

STATE OF MARYLAND.
Annapolis, November 21, 1783.

IN consequence of a public request of the honourable major general Smallwood to the officers of the Maryland line, to meet at this city the 20th instant, to take into consideration several matters very interesting to the line, a considerable number of the said officers assembled accordingly; but as General Smallwood did not arrive agreeable to their expectations, they unanimously adjourned the meeting till this day at eleven o'clock, when they re-assembled at the house of Mr. Mann, and several matters interesting to the line were suggested; but in consideration of the absence of general Smallwood and general Gist, two senior officers, they postponed the consideration of the several subjects till three o'clock, when they met again. Thereupon the item for establishing the order of CINCINNATI was produced and read by general Williams, as follows:

"It having pleased the Supreme Governor of the Universe, in the disposition of human affairs, to cause the separation of the colonies of North America from the domination of Great-Britain, and after a bloody conflict of eight years to establish them free, sovereign, and independent states, connected by alliances founded on reciprocal advantage with some of the great princes and powers of the earth:

"To perpetuate therefore, as well the remembrance of this great event as the mutual friendships which have been formed under the pressure of common danger, and in many instances cemented by the blood of the parties, the officers of the American army do hereby in the most solemn manner associate, constitute, and combine themselves into one society of friends, to endure as long as they shall endure, or any of their eldest male posterity, and in failure thereof, the collateral branches, who may be judged worthy of becoming its supporters and members.

"The officers of the American army, having generally been taken from the citizens of America, possess high veneration for the character of that illustrious Roman, Lucius Quintus Cincinnatus, and being resolved to follow his example by returning to their citizenship, they think they may with propriety denominate themselves, the society of the Cincinnati.

"The following principles shall be immutable, and form the basis of the society of the Cincinnati.

"An incessant attention to preserve inviolate those exalted rights and liberties of human nature, for which they have fought and bled, and without which the high rank of a rational being is a curse instead of a blessing.

"An unalterable determination to promote and cherish between the respective states that union and national honour, so essentially necessary to their happiness, and the future dignity of the American empire.

"To render permanent the cordial affection subsisting among the officers; this spirit will dictate brotherly kindness in all things, and particularly extend to the most substantial acts of beneficence, according to the ability of the society, towards those officers and their families who unfortunately may be under the necessity of receiving it.

"The general society will, for the sake of frequent communications, be divided into state societies, and these again into such districts as shall be directed by the state societies.

"The societies of the districts to meet as often as shall be agreed upon by the state societies, those of the state on the fourth day of July annually, or oftener if they shall find it expedient, and the general society on the first Monday in May annually, so long as they shall deem it necessary; and afterwards at least once in every three years. At each meeting the principles of the institution will be fully considered, and the best measures to promote them adopted.

"The state societies will consist of all the members residing in each state respectively; and any member removing from one state to another is to be considered, in all respects, as belonging to the society of the state in which he shall actually reside.

"The state societies to have a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and assistant treasurer, to be chosen annually, by a majority of votes, at the state meeting.

"Each state meeting shall write annually, or oftener if necessary, a circular letter to the other state societies, noting whatever they may think worthy of observation respecting the good of the society, or the general union of the states, and giving information of the officers chosen for the current year. Copies of these letters shall be regularly transmitted to the secretary general of the society, who will record them in a book to be assigned for that purpose.

"The state society will regulate every thing respecting itself and the societies of its districts, consistent with the general maxims of the Cincinnati; judge of the qualifications of the members who may be proposed, and expel any member, who by a conduct inconsistent with a gentleman and a man of honour, or by an opposition to the interests of the community in general, or the society in particular, may render himself unworthy to continue a member.

"In order to form funds which may be respectable and assist the unfortunate, each officer shall deliver to the treasurer of the state society one month's pay, which shall remain for ever to the use of the state society, the interest only of which, if necessary, to be appropriated to the relief of the unfortunate.

"Donations may be made by persons not of the society, and by members of the society, for the express purpose of forming permanent funds for the use of the state society, and the interest of these donations appropriated in the same manner as that of the month's pay.

"Monies, at the pleasure of each member, may be subscribed in the societies of the district, or the state societies, for the relief of the unfortunate members, or their widows and orphans, to be appropriated by the state society only.

"The meeting of the general society shall consist of its officers, and a representation from each state society, in number not exceeding five, whose expenses shall be borne by their respective state societies.

"In the general meeting, the president, vice-president, secretary, assistant secretary, treasurer, and assistant and treasurer generals, shall be chosen to serve until the next meeting.

"The circular letters which have been written by the respective state societies to each other, and their particular laws, shall be read and considered, and all measures concerted which may conduce to the general improvement of the society.

