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BIOGRAPHY

Of the Signers to the Declaration of Independence.—By R. W. POMEROY.

THOMAS JEFFERSON was born 1743, in the county of Albemarle, in Virginia; educated at the college of William and Mary; succeeded to an ample fortune; and in 1766, was admitted to the bar. In 1769, he was a distinguished member of the legislature of his native state. In 1772, he married a daughter of Mr. Wayles, who died, after living with him ten years, and leaving him two daughters. In 1773, he was a member of the first committee of correspondence, established by the colonial legislature. In 1774, he published his summary view of the rights of America. In 1775, he was a member from his native state, to join the general confederacy, assembled at Philadelphia. In 1776, he drafted the declaration of American Independence, which was adopted with very little alteration. Through the war, he was constantly serving the revolutionary cause at home, or in congress, either by his services, as a legislator, or the still more efficient aid of his powerful pen. In 1779, he was on the committee, appointed to revise the laws of Virginia. His humanity was conspicuous, in attempting to alleviate the sufferings of the British prisoners of Saratoga. In 1779, he was elected Governor of Virginia, and administered his office with uncommon prudence and energy. A member of the legislature moved for an enquiry, in relation to his conduct while governor, touching the incursions of Arnold. A representative of the county, to which Mr. Jefferson belonged, resigned his seat, that he might be elected in his place. He was elected unanimously. After he had taken his seat, the member withdrew his charges. Mr. Jefferson brought them up himself, and made his justification. The house passed a resolve, declaring its high sense of his services and upright conduct, while governor. In 1782, he was appointed to assist in the treaty of peace. In 1784, he was one of the committee, to draft a model for the temporary government of the North-Western Territory. One of the articles, proposed by him, was, that there should be no involuntary servitude, except for crime. In 1785, he was chosen to succeed Franklin, as minister to Versailles. In 1787, he published his "Notes on Virginia." While absent, as minister to France, he visited Holland and Italy. He was the friend of philosophers, and the delight of the fascinating society of Paris. In 1789, he returned from Europe, and was appointed Secretary of State under Washington. From 1793, to 1796, he passed his time in retirement. At the latter period he was Vice-President, and filled the office during two terms. From this office he retired to Monticello, passing his days in philosophical repose, and dignified leisure, exercising an ample and often abused hospitality—the admiration of foreign visitors of the highest respectability, and the delight of his countrymen. His last days were devoted to one of the most important earthly concerns, that of building up his favorite college, and diffusing the blessings of common school education among all classes of the children of his native state. He died, 1826, on the natal day of our independence. A palpable proof, that no touch of mercenary motive had mixed with his views, in the discharge of such various and high offices, was, that he died poor.

JOHN ADAMS was born at Quincy, not far from Boston, in Massachusetts. He was fourth in descent from Henry Adams, on whose tomb it is inscribed, "that he took flight from the dragon persecution in Devonshire, England, and alighted near Mount Wollaston, with eight sons." In 1751, he entered Harvard college. He studied law, and taught school at Worcester. His first writings, 1757, evince, that even then his thoughts were turned towards politics. In 1758, he was admitted to the bar. In 1764, he published an essay on canon and feudal law, and his name became associated with the distinguished Massachusetts whigs of the time. In 1776, he removed to Boston. The provincial government attempted to buy him over to the royal cause, by the offer of a lucrative office, which he declined. After the famous "Boston massacre," he defended Captain Preston, charged with murder, and although that officer was excessively odious, the fairness and disinterestedness of the advocate's defence lost him no popularity; as is proved by his being elected, the same year, a member of the general assembly. This course rendered him so obnoxious to the royal government, that his name was twice struck off

