The Watchman and Southron.

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THE MONUMENT UNVEILED.

SOUTH CAROLINA HONORS GEN. SUMTER, THE GREAT PARTISAN LEADER.

The Grave of the Game Cock of the Revolution at Last Suitably Marked by a Handsome Monument of South Carolina Granite—The Ceremonies of the Day—Two Thousand People Attend the Exercises.

Fully two thousand people gathered at Stateburg Wednesday to witness the unveiling of the monument erected at the grave of Gen. Thomas Sumter by the State of South Carolina. The people comprising the great assemblage came principally from Sumter, Lee and Clarendon counties, the territory originally embraced in old Sumter District, which was named in honor of Gen. Sumter, at the time the district was named its most distinguished and respected citizen. Other sections of the State were, however, well represented, and scattered throughout the crowd were well known citizens of Kershaw, Darlington, Florence and Richland counties, while a number of other counties were represented by one or more of their citizens.

The State of South Carolina was represented by Gov. M. F. Ansel, Lieut. Gov. T. G. McLeod, Aujutant and Inspector General J. C. Boyd and Superintendent of Education O. B. Martin, and the Sumter Monument Commission, composed of the following gentlemen, Col. J. J. Dargan, R. I. Manning, J. W. Babcock, and E. H. Ravenel.

The United States was represented by Col. Greenough and staff and 300 soldiers from the garrison at Fort Moultrie and the First Artillery Band.

The greater part of those present reached the scene by means of private conveyance—automobiles, carriages, buggies and wagons—but quite a number traveled to Scale's Siding, Wedgefield or Claremont by rail and were transported thence to the monument by carriages and wagons, which were in waiting at the depots when the trains arrived. Much larger crowds had been expected to come by rail and there were in readiness at each of the three depots a sufficient number of vehicles to transport a half dozen times as many as came.

Gov. Ansel, Gov. Montague of Virginia, Col. Greenough, Hon. H. A. M. Smith, Congressman Lever, Col. Boyd and other guests who were entertained in the city were taken to Stateburg yesterday morning in automobiles by the entertainment committee of the Chamber of Comemrce, reaching the Gen. Sumter Memorial Academy in good time for the exercises. The detachment of United States troops, the First Artillery Band and the Sumter Light Infantry went by rail to Seale's Siding and marched thence to the academy, and it was a long, hard march.

The crowd assembled in the large and beautiful grove in front of the academy building and when the procession had been formed it moved to the Sumter family graveyard, a short distance away, where the body of Gen. Sumter had reposed in an unmarked grave for three-quarters of a century, until the State of South Carolina, aroused to a sense of a too long neglected duty, had caused to be erected an enduring and beautiful granite monument.

When the military, distinguished visitors and the two thousand spectators had assembled around the graveyard, the simple and impressive ceremony of unveiling the monument was carried out.

The First Artillery Band played "Columbia;" Rev. H. H. Covington made the invocation; then the monument was unveiled, the cords holding the drapery in place being pulled by Mrs. J. H. Haynsworth and Miss Beatrice Sumter, the great-great-granddaughters of Gen. Sumter; the band played "America;" and the ceremony was concluded by the Daughters of the Revolution of Sumter Home Chapter placing garlands on the monument.

The monument, which is made of South Carolina granite, was executed by the Winnsboro Granite Co., from designs prepared by Edwards & Walter of Columbia. It is simple yet substantial and imposing in appearance and is an appropriate mark for the grave of the strong and rugged patriot, Thomas Sumter. The monument is inscribed as follows:

East Side:

"He came to South Carolina about 1760, and was in the Indian service on the Frontier for several years before settling, as a planter, in this vicinity. Commandant 6th Regiment South Carolina Line, Continental Establishment, 1776-1778. Brig. Gen. South Carolina Militia, 1780-1782. Member of the Continetal Congress 1783-1784. Member U. S. Congress, 1789-1793; 1797-1801. U. S. Senator, 1801-1810."

North Side:

"Tanto Nomini Nullum Por Elogium."

West Side:

"This Stone marks the Grave of one of South South Carolina's most Distinguished Citizens,

THOMAS SUMTER,.

One of the founders of the Republic. Born in Virginia, August 14th, 1734. Died June 1st, 1832."

South Side:

"Erected by the General Assembly of South Carolina, 1907."

