers, and a number of other gentlemen. After dinner, the following thirteen toasts were given, each accompanied by thirteen discharges from the field pieces belonging to Capt. Grimball's Artillery Company :

1. The free, independent and sovereign States of America.
2. The Great Council of America—may wisdom preside in all its deliberations.
3. General Washington.
4. The American Army and Navy—May they be victorious and invincible.
5. The nations in alliance with America.
6. American Ambassadors at Foreign Courts.
7. The 4th July, 1776.
8. The memory of the officers and soldiers who have bravely fallen in defence of America.
9. South Carolina.
10. May only those Americans enjoy freedom who are ready to die in its defence.
11. Liberty triumphant.
12. Confusion, shame and disgrace to our enemies. May the foes to America (slaves to tyranny) tremble and fall before her.
13. May the rising States of America reach the summit of human power and grandeur, and enjoy every blessing.

In the evening there were illuminations and fireworks, and the whole happily concluded without the least accident or disturbance.”

The following, taken from the South Carolina Gazette, 5th July, 1783, will shew how the first anniversary, after the close of the war, of the day we are now met to commemorate, was celebrated by those who took part in the great struggle. It is as follows :

“ CHARLESTON, 5th July, (1783.)

Yesterday, the 4th of July, afforded a spectacle equally awful and grand. The inhabitants of the whole continent of America eagerly devoted in commemorating the anniversary of the greatest revolution that ever took place—the expulsion of tyranny and slavery, and the introduction of freedom, happiness and independency throughout the greatest continent in the world. We may venture to say, the people of South Carolina were not behind their brethren in the sister States in demonstrating the happiness they feel from the full completion of the grand work of Independence. The morning was not ushered in with the ringing of bells, for amongst other property wantonly and wickedly taken away by the British, these made a part; but the glowing and happy countenances of our patriot citizens, and patriot soldiers, arising from a conscious dignity derived from perfect freedom, (and that freedom the purchase of their own valor), gladdened in the day, which, as if Heaven smiled propitiously on it, was rendered very fine by a cool easterly breeze.

At half past nine, the militia and a detachment of the Continental Artillery, with field pieces and a band of music, colors, &c., paraded in Meeting Street, and then took their station in Broad Street, for the purpose of receiving his Excellency the Governor, who, with the Privy Council, Major-General Greene, General Gist, all the civil officers of the State and a number of officers of the Army, assembled at the house of the Hon. William Hasell Gibbes, Esq., from which, about eleven, they proceeded in the following order: His Excellency the Governor, preceded by the Sheriff with the Sword of State; the Messenger of Council bearing a Tipstaff; Major-General Greene, General Gist, the Privy Council, and the officers of the State, &c., walked in front of the artillery and militia, who received the procession with presented arms; the officers saluting his Excellency as he passed along the line. A *feu de joie* was then fired, after which, his Excellency, attended by the above, and other gentlemen, retired to his own house, where the company were regaled with a very elegant cold collation.

About three o'clock a most numerous company assembled

at the State House, for the purpose of dining with the Governor; amongst whom were the above gentlemen, many of the members of both Houses, and most of the officers of the Southern Army and of the militia. The dinner, which was elegant and plentiful, and the liquors remarkably good, were served up about four; after which the following toasts were given:

1. The United States of America. Artillery firing thirteen rounds, music playing, God save the thirteen States.

2. May this State be as wise, happy and great, as free, sovereign and independent. Artillery thirteen. The band playing.

3. The Congress. Artillery thirteen. The band playing, Jove in his chair.

4. Our generous and illustrious Ally, His most Christian Majesty. Artillery thirteen. The band playing, the King of France's Guard March.

5. The United Provinces of Holland. Artillery thirteen. The band playing.

6. His Excellency General Washington and the Army, thanks to them, and may they be enabled to retire with satisfaction from the field of victory and glory they have gained with a bravery, perseverance and patriotic virtue, unparalleled in any history extant. Artillery thirteen. The band playing, The Hero comes.

7. Our Ministers abroad. Artillery thirteen. The band playing.

8. With agriculture, commerce and liberty, may morality, learning and science flourish. Artillery thirteen. The band playing.

9. May we profit by the errors of those nations who have experienced the effects of ambition, vain glory, tyranny, deceit and treachery. Artillery thirteen. The band playing.

10. May candor, truth, good faith, justice, honor, and benevolence, ever be the characteristics of the United States of America. Artillery thirteen. Band playing.

11. May there be no strife among the United States, saving that of excelling each other in a wise policy. Artillery thirteen. Band playing.

12. This glorious day, by which we have secured among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle us. Artillery thirteen. Band playing.

13. A lasting and happy peace, and to the memory of our



patriotic brethren, who greatly fell in obtaining it, by sea or land. Artillery firing thirteen minute guns, the band playing a very solemn dirge, for the space of thirteen minutes.

A number of other excellent toasts were given, among them the two following, which we shall endeavor to collect for the next paper.

The supporters of liberty and the rights of mankind throughout the world.

May the harmony of the day be not interrupted with quarrels, tumults or licentiousness.

At night a grand display of fireworks was exhibited at the 'Change, under the direction of Col. Senf, in the front of which were placed several emblematical devices, with pertinent inscriptions; the execution of the whole did honor to the taste of the Colonel, and gave great satisfaction to the spectators.

The city was grandly illuminated, and the day ended with great happiness and pleasure, no accident having happened.

Gentlemen of the State Society of the Cincinnati of South Carolina, I ask leave to propose to you, the regular toast of this day—

“The 4th July, 1776.”



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 011 801 524 1

Permalife.
pH 8.5