the list of the counsellors of the provincial governors. Such was the earnestness of his zeal, on the side of the people, that he was generally considered an enthusiast in their cause. He was appointed delegate to the general congress at Philadelphia. But few of the delegates thought, and felt with him, in reference to the justice and wisdom of a separation from the parent country. Among those that did, were Patrick Henry and T. McKean. Here he published "Novanglus," in defence of the whig doctrines. He suggested, and advised the election of Washington, as commander-in-chief. He was the first advocate, in congress, of the declaration of independence. The effect of his popular eloquence, in defence of this measure, as described by his fellow laborer, Mr. Jefferson, was astonishingly great. He was afterwards a member of the provisional legislature of his native state. He declined the offer of the office of chief justice, because it would interfere with his attendance upon the general congress. The circumstance of his visiting the camp of lord Howe in company with Franklin and Rutledge, is well known. His labors in congress, until 1777, were as efficient, as they were indefatigable. In 1778, he sailed, as commissioner, to France. In 1779, he returned to America, and assisted in forming the constitution of his native state. Same year he sailed for Europe, as minister plenipotentiary, charged with high and respectable power, to make peace and a treaty with Great Britain. He negotiated a loan with Holland, and managed our interests with great prudence and success at the court of Paris. He was one of the American commissioners, who signed the treaty of peace, in 1792. In 1785, he was ambassador to England. His defence of our forms of government was published in London, in three volumes, in 1787, and re-printed in the United States next year. In the autumn of 1788, he returned to his country, and was elected vice-president, to which office he was re-elected, in 1792. In 1797, he was elected president of the United States. After a single term of service, he retired to his native Quincy, living, like Jefferson, and like one of the old Romans, in dignified retirement. In 1820, he received a compliment as respectful, and as flattering, as could be paid to his venerable age, and hoary hairs. He was unanimously chosen, to preside over a convention, formed to revise the constitution of his native state; and the election was announced to him by an address, singularly cordial and affectionate. He lived to see his eldest son president of the United States, and expired full of days and glory on the same day with his illustrious compatriot, Jefferson.

ARTHUR MIDDLETON was born in 1743, at Middleton place, on the banks of the Ashley, in South-Carolina. He was educated at Westminster school and Cambridge University, in England. Though born to opulence, he was studious, temperate, and taciturn in his habits. He made the tour of Europe, and was a connoisseur in the fine arts. Having married a daughter of Walter Izard, esq., with her he re-visited Europe. He was wealthy, and his connexions were among the aristocratic, and the devoted friends of royalty. But he espoused the cause of the revolution with devoted ardor; this sincerity was unquestionable, for he had nothing to gain, but much to lose by the revolutionary struggle. He was almost constantly either in the legislature of his native state, or of the continental congress; and at various times received the most unequivocal marks of the confidence of his country. He was decidedly opposed to wavering and timid measures; and was one of the first to advocate vigorous resolutions, for closing the door of accommodation with the parent country. His family was connected by marriage with that of lord Campbell, the royal governor, who played the amiable, and preserved an appearance of neutrality between the whigs and Tories. The inward purposes of the governor were disclosed by a very ingenuous stratagem of the whigs; and it was found, that the governor only waited the arrival of forces, to adopt severe measures, in reference to the whigs! Mr. Middleton advocated taking him immediately into custody, which was rejected at the time, as a rash and extreme proposal.

Mr. Middleton exposed himself gallantly, and as a volunteer, in the defence of his state against the British. He became a prisoner by the capture of Charleston, and was afterwards transferred by the British to St. Augustine.

After the war, like many of our greatest men, he showed a propensity for a

private, rather than a public life. At his native seat he passed his time, in dispensing ample hospitality to many distinguished friends and visitors. His losses had been immense, during the plundering of Charleston and its vicinity, by the British. Two hundred of his slaves had been carried off, and he was involved in debt. But enough remained, to enable him to live in a style of liberality. Curious anecdotes are given of his habitual disregard of money, and of his calm and philosophic temperament. In 1786, he was seized with the autumnal intermittent of the country, and suffered its periodical paroxysms for several weeks. To those, who urged the usual remedies, he replied with his customary calmness of manner, "that it was best to leave nature to itself." When the pressure of disease at length induced him to adopt remedies, they came too late. He paid the debt of nature, January 1, 1787.

WILLIAM HOOPER was of Scotch descent, and was born at Boston, 1742. He was educated at Harvard University. Having graduated with a high reputation, he studied law with the famous James Otis. Having completed his studies, he emigrated to Wilmington, North Carolina, where he married Miss Ann Clark of a respectable family. An adopted citizen of that state, he took a high place among its talented and distinguished men. In 1770, he sustained an active part against the insurgents, called "regulators." In 1773, as a member of the legislature, he began to oppose colonial tyranny. About this time, he published a series of essays signed "Hampden," designed to prepare the public mind for those changes, which he deemed inevitable. Like most of the other worthies of the revolution, he adopted a course of measures, decidedly in opposition to his present, and immediate interests. This course throughout was one of disinterestedness, distinguished, as such, even in those disinterested times. He was elected first delegate from North-Carolina to the congress at Philadelphia. Immediately after his arrival, he addressed that august assembly for half an hour, and was heard with profound attention. He continued a member of congress; and his name is frequently associated in the debates and acts of that eventful period with the great master-names of the revolution. He was appointed on a committee with Franklin and Livingston, to devise the mode of paying a proper tribute to the memory of the gallant Montgomery, who fell under the walls of Quebec, 1776. He gave his vote for the declaration of independence, and was engaged, the remainder of that year, in the committees, appointed to regulate the post-office, and treasury appeals from the admiralty. He continued actively engaged in public business, until his declining health united with other causes, induced him to retire to the privacy of domestic life, in which he remained to the time of his decease, 1790. His stature was moderate, and his countenance pleasing, and marked with intelligence. He was distinguished for conversational powers.