The procession then reformed and returned to the academy grounds, where the formal exercises of the day were held. A large and tastefully decorated stand had been erected in front of the academy and upon this the speakers and other distinguished visitors and officials and the descendants of Gen. Sumter were assembled. Massed in front of the stand was the great throng of spectators.

Col. J. J. Dargan, chairman of the Sumter Monument Commission, called the assembly to order and introduced Gov. Ansel as the presiding officer of the occasion.

Gov. Ansel made a brief address and presented Hon. R. I. Manning, to whom had been assigned the duty of introducing the first speaker, Hon. A. J. Montague, a former governor of Virginia.

Gov. Montague delivered his address on Gen. Sumter's life and services to an attentive audience.

Following Gov. Montague's address Maj. Marion Moise introduced Hon. H. A. M. Smith, of Charleston, who delivered a biographical and historical address on Gen. Sumter. This address, which is undoubtedly the most complete and authoritative biography of Gen. Sumter thus far prepared, will be published in full in this paper, the first installment being given today.

President Roosevelt's Letter.

At the conclusion of Mr. Smith's address Gov. Ansel was called upon to read a timely letter received from President Theodore Roosevelt, who at all times appreciates a good soldier and a patriot. President Roose- wrote as follows:

The White House, Washington.

Oyster Bay, N. Y., Aug. 3, 1907.

My Dear Colonel Dargan: Instead of the telegram, which could be but short, I send you this letter which I memory. My ancestors served under you care to, for I take profound interest in the work you are doing. There is nothing in which I believe more than in the advancement of the country school in America; and, of course, like every really good American, I must take a peculiar and special interest in, and feel a particular sympathy for, the unveiling of the monument to Gen. Sumter and the dedication of the school erected to his mmory. My ancestors served under Gen. Marion, who was Gen. Sumter's colleague in the war of the Revolution. It is eminently fit to raise a memorial to the memory of Gen. Sumter, and no memorial could be so appropriate to one who was not only a soldier but a peculiarly high-minded patriot as this school, the erection of which means so much for all the country around the "High Hills of Santee." I congratulate the city of Sumter for the generous aid which it has extended, and above all I congratulate the people of the immediate community who have done the work for themselves and who in doing it have so helped all the life of the neighborhood. It is a sincere regret to me that I cannot be present to greet them and congratulate them in person. Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Theodore Roosevelt.

Col. John Dargan, Principal Gen. Sumter Memorial Academy, Stateburg, S. C.

Superintendent Edmunds, of the Sumter schools, read a letter from Congressman Richmond P. Hobson.

Thanks were extended the visiting soldiers, and especially those from the garrison on Sullivan's Island, and Col. Greenough for their kind interest and willing co-operation.

A delightful luncheon was served after the speaking.

After dinner there was an educational rally, at which Miss Mary T. Nance, State Superintendent O. B. Martin and Prof. E. H. Dreher, of the Columbia city schools, made addresses.

As soon as the exercises were over the crowd dispersed. The soldiers were spared the long march back to Seale's Siding, vehicles being provided for their transportation.

When the train bearing the military arrived in this city, en route back to Charleston, Col. Greenough had the band play several selections at the depot and the artillery corps gave an exhibition drill on the station grounds. There was a large crowd present and the music and the exhibition drill were both greatly enjoyed.

The exercises of the day were succesfully carried through and were thoroughly enjoyed by all present. The credit for the success of the occasion is equally divided between Col. Dargan, the moving spirit in the celebration, and the Stateburg committee, the officers and committees of the Sumter Chamber of Commerce and County Supervisor W. H. Seale.

GOV. MONTAGUE'S ADDRESS.

Oration Delivered at the Unveiling of the Monument to Gen. Sumter by Hon. A. J. Montague, Former Governor of Virginia.

Upon this interesting occasion it is difficult to shut out of mind a realizing sense of that dominant force which so early gave power and identity to an American civilization, and in behalf of which the life we today commemorate spent its austere patriotism and military genius.

The fifteenth century loosened the quickening power of two mighty events, akin in historic time and purpose, the invention of printing, and the discovery of America; the two bringing new ways of thinking and new ways of living unto countless thousands, and bringing a new and structural concept of liberty unto the civilizations of the world.

