

# CAMDEN GAZETTE.

Number 8.

THURSDAY, May 23, 1816.

Volume I.

PRINTED BY P. W. JOHNSTON, KING-STREET, CAMDEN, (S. C.) FOR THE PROPRIETORS.

### CONDITIONS OF THIS GAZETTE.

THE price to Subscribers is THREE DOLLARS per annum, for fifty-two numbers, exclusive of postage; and in all cases where papers shall be delivered at the expense of the Publisher, the price will be, including postage, FOUR DOLLARS a year, payable half yearly in advance.

### Terms of advertising in this GAZETTE.

Advertisements not exceeding eight lines will be printed for FIFTY CENTS, for the first publication and half that price for every subsequent insertion. Larger advertisements will be charged in proportion.

A liberal discount will be made on the bills of those who are constant or considerable customers in this line.

If no directions are given with an advertisement, it will be continued till forbid.

### NOTICE.

The Town Council of CAMDEN, this day, passed two Ordinances, which are calculated to add much to the comfort and convenience of the place. The following is an abstract of them, for the information of those concerned.

An Ordinance providing for the pavement of Broad-street, directs, that the side walks of Broad-street, shall be paved with brick or stone—from the public square at the lower end of the Town, up to the bridge above York-street. The owners of Lots are required to cause the pavement to be made in front of their Lots, before the first day of January next, under the penalty of fifty dollars for each Lot, to be applied in making the pavement neglected.

An Ordinance requiring trees to be planted in the streets and public squares, directs, that the owner of each enclosed Lot, shall cause a row of trees to be planted in the street or public square in front of it, at the distance of 9 or 10 feet from the line of the Lot, and Twenty-five feet between the trees. The owners of lots, who do not comply with this Ordinance before the first day of June, 1817; will be liable to a penalty of five dollars for each lot.

Ja. Brown, Recorder.

May 11, 1816.

### RATES OF POSTAGE.

THE following rates of Postage are to be charged after the first day of May, conformable to an Act of Congress, passed on the 9th inst.

#### On Single Letters.

For any distance not exceeding 30 miles - 6 cents.  
Over 30 and not over 80 miles - 10  
Over 100 and not over 150 miles 12 1-2  
Over 150 and not over 400 miles 18 1-2  
Over 400 - 25

Double Letters, or those composed of two pieces of paper, double those rates.

Triple Letters, or those composed of three pieces of paper, tripple those rates.

Packets, or letters composed of four or more pieces of paper, or one or more other articles, and weighing one ounce avoirdupois, quadruple those rates, and in that proportion for all greater weight.

Ship Letters, not carried by mail are chargeable with 6 cents.

#### Newspapers.

Each paper carried not over 100 miles - 1 cent.

Over 100 miles - 1 1-2

But if carried to any place within the state where printed, whatever be the distance, the rate is only one cent.

#### Magazines and Pamphlets.

Are rated by the sheet.

Carried not over 50 miles - 1 cent.

Over 50 and not over 100 miles - 1 1-2

Over 100 miles - 3

Every four folio pages, eight quarto pages and 16 octavo or lesser pages are to be considered as a sheet; also the surplus pages beyond even fours, &c. Journals of the state legislatures are to be charged with pamphlet postage, although not stitched or half bound.

Post masters are not to forward pamphlets in the mail, where the latter is very large, or where it is carried with great expedition or on horseback.

Return J. Meigs, jun.

Post Master General.

General Post Office, April 16.

N. B. The post master at every post town where a newspaper is printed, is to have this advertisement published in one of the papers (or more if he thinks it expedient) three times, to pay the expence, and charge it to this office in his account current as a contingent expence. 7. 31

### BLANK DEEDS,

For Sale at the Camden Gazette Office.

### BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF

#### CAPT. THOMAS MACDONOUGH.

THE writers of biography in legitimate monarchies possess great advantages over those of a simple republic, where a man must depend on his own merits rather than those of his ancestors, for public admiration. In writing, for instance, the life of a noble lord, who never in his life did any thing worth recording, the true legitimate biographer slyly resorts to the noble lord's ancestors, their exploits, intermarriages, and other important events in the family history. By these means, aided by the legends of the herald's office, he compiles a very interesting memoir, at least of the noble lord's ancestors, to whose exploits he is fully entitled by the theory as well as the practice of hereditary succession. For if it should happen (as certainly it may possibly happen) that folly or knavery should succeed to the distinctions originally bestowed on genius and virtue, it can only be justified by means of some mysterious extension of birthright, by which the great-great-grandson becomes a party in exploits that happened long before he was born.

By this theory the true legitimate biographer obtains an undoubted right to decorate his titled hero with as many of those achievements as he can conveniently carry; and thus it happens in legitimate governments, that family honors are accumulated by a sort of compound interest, notwithstanding the degeneracy of the means, somewhat in the same way that the riches of some countries are said to increase with the amount of their debts and expenditures. This accumulation of family honor, which, like the rust of an old coin, increases with years, and furnishes unequivocal proof of antiquity, makes it worth a man's while to perform great actions, since he thereby not only ennobles himself and his wife, but all the rogues and blockheads of his posterity forever and ever. The temptation to perform great actions is thus inconceivably heightened, and it is without doubt owing to this accelerating motive, that the achievements of men in legitimate governments are so much more prodigious than in simple republics, where all that a man can expect for his highest exertions in the cause of his country, is honors that are exclusively paid to his own merit, together with the admiration of his cotemporaries, and the veneration of their posterity. The highest reward the Roman republic ever paid to her most illustrious warriors, was a ride through the streets of Rome in a chariot drawn by four white horses, with a laurel crown, that might be worth about one penny. The natural result of all this was, that none of the Roman heroes, of whom we read so much, ever performed an action that can be put in competition with the burning of Washington, for which the renowned perpetrator was ennobled, together with his posterity.

