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Volume I.

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.

We are induced to publish the following well known sketch of philanthropic enterprise, at the request of a particular friend of Col. Huger's. It was omitted in consequence of the very extensive circulation which it had some time since in the United States, but as many of our readers may not have seen it, it will not be amiss to copy it at this late period.

SOME ACCOUNT

Of an attempt made by Mr. Bolman, a Hanoverian, and Mr. Francis Huger, an American, to liberate M. de la Fayette from his confinement in the Castle of Olmutz, in 1794.

Amongst the many extraordinary characters which the eventful times we live in have introduced to the notice of the world, no man has undergone greater vicissitudes of fortune than La Fayette. At one time we behold him tearing himself from the fascinations of the most licentious court in Europe, braving the elements, and combating for the cause of liberty, under the banners of Washington; at another, in his native country, idolized by an enthusiastic populace, and raised to the chief command of his emancipated countrymen; and then proscribed and hunted by those associates who no longer stood in need of his assistance; a fugitive in a foreign land, obliged to seek an asylum amongst his enemies; and lastly seized as a traitor, and delivered up to the emperor of Germany, who, regarding him as one of the chief instruments of the insulting degradation and subsequent death of the royal family of France, ordered him into close confinement in the castle at Olmutz. Compassion for his fate drew petitions from all quarters for his release. The emperor was inexorable, and Fayette had dragged on two miserable years in his solitary prison, when a stranger and a foreigner stepped forwards, from pure motives of compassion, and an anxious wish to be of service to a man who had so signalized himself in the cause of liberty. Bolman was a Hanoverian by birth, young, active, intrepid, and intelligent. He repaired alone and on foot to Olmutz to gain such information as might enable him to judge of the best means to execute the purpose he had in view, to assist Fayette in making his escape from the power of Austria. He soon found that, without an able conductor, the difficulties which presented themselves were insurmountable. He was forced therefore, for the present, to abandon his design until he should be so fortunate as to find a man equally zealous with himself, and with ability sufficient to execute the hazardous plan he had formed. Accident threw in his person in the world best suited to the enterprise by nature and education. At Vienna, he entered into the society of young Americans, whom he thought most likely, for their veneration for the character of Fayette, to dare such an undertaking. He soon singled out one, to whom after proper precautions, he imparted his secret. Huger entered into and adopted his schemes with all the keenness of youth, and that enthusiastic enterprise peculiar to the inhabitants of the new world.

Francis Huger was the son of Col. Huger, of Charleston, South Carolina, who lost his life in the service of his country against the British troops on the walls of the town, when besieged by Gen. Prevost. The year before his death, he had retired on a small island near Charleston, with his

family, for the benefit of sea bathing.

There happened one evening a violent storm, the report of cannon was heard at a distance; concluding the firing came from British ships, then cruising in those seas, it was necessary to avoid giving suspicion that the island was inhabited. About midnight a knocking at the door of the cottage obliged Col. Huger to open it. Two persons appeared, who, in a foreign accent, informed him that their ship had been driven on shore by the violence of the wind, and the crew had dispersed themselves over the island in search of assistance.

They were hospitably received, and provided with such necessities as they most stood in need of. When the strangers were made acquainted with the quality of their host, and his political principles, they made themselves and the object of their voyage known to him. The one was the Marquis de la Fayette, then about eighteen, and the other an elderly gentleman, a Chevalier de St. Louis, who like another Mentor, had followed the fortunes of the young Telemachus. They beheld, they said, "with indignation, the tyranny the inhabitants of North America laboured under, from the mother country; and animated with the true spirit of liberty, they were resolved to espouse the cause of the Congress, and either partake with them the happiness of emancipation, or perish with them in the glorious effort." Colonel Huger quitted the island with his guests, and, repairing to head quarters, introduced them to Gen. Washington, who gave each of them a command in the continental army. Francis Huger was only four years old when this happened, but the adventure remained deeply impressed on his memory—and though he had never seen Fayette since, yet he felt the greatest attachment to his person, and the highest admiration of his actions; with ardour therefore, he participated in Bolman's scheme for the release of his favorite hero.