Printing required time to socialize liberty, and a hundred years after Columbus pressed his mailed foot upon the torrid Bahamas might well elapse in preparing the world for the sturdy and progressive tread of Teutonic freedom upon the northern half of our hemisphere. So that when the Anglo-Saxon came to Jamestown in 1607 to establish and maintain themselves and their institutions, they soon found these institutions, and especially those of them that made most for rational and ethical liberty, illuminated as never before by the educative power of printing, and energized as never before the stiumlating environment of a new world. A new actor, a new stage and a new light had suddenly, as runs the race of civilization, burst upon the vision of the people of the world.

Liberty finds its concrete genius and strength in local self-government, in constitutional sanctions and limitations, in the guarranty of equality of individual opportunity, and in the appreciation and practice of personal and social responsibility. George, the Third, realized the secret sources of this bouyant and reforming force, and quickly begun to lay upon it his oppressive and heavy hand, only to be met by the tactful, vigorous, and, finally, revolutionary dissent of his American colonies.

Injustice nearly always sows the seed of justice, and tyranny nearly always kindles the flame of liberty. The law of relativity holds in the politcal world, and the pendulum of society will swing back and forth. So the colonists were early conscious of their wrongs, and daring in expressions of enlarged conceptions of their rights. Nathaniel Bacon, a good hundred years before 1776, was crying into the ears of the royal governor of Virginia some of the identical notes which were to peal forth in the great declaration—that governments were made for man, and not man for governments; and that all just governments must rest upon the consent of the governed. From this time on the colonists waxed and strengthened in the care and keeping of these great polities, and grew restive and defiant under the arbitrary exactions of the royal government.

South Carolina early and aggressively stood for the substitution of the consent of the governed for the will of an hereditary sovereign. Her voice was potential in calling the first continental congress in opposition to the stamp act. Her assembly quickly approved of the resolves of this congress in behalf of the "cause of freedom and union," and boldly transmitted them to England. Her legislature voted a statue to Piatt, that lofty and inspiring apostle of English liberty. She published the names of her citizens who would not sign the non-importation agreement. She remitted 10,500 pounds to the Society of London for supporting the bill of rights in the protection of the liberty of Great Britain and America. And her Rutledge, her Gadsden and her Laurens came back with fire upon their lips to tell that they had heard at Westminster the voices of Burke and Chatham, of Richmond and Rockingham pleading the cause of the colonies, and declaring that cause right and just.

The masses of your people also felt that larger pulse of liberty, developed by the reformatory forces which I have all too briefly and imperfectly sketched; and amongst these masses was a strain of blood of the noblest survivors of the Latin race, who came in goodly numbers to your shores after the revocation of the edict of Nantes, and who in subsequent years gave to you so many distinguished sons, but among them none greater than the profound publicist and the learned jurist, Hugh Swinton Legare. But the temper and character of this people in those stormy days can best be realized by a recital of the cold figures of her contribution to the revolutionary armies. Into this army South Carolina gave 31,131 of her sons, outnumbering New York and almost Pennsylvania, the former doubling and the latter tripling her military population.

South Carolina was, therefore, no uncongenial soil to Thomas Sumter, who came from Virginia to the High Hills of the Santee about the year 1765; and it may be truthfully affirmed that your great State has received into its life no nobler spirit than that of this man, who was born in the county of Hanover, the birth place of Patrick Henry, and of Henry Clay, and near the homes of Thomas Jefferson, John Taylor and Edmund Pendleton. He early drew his sword for his native colony in the French ond Indian wars, and witnessed with Washington the deserved defeat of the reckless Braddock, thus schooling himself for the arduous and brilliant service afterwards rendered his adopted State.

The beginning of the ending of the revolution is embraced within the four years from 1777 to 1781, from Saratoga to Yorktown; a period during which active war was transferred almost entirely from the north to the south. The early portion of this period was most discouraging. Augusta and Savannah had fallen. Gen. Prevost was harrying the country with a warfare of barbarism as only a buccaneer of his type could wage; the disastrous and ignominious defeat of Gates at Camden saw the destruction of our second army within three months; the Tories were ruthless in their atrocities, and the patriots retorted with unjustifiable reprisals; the congress was a meddlesome debating society, relying upon words more than swords, hampering Washington, and capriciously bestowing its rewards; the treason of Arnold was striking dismay into the country: waste and depression and poverty were covering the land; money was only paper and worth only paper: and all combined to confirm the declaration of Walpole that "America is at our feet."