"It is probable that some persons may make donations to the general society, for the purpose of establishing funds for the further comfort of the unfortunate; in which case, such donations must be placed in the hands of the treasurer general, the interest only of which to be disposed of, if necessary, by the general meeting.

"All the officers of the American army, as well those who have resigned with honour after three years service in the capacity of officers, or who have been deranged by the resolution of congress upon the several reforms of the army, as those who shall have continued to the end of the war, have the right to become parties to this institution; provided that they subscribe one month's pay, and sign their names to the general rules in their respective state societies; those who are present with the army immediately; and others, within six months after the army shall be disbanded, extraordinary cases excepted. The rank, time of service, resolution of congress by which any have been deranged, and place of residence, must be added to each name; and as a testimony of affection to the memory and the offspring of such officers as have died in the service, their eldest male branches shall have the same right of becoming members as the children of the actual members of the society.

"Those officers who are foreigners, not resident in any of the states, will have their names enrolled by the secretary general, and are to be considered as members in the societies of any of the states in which they may happen to be.

"And as there are and will at all times be men in the respective states, eminent for their abilities and patriotism, whose views may be directed to the same laudable objects with those of the Cincinnati, it shall be a rule to admit such characters as honorary members of the society for their own lives only. Provided always, that the number of honorary members in each state does not exceed a ratio of one to four of the officers or their descendants.

"Each state society shall obtain a list of its members, and at the first annual meeting the state secretary shall have engrossed on parchment, two copies of the institution of the society, which every member present shall sign; and the secretary shall endeavour to procure the signature of every absent member; one of these lists to be transmitted to the secretary general, to be kept in the archives of the society, and the other to remain in the hands of the state secretary.

"From the state lists the secretary general must make out, at the first general meeting, a complete list of the whole society, a copy of which he will furnish each state secretary.

"The society shall have an order by which its members shall be known and distinguished, which shall be a medal of gold, of a proper size to receive the emblems, and suspended by a deep blue ribbon, two inches wide, edged with white, descriptive of the union of America and France, viz.

"The principal figure to be Cincinnatus, three senators presenting him with a sword and other military ensigns; on a field in the back ground his wife standing at the door of their cottage, near it a plough and instruments of husbandry; round the whole,

Omnia requit servare rempublicam.

On the reverse,

Sun rising, a city with open gates, and vessels entering the port; Fame crowning Cincinnatus with a wreath, inscribed,

Virtutis premium.

Below,

Hands joining, supporting a heart; with the motto,

Ego persequar.

Round the whole,

Societas Cincinnatorum, instituta A. D. 1783.

"The society, deeply impressed with a sense of the general assistance this country has received from France, and desirous of perpetuating the friendships which have been formed, and so happily subsisted between the officers of the allied forces in the prosecution of the war, direct that the present general transmit, as soon as may be, to each of the characters hereafter mentioned, a medal containing the order of the society, viz. His Excellency the Chevalier de la Luzerne, minister plenipotentiary; his Excellency the Sieur Gerard, late minister plenipotentiary; their Excellencies the Count d'Estaing, the Count de Grasse, the Count de Barras, the Chevalier de Touches, admirals and commanders in the navy; his Excellency the Count de Rochambeau, commander in chief, and the generals and colonels in his army; and acquaint them, that "the society do themselves the honour to consider them as members."

"Resolved, That a copy of the foregoing institution be given to the senior officer of each state line, and that the officers of the respective state lines sign their names to the same in manner and form following, viz. We the subscribers, officers of the American army, do hereby voluntarily become parties to the foregoing institution, and do bind ourselves to observe and be governed by the principles therein contained; for the performance whereof we do solemnly pledge to each other our sacred honour."

Done at Annapolis the 21st of November, in the year 1783.

[Then follow the subscription, &c.]

The inconvenience and expence of a further attendance at this time, or of meeting again soon, and an earnest desire the officers have of being considered members of that honourable society, induced them to proceed now to testify their entire and hearty approbation of the principles thereof. They therefore most cheerfully concur in the establishment of the said order, by subscribing their names, each officer previously producing sufficient vouchers of his being fully qualified and entitled thereto; and, for the more effectual execution and fulfilling the same, the said subscribers form themselves into a committee of the whole, to appoint by election the officers of their state society, of which said committee general Williams was appointed president, and lieutenant-colonel Eccleston secretary.

It was then moved, That officers of the society be appointed. Upon which it was debated, Whether the

election should be by ballot or otherwise? and Resolved, That all elections in this society shall be by ballot. The committee adjourned until to-morrow 9 o'clock.

Saturday, November 22.