Thus agreed, they began their operations. It was necessary to conduct themselves with caution, for the Austrian police was vigilant, and particularly jealous of strangers. Huger pretended ill health, and Bolman gave himself out for a Physician, who on that account travelled with him. They bought three of the best horses they could find, and with one servant set forwards on a tour. After travelling many weeks, staying some time at different places, the better to conceal their purpose, and to confirm the idea that curiosity was the motive of their journey, they at length reached Olmutz. After viewing every thing in the town, they walked into the castle to see the fortifications, made themselves acquainted with the jailor, and having desired permission to walk within the castle the next day, they returned to their lodgings. They repeated their visits frequently, each time conversing familiarly with the jailor, and sometimes making him little presents. By degrees they gained his confidence, and one day, as if by accident, asked him what prisoners he had under his care. He mentioned the name of Fayette; without discovering any surprise, they expressed a curiosity to know how he passed his time, and what indulgences he enjoyed. They were informed that he was strictly confined, but was permitted to take exercise without the walls with proper attendants, and, besides, was allowed the use of books, and pen, ink and paper. They said that as they had some new publications with them, it might add to his amusement if they were lent them to him, and desired to know if they might make the offer. The jailor said he thought there could be no objection, provided the books were delivered open to him (the jailor) so that he might see there was nothing improper in their contents. With this caution they complied, and the same evening sent a book and a note to the jailor addressed to Fayette; who, though he did not understand that language, (as it afterwards appeared,) yet did not suspect any treachery where every thing was conducted so openly. The note contained apologies for the liberties they had taken; but as they wished in any way to contribute to his happiness, they hoped he would attentively read the book they had sent, and if any passages in it particularly engaged his notice, they begged he would let them know his opinion. He received the note, and finding it was not expressed in the usual mode of complimentary letters, conceived that more was meant than met the eye. He therefore carefully perused the book, and found in certain places, words

written with a pencil, which, being put together, acquainted him with the names, qualities, and designs of the writers, and requiring his sentiments before they should proceed any further. He returned the book, and with it an open note, thanking them, and adding that he highly approved of, and was much charmed with its contents.

Having thus begun a correspondence, seldom a day passed but open notes passed between them, some of which the jailor showed to persons who could read them; but, as nothing appeared that could create any suspicion, the correspondence was permitted.

Their plan being at length arranged, the particulars were written with lemon juice, and on the other side of the paper a letter of inquiries after Fayette's health, concluding with these words: *Quand vous aurez lu ce billet, mettez le au feu (instead of don't burn it).* By holding the paper to the fire, the letters appeared, and he was made acquainted with every arrangement they had made. The day following was fixed upon to put the plan in execution. The city of Olmutz is situated about 30 miles from the frontiers of Silesia, in the midst of a plain, which taking the town as its centre, extends three miles each way. The plain is bounded by rising ground, covered with bushes and broken rocks; so that a man standing on the walls might distinctly see every thing that passed on the plain. Sentinels were placed for the purpose of giving an alarm when any prisoner was attempting to escape, and all people were ordered to assist in retaking; great rewards were likewise due to the person who arrested a prisoner. It seemed therefore scarcely possible to succeed in such an attempt. Aware of these difficulties, Bolman and Huger were not intimidated, but took their measures with the greatest caution.

Under pretence that his health required air and exercise, Fayette obtained permission to ride out upon the plain every day in an open cabriolet accompanied by an officer and attended by an armed soldier, who mounted behind by way of guard. During these excursions he had gained the confidence of the officer so far, that when the carriage was at a distance from the walls, they used to quit it, and walk together.

The plan determined upon was this: Bolman and Huger were to ride out of town on horseback, the latter leading a third horse; as neither of them knew Fayette, a signal was agreed upon at their meeting. Fayette was to endeavour to gain as great a distance as possible from the town, and as usual, to quit the carriage with the officer, and draw him imperceptibly as far from it as he could without exciting his suspicions. The two friends were then to approach, and if necessary, to overpower the officer, mount Fayette upon the horse Huger led, and ride away full speed to Bautzow, 15 miles distant, where a chaise and horses awaited to convey them to Trappaw, the nearest town within the Prussian dominions about 30 miles from Olmutz, where they would be safe from pursuit. In the morning Huger sent his trusty servant to endeavour to learn the precise time that Fayette left the castle. After a tedious delay, he returned, & told them that the carriage had just passed the gates. With agitated hearts they set out—having gained the plain, they could perceive no carriage; they rode slowly on till they had nearly reached the woody country, but still no carriage appeared. Alarmed lest some unforeseen accident should have led to a discovery, they hesitated; but recollecting that their motions might be distinctly seen from the walls, they retraced their steps, and had arrived at a short distance from the town when they beheld the long wished for cabriolet pass through the gates, with two persons in it, one in the Austrian uniform, and a musqueteer mounted behind. On passing they gave the preconcerted signal, which was returned, and the carriage moved on. They continued their ride towards the town, then turned, and slowly followed the carriage. They loitered, in order to give Fayette time to execute his part of the agreement—They observed the two gentlemen descend from the carriage, and walk from it arm in arm. They approached gradually, and perceiving that Fayette and the officer appeared to be engaged in earnest conversation about the officers sword, which Fayette had at the time in his hand, they thought this the favorable moment,

