

Great difficulty arose, in consequence of the state of the currency; but out of fifty-six debtors to British merchants, who paid their debts into the state treasury in depreciated money, there were but four or five residents of Baltimore town and county. In the latter part of this year, the ladies raised liberal contributions in aid of the suffering soldiers.

In 1781, Fell's Prospect was laid off by the commissioners and added to the town on the east, besides eighteen acres, lying between Bridge, now Gay, and French streets. In September, Gen. Washington passed through Baltimore, on his way to Yorktown; on which occasion the town was illuminated, and an address presented in behalf of the citizens. On the march of La Fayette's detachment for the south, they were so destitute that, on his arrival, he obtained on his own credit from the merchants £2000, with which clothing was purchased. The ladies were, as usual, active in the matter, and the detachment were soon comfortably clad.

In 1782, Col. Howard annexed to the town all his grounds east of the street named by him, "Eutaw." On Lexington street, he laid out a spacious lot for a market, which was improved for that purpose in 1803. He also assigned a large lot of ground on Baltimore street, west of Eutaw, for the use of the State, should the Assembly make Baltimore the seat of government within twenty years: but the proposition has been rejected by the Legislature, as often as made. Up to this time, the streets were unpaved and consequently often impassable; but commissioners were now appointed, to repair the bridges, and grade, level, and pave the streets, beginning with Baltimore street. In November, were added to the town, Gist's Inspection and Timber Neck, lying south of former additions and upon the middle branch; also the lands between Fell's Prospect and Harris's Creek. These were the last specific additions by act of Assembly; and no change of consequence was made in the limits for many years. A line of stage coaches was established this year between Baltimore and Philadelphia, which was afterwards extended to Alexandria. The town had, at this time, eight places of worship, and contained about 8000 inhabitants.

The suspension of hostilities with Great Britain, was celebrated April 21st, 1783, and at night the town was illuminated. The manifestations of joy at this period were doubly appropriate; as not only was the nation beginning a new career of happiness and glory, but the town might also here date the commencement of a progress in wealth and prosperity, scarcely paralleled in the history of American cities. Many merchants from other States and from Europe settled here; new wharves were built; streets were widened and extended; and the establishment of a company to cut a canal on the Susquehanna, of the Potomac canal company, and, not many years after, of a company to unite the Chesapeake and Delaware bays, gives indication of the commencement of that policy which has been pursued up to the present time; having in view the connection of the town by the cheapest and speediest modes of communication with the principal regions of production and seats of trade, and especially with the west. In the course of this year, regular lines of stage coaches were established to Fredericktown and Annapolis.

In 1784, proposals were issued for establishing a Bank, and subscriptions were obtained to a considerable amount, but the plan finally failed. A public dinner was given to Gen. La Fayette in September, and at the same time he and his heirs male were declared by the Legislature, citizens of Maryland. Provision was this year made for lighting the streets; three constables and fourteen watchmen were appointed; and Major Yates was licensed as *sole auctioneer*. After much disagreement in regard to a location, the Centre Market was erected in Harrison street, on a space originally intended for a canal