Unhappily for this country, and still more unhappily for the writers of biography, few of us can trace our ancestry higher than Adam. And we can do this only by the aid of the authority of scripture, which wont do in the college of heralds.

Family trees are exceedingly scarce; and those, in truth, are rather barren, containing at most not more than three or four generations. Our ancestors unluckily forgot their pedigrees, having other matters to attend to, or perhaps being in too great a hurry to think of such trifles. We cannot trace back to those glorious times when a man was ennobled for killing a fleet deer, or immortalized, like young Lochinvar, for owning a swift horse, and running away with a lady, as if that was any great matter. Not one of our ancestors, that we know of, came over with William the bastard to conquer England; nor can any of us claim an unquestionable affinity to a single name in the roll of Battle Abbey, about which the English antiquarians wrote so many huge dissertations. We are consequently obliged to build up a name for ourselves, as the first settlers of this country were obliged to build houses, because they found none ready built for them when they arrived; and instead of boasting lustily of our ancestors, are reduced to the unpleasant necessity of leaving it for posterity to boast of us, if they should be so inclined. It is believed, that with the exception of a few of the indubitable Dutch patriarchs of New-York, whose ancestors must have flourished before the invention of history, since nobody can tell any thing about them—a few families claiming a descent from the aborigines of this country—and a few that have ennobled themselves, by purchasing a pedigree and coat of arms at the herald's office in England, that this undignified republic cannot boast of a single man the merits of whose ancestors can make amends for his own want and of merit.

Happily for us, however, the subject of our present notice, although most respectably descended, does not require the assistance of any documents from the herald's office, nor to intrench himself under *magni nominis umbra*. We will therefore proceed to a detail of the prominent incidents of his life, which have gained him the notice of the world and the gratitude of his countrymen.

Thomas Macdonough, the father of captain Thomas Macdonough, was an eminent physician, who resided at a farm called *The Trapp*, in the county of New-Castle, Delaware. In the year 1775 he entered the army, and was appointed a major in a regiment raised by the state of Delaware, of which Mr. Haslett was colonel, and the late Gunning Bedford lieutenant-colonel. Major Macdonough, from what cause is not known, retired early from the army, and returned to the Trapp. After the establishment of our independence, he was appointed a judge, and held that office till his death, which took place in 1796. He left several children, of whom three were sons. The eldest, James, was a midshipman under commodore Truxton when he took the *Insurgent*, in which engagement he received a wound from a musket ball, that rendered the amputation of his leg necessary. "James," says the gentleman who furnished us with these particulars, "was very brave. He was placed in the tops where he was wounded,

and he told me that when the men in the tops were lowering him down, he could distinctly see the enemy aiming and firing at him." The amputation of his leg rendered it necessary for him to retire from the service.

After the death of his father, young Macdonough, the subject of this memoir, obtained a midshipman's warrant, and commenced his career, with many other gallant young men, who only want opportunity to distinguish themselves like him. Of the vessels in which he served; the time of his promotion to a lieutenantcy, and other ordinary circumstances of the life of every naval officer, we know nothing, and in truth, these things are of no extraordinary interest in themselves. He followed the fortunes of our little fleet in the wars of Tripoli, and, like other young officers who, on that occasion, first met "grim visaged War" face to face, was frequently engaged in those conflicts where the Christian and Mahometan prowess was so severely tried. Though at this time, grave, reserved, and circumspect in a remarkable degree, he was remarkable for a daring impetuosity, an invincible chivalrous sort of perseverance in every kind of adventure. In 1806 he was first lieutenant of the *Siren*, then lying in Gibraltar harbor, under the late captain John Smith. A circumstance took place here, which as it strongly displays that firmness which is the strong feature of his character, we will detail particularly. It is derived from the most undoubted authority; and when we consider what a vast difference is observable in our feelings now and at that time, we cannot help greatly admiring the conduct of the young lieutenant.

During the forenoon of a day, in which captain Smith was on shore, a merchant brig, under the colors of the United States, came into port, and anchored a-head, and close to the *Siren*. Soon after, a boat was sent from a British frigate then lying in the harbor, on board this brig. After remaining along side a little while, the boat returned *with one man more than she went with*. This circumstance attracted the notice of Macdonough, who sent lieutenant Page on board the brig to know the particulars of the affair. Mr. Page returned with information that the man had been pressed by the boat from the British frigate, although he had a protection as an American citizen. Immediately on the receipt of this information, Macdonough ordered the *Siren's* gig to be manned and armed, and putting himself in her, went in pursuit of the boat, determined to rescue his countryman. He overtook her alongside the British frigate, just as the man at the bow was raising his boat-hook to reach the ship, and took out the American by force, although the other boat had eight oars, and his only four, and carried him on board of the *Siren*.

When the report of this affair was made to the captain of the British frigate, he came on board the *Siren* in a great rage, and desired to know how Macdonough dared to take a man from one of his Majesty's boats. The lieutenant, with great politeness, asked him down into the cabin; this he refused, at the same time repeating the same de-