JAMES SMITH was born in Ireland, and emigrated to America at twelve. He learned the languages under Dr. Allison of the college at Philadelphia; studied law at Lancaster, and thence established himself in the woods, on the pretense of suppressing. Here he discharged the double functions of lawyer and surveyor. Thence he removed to York, where he soon acquired reputation, and the first standing, as a lawyer. He married Miss Eleanor Armor of New Castle. He was already between fifty and sixty years, and had acquired wealth in his profession, when the revolution broke out. He had nothing to gain, in the view of temporal interest, and the part he took, was one of disinterested, and distinguished principle. He was a member of the first provincial assembly of Pennsylvania. He raised, and drilled the first volunteer company, organized in that state, to resist British aggression. As a member of congress he signed the declaration of Independence.

He withdrew from the bar in 1800, having been a practising lawyer sixty years. He died in 1806, at the advanced age, it is supposed of ninety-three years; though this fact is not certainly known, as he could never be persuaded to tell his age to his most intimate friends. He was a stern and inflexible patriot; and through life gave an example of veneration for religion.

CHARLES CARROLL, of Carrollton, was born at Annapolis in Maryland, 1737. His highly respectable ancestors were Roman Catholics. He was educated in France. In 1757, he visited London,

and commenced the study of law in the temple. In 1764, he returned to the place of his birth, and took a part, favorable to liberty, in the discussions, which then began to be agitated in this country. In 1768, he married Miss Darnell. He took firm and decided ground, as an advocate for the independence of the United States. Being an opulent and distinguished catholic, he was sent on a mission to Canada, in the hope, that he might have influence with the Catholic inhabitants of that province. He was in public life for thirty years, and during that period was placed in many situations of public trust. In common with most of the signers of the declaration of Independence, in fixing his name to that instrument, he showed the disinterestedness of putting at hazard fame, ease and fortune. Few motives can be imagined, which would not incline a man of his ample possessions to a different course. He is the last living signer of that instrument. He still remains a cherished relic of that glorious assemblage. As a speaker, his manner is concise and animated. As a writer, he possesses uncommon dignity of manner. In person he is slight, and rather below the middle size. He is at present nearly ninety years old. His grand daughter, wife of the marquis of Wellesley, is vice queen of Ireland.

THOMAS NELSON was born, 1738, at York Village in Virginia, of highly respectable ancestors. He was sent to England for his education, in 1753. In 1761, he returned to his native country with strong propensities for literature. In 1762, he married Miss Lucy Grymes of Brandon, and settled in his native place. In 1774, he first became conspicuous in public life. From this period he became distinguished among the patriots of the day. Appointed colonel of one of the regiments, organized for the defence of the colony, he loaned money to those of his command, who needed. He rose to the rank of general; and was as efficient in aiding the revolution, in his military, as his civil capacity. He succeeded M. Jefferson, as governor, in 1781. In this office he availed himself of his private wealth, his official influence, and his personal weight of character, to aid the army. Before the walls of his native town, he displayed the same gallantry and disinterestedness, which he had manifested elsewhere. His handsome mansion, in the town, was spared by the American and French cannon. Observing this, he ordered them not to spare his house. It was the head quarters of the British officers. The first fire killed two officers, indulging the pleasures of the table. The house was destroyed, and the officers were dislodged. Declining health compelled him, to request a dismissal from his office. In 1781, he retired to the pleasures and privacy of domestic life. Scarce had he begun to taste repose, when he was summoned, to meet a legal investigation of a charge, preferred against him, by the inhabitants of Prince William County, touching some acts of his, while governor, for the support of the American army. After this investigation, the legislature legalized all his acts. He lived happily in peace and privacy, until his decease, which happened in 1789. He died at the age of fifty years, and of his ample fortune little remained after his death.