The committee met according to appointment, and proceeded to the election of officers. Whereupon, Major-general SMALLWOOD was elected president, Brigadier-general GIST, vice-president, Brigadier-general WILLIAMS, secretary, Colonel RAMSEY, treasurer, and Lieutenant-colonel ECCLESTON, assistant treasurer.

On motion of colonel Ramsey, and seconded, Resolved unanimously, That the secretary write to the president and vice-president, and inform them of their respective appointments. And,

Resolved, That general Williams, the secretary, be invested with all the powers of president, until one or both of the honourable gentlemen elected as president and vice president become subscribing members of this society, and take upon them the exercise of their respective offices.

The committee, thereupon considering themselves virtually and actually constituted and instituted a state society, of the order of Cincinnati, conceive it their indispensable duty to offer their most grateful thanks to Almighty God, for his most gracious dispensation in the order of human events, whereby we are permitted to felicitate each other on the fortunate and glorious conclusion of an unequal, precarious and bloody war, and to return with joy to our country, to repossess the invaluable rights of citizens in peace and national INDEPENDENCE.

As a testimony of the satisfaction we feel in our opportunity of returning to our respective stations in the general class of the community, and of re-commencing our civil occupations, under a government which we have aided to establish, and which we all approve and will endeavour to maintain; and in consideration of the abilities, merit, and patriotism, of his Excellency Governor Paca, this society direct, that the secretary wait on his Excellency, and inform him, that the society do themselves the honour to consider him as an honorary member of their body.

The society then proceeded to the election of delegates to represent them in the general society; whereupon, General Williams, Governor Paca, General Smallwood, and Colonel Ramsey, were duly elected.

Resolved, That Annapolis be appointed the place of the annual state meeting.

Resolved, That in future no honorary member can be appointed, unless the person applying signify his wishes to the secretary in writing at least three months before the state meeting.

A regular list of such applicants shall, on the first day of the meeting, be produced to the society, and lie on the table for the inspection of the members. Any person thus qualified may then be put in nomination by any member, and if seconded shall be balloted for, provided that at least one third of the members and half the officers be present.

Resolved, That the system of the order of the Cincinnati, together with the proceedings of this committee, be published for the information of absent friends, and that the secretary draw upon the treasurer for the expence.

And the society adjourned without day.
O. H. WILLIAMS, President of committee.

JOHN ECCLESTON, Secretary of the committee.

Prince George's county, November 21, 1783.

On Saturday last departed this life, at Oxen-hill, the seat of Mr. Thomas Hanson, in the sixty-third year of his age, the honourable JOHN HANSON, Esq;—This gentleman had long been a servant to his country, in a variety of employments, the last of which was that of president of Congress. Upon quitting that arduous and exalted station, he had scarcely reached his peaceful home, before he was seized by a dangerous illness, which, after a doubtful struggle of many months, there was every reason to believe his constitution had entirely subdued; but notwithstanding a considerable interval of ease and apparent health, on a visit to his friends in this county, the disease returned with increased strength, and he quickly became conscious of his approaching end. Amidst lingering torments, he steadily preserved the fortitude of a man, with the temper of a philosopher, and at length met the king of terrors with the meek resignation, and elevated hope, of a Christian.

Too often does the partial or venal pen disregard the sacred dictates of truth and justice! To the good and generous how mortifying is the reflection, that in delineating characters of deceased men, there is little distinction between him, whose virtues have adorned human nature, and the wretch whose vices have debased it! Of all the numerous acquaintances of this amiable man, and distinguished citizen, there will be few indeed, from whom the sad recital of his fate will not at least extort an eulogy on his character; but his more dear and intimate connections, whilst they cannot fail to lament their loss and venerate his memory, will endeavour to emulate him in the gentleness of his manners, the benevolence of his heart, and the propriety, dignity, and usefulness of his conduct.

By the UNITED STATES in CONGRESS assembled.

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS it hath pleased the Supreme Ruler of all human events to dispose the hearts of the late belligerent powers to put a period to the effusion of human blood, by proclaiming a cessation of all hostilities by sea and land; and these United States are not only happily rescued from the dangers and calamities to which they have been so long exposed, but their freedom, sovereignty, and independence, ultimately acknowledged; AND WHEREAS, in the progress of a contest, in which the most essential rights of human nature depended, the interposition of Divine Providence in our favour hath been most abundantly and most graciously manifested, and the citizens of these United States have every reason for praise and gratitude to the God of their salvation IMPRESSED, THEREFORE, with an exalted sense of the blessings by which we are surrounded, and of our entire dependence on that Almighty Being, from whose goodness and bounty they are de-