and put spurs to their horses. The noise of their approach alarmed the officer, who turning round, and seeing two horsemen coming up full gallop, he hastened to join the cabriolet, pulling Fayette with him; finding resistance he endeavoured to get possession of his sword, and a struggle ensued. Huger arrived at this moment;

"You are free, said he; seize this horse and fortune be our guide." He had scarce spoken when the gleam of the sun upon the blade of the sword startled the horse, he broke his bridle, and fled precipitately over the plain. Bolman, rode after to endeavour to take him. Meantime Huger, with gallantry and generosity seldom equalled, but never excelled, insisted on Fayette's mounting his horse, and making all speed to the place of rendezvous.

Loose no time, the alarm is given, the peasants are assembling, save yourself—Fayette mounted his horse, left Huger on foot, and was soon out of sight. Bolman had in vain pursued this frightened horse, and perceiving he had taken the road to the town, gave up the chase, and returned to Huger, who got up behind him and they galloped away together. They had not gone far when the horse, unequal to such a burthen stumbled and fell, and Bolman was so bruised with the fall, that with difficulty he could rise from the ground. The gallant Huger assisted his friend upon the horse, and again forgetting all selfish considerations, desired him to follow and assist Fayette, and leave him to make his escape on foot, which he said he could easily do, as he was a good runner, and the woody country was close at hand. Bolman with reluctance consented. Upon the approach of the horsemen, the soldier who had remained with the cabriolet, instead of coming to the assistance of the officer, ran back to the town; but long before he arrived the alarm was given; for the whole of the transaction had been observed from the walls—the cannon fired, and the country was raised. Bolman easily evaded his pursuers, by telling them he was himself in pursuit. Huger was not so fortunate; he had been marked by a party, who never lost sight of him; yet his hunters being on foot like himself, he might have reached his covert, had they not been joined by others, who were fresh in the chase; they grained ground upon him, and at the moment he had reached a place where he hoped he might rest awhile, quite exhausted with fatigue and breathless he sunk to the earth, and a peasant came up—he offered him his paces to assist his escape; the Austrian snatched the money with one hand, and seized him with the other, calling to his companions to come to his help. Resistance was vain, and the intrepid Huger was conveyed back to Olmutz, in triumph, inwardly consoling himself with the glorious idea, that he had been the cause of rescuing from tyranny and misery a man he esteemed one of the first characters upon earth. He was shut up in a dungeon of the castle as a state prisoner.

Meanwhile Fayette took the road he was directed, and arrived without any obstacle at a small town about 10 miles from Olmutz: here the road divided; that leading to Trappaw lay to the right unfortunately he took the left. He had scarce left the town when perceiving the road turning too much to the left, he suspected he had mistaken his way, and enquired of a person he met the way to Bautzow. The man eyeing him with a look of curiosity, at length told him that he had missed his way, but directed him to take another, which he said would soon lead him right. This man, from Fayette's appearance, his horse in a foam, his foreign accent, and the enquiries he made, suspected him to be a prisoner making his escape; he therefore directed him a road which by a circuit led him back to the town, ran himself to the magistrate, and told him his suspicions; so that when Fayette thought himself upon the point of regaining the road which would soon secure his retreat, he found himself surrounded by a guard of armed men, who, regardless of his protestations, conveyed him to the magistrate. He was, however, so collected, that he gave the most plausible answers to the interrogations that were put to him; he said that he was an officer of excise belonging to Trappaw, and that having friends at Olmutz, he had been there upon a visit; had been detained there by indisposition longer than he intended, and, as his time of leave of absence was expired, he was hastening back and begged he might not be detained, for

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