Yet at this time the struggle was assuming international connections and complications beneficial to America. Franklin had consummated a treaty between France and the colonies. Frederick the Great had not only opened the port of Dantzic to our cruisers, but had prohibited the Hessian soldiers passing through his dominion, thus summarily cutting off this powerful source of supply to the British army. These conditions together with the marvelous resiliency of the colonies, alarmed England, and to the amazement and disgust of parliament, Lord North turned a political somersault, bringing in a programme which if earlier presented and adopted had prevented or ended the war. Commissioners of North's ministry came to America only to find this mission so belated as to be unavailing, and completed their work by issuing truculent and threatening manifestations, which were no negligible cause of subsequent atrocities of the British soldiery in South Carolina, which so harried the State that Mr. Fiske says, "the fit ground for wonder is that in spite of such adverse circumstances, the State of South Carolina should have shown as much elastic strength as she did under the severest military stress which any American State was called upon to withstand during the Revolutionary war."

In this period of distress Sumter's military achievements came to bring hope and comfort to the American cause. His victory at Ramseur's mill in May 1780 sounded throughout the country. At the Williams plantation, some weeks thereafter he repeated his success in the rout and death of Colonel Ferguson and Captain Huck with their large detachments of British and Tories, thus giving the cheering incident of the first check to the British arms in the State. His prestige increased greatly at the battle of Hanging Rock a few days thereafter, when he destroyed the whole regiment of the Prince of Wales, and a large band of Tories under Col. Brian. A month later we find him victorious at Musgrave's Mills on the Enoree. Indeed, the simultaneous success of Sumter and Marion in this despondent period heartened the American cause, and drove Cornwallis again into the field, causing him to write that he would "be glad to hear that Sumter is not in a condition to give us further trouble; he certainly has been the greatest plague to this country," and that "but for Sumter and Marion South Carolina would be at peace."

We soon again hear of Sumter's brilliant exploit in cutting Cornwallis' line of communication, and capturing his supply train, which, however, was neutralized by the surprise and defeat of Sumter by Tarleton at Fishing Creek a few days thereafter. Sumter made his escape, and went immediately to York to recruit; and was ready to participate in the memorable battle of King's Mountain. Within a short time his star was again in the ascendant; and the people were quickly thrilled by his capture of Maj. Weymiss on Broad road. Tarleton at once undertook to retrieve this defeat only to find himself outgeneraled, and his whole command destroyed by Sumter at Black Stock Hill. After the commencement of this fight Sumter changed his plan of battle, thus exhibiting his military genius in turning unexpected exigencies to his advantage. Yet the victory was saddened by the dear price of a severe wound which he received in the breast, and which disabled him for some months.

Immediately upon the recovery of his health he resumed his work. The British considered him their worst enemy. They burned his home, and turned his wife and son out of doors. But these misfortunes only strengthened his inflexible will and fired his inspiring activity. The battle of the Cowpens, displaying the brilliant strategy and execution of Daniel Morgan, now came to give high hope to the country; and the battle of Guilford Court House followed to turn the tide of the American Revolution. Cornwallis' plan of campaign was now broken. With his Southern army he was to effect a junction with Clinton in Virginia, thus crushing between the two British armies the small force. But Cowpens and Guilford Court House rudely shattered a scheme which was adopted by Grant and Sherman a century later. The battle of Guilford was claimed by the British, but Charles Fox with dramatic eloquence, declared that "another such victory would destroy the British army." Thus were Cornwallis' troops hurriedly and unwillingly removed from the Carolina's, and his surrender in October following brought to the full conscience of the American people the patience, the sagacity and the strategy of Washington in accomplishing one of the world's greatest achievements, with which Sumter's name and fame and glory will ever be indissolubly associated.

The termination of hostilities, however, did not end Sumter's public life. His courage, his probity, his candor, his freedom from vicissitudes of opinion or purpose, his opulent faith in the practical efficiency of self-government, and his military fame, gave his an immediate and sure place in the confidence of the people.

In his mission to England in 1762 for the Cherokee Indians he had exhibited at an early age an aptitude for public affairs, and his entrance into the continental congress after the Revolution must have been made with a confidence that he was not unfitted for legislative service.