RICHARD HENRY LEE was born in Westmoreland in Virginia, in 1732. His family was one of the most distinguished in the province. He was educated at Wakefield, in Yorkshire, England. At the age of twenty-three, he headed an expedition to punish the Indians, who had committed murders on the frontiers. From 1757, his name is conspicuous among the great names of that period, in the annals of the country. On the 17th of June, 1776, he moved in Congress, that the United States be declared free and independent. This motion, after several days' debate, was supported by the original mover, with one of the most eloquent speeches, that he ever made. He was many times elected to congress during the latter part of the war. Generals Weeden and Greene give honorable testimony, in regard to his military conduct, as a commander. In 1777, he applied for leave to withdraw from congress, to meet an accusation of Toryism. After the investigation, in pursuance of the orders of the assembly, the venerable George Wythe delivered the thanks of the house for the manner, in which he had performed his duties. This converted a charge into a triumph. In 1784, he was chosen president of congress. At the expiration of his term of service, he retired to the bosom of his numerous

family. He was chosen first senator to congress, from Virginia, under the new constitution. In 1792, his health induced him to withdraw from every public office. The remainder of his life was spent in happy retirement. His society was the delight of all, who shared it. He died at Chantilly in his native state, 1794.

BENJ. N. HARRISON was born at Berkeley in Virginia. In what year is not exactly known. He entered as a student, in the college of William and Mary. Owing to some disagreement with a professor, he left before he was matriculated. He belonged to a family, which had always held a conspicuous place in the affairs of the country. The death of his father cast the care of a numerous family upon his hands, while he was yet very young. He took his seat, as a member of the legislature, before he had attained the age, required by law. That he was popular, is proved by the many offices of trust, conferred upon him. In his opinions and conduct he was united with Randolph, Wythe, Jefferson, and Henry. He was one of the seven deputies, chosen to represent Virginia in the general congress. In the acts of the first and second sessions he took an active part. In 1775, he lived with Peyton Randolph and Gen. Washington in a house, which is still to be seen. He was a member of the committee of congress, composing the first board of war, in 1776. In 1777, he took his seat for the fourth time, as a member of congress; but towards the close of the year his private affairs induced him to withdraw from that body. On his return to his native state, he was elected to the house of burgesses, and became speaker of that body. In 1782, he was elected governor of Virginia, and was elected a second term. Soon after he had been unanimously returned a member of the legislature, he died, in 1791. He married Elizabeth Bassett, a niece of the sister of Mrs. Washington, and noted for her uncommon beauty. He left seven children. William Henry Harrison, who has been since so much distinguished in the western country, was the third son, and was educated at Hampden Sydney College, and originally intended for the medical profession.

JOSEPH HEWES was born near Kingston, New-Jersey, in 1730. The details of his early life and education are not known. He moved to Philadelphia, and assumed the occupation of a merchant. At thirty he emigrated to Edenton, North Carolina. He soon became a member of the colonial legislature of that state, and from that period to the time of his death, he was an active and steady friend of the great cause of independence. He died in 1779, while in attendance, as a member, in congress.

Leghorn Hats.—We dare say that most of our fair admirers, who, after taking off their Leghorn hats, seat themselves on a couch to read this journal of ours, know every thing concerning the materials and manufacture of these essential articles of summer attire. But, lest there should be any among them, who do not happen to have ever inquired into the subject, we shall for their information devote to it a few lines. "These hats, so called from the port whence they are sent abroad, are the chief manufacture of Tuscany. At Prato there are great establishments of this fabrication, and every where in the country, at the door of the cottages, women and children are seen picking and plaiting straws. Fields are sown with wheat, which is allowed to grow till ready to burst into ear; the straw is then pulled up by the root, which as well as the ear, is cut off from every stem; the knots of every straw are also cut out. The straws are dried with more or less care, according to the quality of the hat proposed to be made of them; and for this purpose they are sorted with the greatest exactness. Maria Louisa, Empress of the French, desired to have a hat, for the encouragement of the manufacture, of the greatest possible fineness and of the best color and finish; the price or gratification to the manufacturer, was, if I remember right, 600 francs. Besides the great consumption of this well known article in Europe, very great quantities are sent to the North American States. The work produces at every step the pleasing appearance of labor united to amusement, of a toil in which childish play and childish gains form children to habits of industry, without exhausting their strength or gaiety."—*Best's Italy.*

The pride, jealousy, ambition and temper, which is displayed in almost every region, threaten to put the world in a blaze.