In civil life he still clung to the great principles underlying the Revolution; and he believed that definite and practicable results should crown our victorious achievement. He unquestionably realized the fatal futilty of the government under the Articles of Confederation, and he gave his great influence for calling the constitutional convention of 1787, that the spirit and end of the struggle might be made effective. So it seems quite in the course of things to find him a member of that memorable convention, giving his counsel and influence in behalf of a "more perfect union," and a more responsible and workable government.

In the first congress under the new constitution, we again see his commanding presence. His words were few; his votes were many; and his position upon important questions instant and decisive. He did not dodge or make dubious pairs upon roll calls. He was not inflated by applause or disconcerted by hostile majorities. He was an ardent "State rights man" when his State was federalist in opinion and action, and he was, therefore, opposed to the leadership of C. C. Pinckney, William Smith and William R. Harper. He aided Charles Pinckney, the majority leader, in the memorable national campaign of 1800, believing with all his soul that the defeat of Jefferson would be hardly less disastrous than civil war.

He opposed the bill to pension the widow of the distinguished Gen. Greene. He thought Greene underestimated the militia, and that his conduct of the southern department of the continental army during and shortly after the war not wholly creditable. His stand upon this bill indicated the positiveness of his views and the fearlessness of his character.

Being an ardent Republican or Democrat, he consistently opposed the "alien and sedition laws." This extraordinary and vicious legislation conflicted with his dearest political convictions, and he kept his seat for weeks with the hope of defeating the bill. In connection with this legislation it may not be inappropriate to recall an incident which throws no less light upon the temper of the times than upon Sumter's devotion to duty. His colleague in the house, Matthew Lyons, of Vermont, was imprisoned and fined one thousand dollars for violation of these famous laws. Sumter cordially helped Jefferson in raising the money to pay this fine; and upon the reappearance of Lyons in the house he was brutally insulted upon the floor by Griswold, of Connecticut, when Lyons, losing control of himself, spat in Griswold's face. For this violation of the decorum of the house a resolution was offered for the expulsion of Lyons. Sumter vigorously and successfully co-operated with Galatin, Macon and others in defeating this resolution.

Upon the appointment of Charles Pinckney as minister to Spain in 1801 Sumter succeeded him in the senate, serving therein until 1810, though the annals of congress do not show that he was in his seat during the last session of his term. We read nothing from him in the way of speeches. Indeed, the senate was not a forum of discussion until about 1816, the majestic debates of Calhoun, Clay, Webster and Hayne were long after to stir and illuminate the republic. But here Sumter was the same direct and intrepid personality as of old. He was still an ardent Republican or Democrat. He still gave vigorous support to Jefferson's policies, such as the twelfth amendment, the Louisiana purchase, and the impeachment of Justice Chase. In this famous trial Sumter voted for conviction upon four of the five specifications, his colleague, Gaillard, voting for acquittal upon every charge. The erratic but brilliant John Randolph, of Roanoke, bunglingly managed this impeachment, which otherwise might have resulted in a conviction, for Chase was grossly unfit for the judicial robe; and it was perhaps Randolph's connection with this trial that made him once declare that if he "were allowed to vote by proxy, and on that vote depended the welfare of the republic, he (I) would make Thomas Sumter his (my) proxy."

In 1806 Sumter is still the staunch partisan of Jefferson, supporting his expedient but righteous "embargo act," which Sumter approved in its entirety, save the clause giving to the president absolute power during the recess of congress, when his splendid independence came into play in parting company with his personal friends and party associates.

Long after Sumter's retirement from public life, when were heard the first rumblings of the storm which was to break with such destructive force upon our country in 1860, his early faith broke forth afresh, and the early fire of his life flamed anew in his support of the incomparable Calhoun and his great fight for nullification, Calhoun's panacea for settlement within the Union of conflicts between the State and the Nation. May I give you his own words in a letter to his son in 1831? Words so characteristic of his energy and directness.

"If any one," he writes, "of the present generation has forgotten these wholesome truths let them, before they attempt to seduce, or terrify me, read carefully the Declaration of Independence, the Debates on the Ratification of the Federal Constitution itself, and its amendments (without which it could not have existed five years), the Virginia and Kentucky res-

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