

# SERVICES

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OF

## COLORED AMERICANS,

IN THE

## WARS OF 1776 AND 1812.

BY

WILLIAM C. NELL.

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NOTE. — Circumstances beyond control have prevented an insertion in this number of many valuable facts and incidents, but which are reserved for a second edition if sufficient encouragement warrant such an attempt.

# INTRODUCTION.

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IN the month of July, 1847, the gifted and eloquent Bard of Freedom, JOHN G. WHITTIER, contributed to the *National Era* a statement of facts relative to the Military Services of Colored Americans in the Revolution of 1776, and War of 1812. Being a member of the Society of Friends, he disclaimed any eulogy upon the shedding of blood, even in the cause of acknowledged Justice, but, says he, "when we see a whole nation doing honor to the memories of one class of its defenders, to the total neglect of another class, who had the misfortune to be of darker complexion, we cannot forego the satisfaction of inviting notice to certain historical facts, which, for the last half century, have been quietly elbowed aside as no more deserving of a place in patriotic recollection than the descendants of the men to whom the facts in question relate have to a place in a fourth of July procession, [in the nation's estimation.]

"Of the services and sufferings of the Colored Soldiers of the Revolution, no attempt has, to our knowledge, been made to preserve a record. They have had no historian. With here and there an exception, they have all passed away, and only some faint traditions linger among their descendants. Yet enough is known to show that the Free Colored men of the United States bore their full proportion of the sacrifices and trials of the Revolutionary War."

In my attempt, then, to rescue from oblivion the name and fame of those who, though "tinged with the hated stain," yet had warm hearts

and active hands in the "times that tried men's souls," I will first gratefully tender him my obligations for the service his compilation has afforded me, and also other individuals who have kindly contributed facts for this pamphlet. Imperfect as its first edition may prove, journeys have been made to confer with the living, and even pilgrimages to graveyards to glean the shreds and patches for a presentation.

There are those who will ask, why make a parade of the *military* services of Colored Americans instead rather of their attention *to* and progress *in* the various other departments of civil, social, and political elevation? To this let me answer that I yield to no one in appreciating the propriety and pertinency of *every* demonstration, on the part of Colored Americans, in *all* pursuits, which, as members of the human family, it becomes them to aspire for; and, among those, *my* predilections are, *least* and *last* for what constitutes the pomp and circumstance of War.

But the Orator's voice and Author's pen have each been eloquent in detailing the merits of Colored Americans in the various ramifications of society, while a combination of circumstances have veiled from the public eye a narration of those military services which are generally conceded as passports to honorable and lasting notice of Americans.

Boston, May, 1851.

# SERVICES OF COLORED AMERICANS.

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## MASSACHUSETTS.

ON the fifth of March, 1851, a petition was presented to the Massachusetts Legislature, asking an appropriation of \$1,500 for erecting a monument to the memory of CRISPUS ATTUCKS, the first martyr in the Boston Massacre, of March 5th, 1770. The matter was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs, who granted a hearing of the petitioners, but finally submitted an adverse report, on the ground that a boy, CHRISTOPHER SNYDER, was previously killed. Admitting this fact, (which was the result of a very different scene from that in which Attucks fell,) does not offset the claims of Attucks, and those who made the fifth of March famous in our annals—the day which history selects as the dawn of the American Revolution.

Botta's History, and Hewes's Reminiscences (the tea-party survivor) establishes the fact that the colored man, Attucks, was *of* and *with* ~~the~~ people, and was never regarded otherwise.

Botta, in speaking of the scenes of the fifth of March, says: "The people were greatly exasperated. The multitude, armed with clubs, ran towards King Street, crying, '*Let us drive out these ribalds; they have no business here!*' The rioters rushed furiously towards the Custom House; they approached the sentinel, crying, '*Kill him, kill him!*' They assaulted him with snowballs, pieces of ice, and whatever they could lay their hands upon." The guard were then called, and, in marching to the Custom House, "they encountered," continues Botta, "a band of the populace, led by a mulatto named Attucks, who brandished their clubs, and pelted them with snowballs.

The maledictions, the imprecations, the execrations of the multitude, were horrible. In the midst of a torrent of invectives from every quarter, the military were challenged to fire. The populace advanced to the points of their bayonets. The soldiers appeared like statues; the cries, the howlings, the menaces, the violent din of bells still sounding the alarm, increased the confusion and the horrors of these moments; at length the mulatto and twelve of his companions, pressing forward, environed the soldiers, and striking their muskets with their clubs, cried to the multitude: '*Be not afraid, they dare not fire; why do you hesitate, why do you not kill them, why not crush them at once!*' The mulatto lifted his arm against Captain Preston, and having turned one of the muskets, he seized the bayonet with his left hand, as if he intended to execute his threat. At this moment, confused cries were heard: '*The wretches dare not fire!*' Firing succeeds. Attucks is slain. Two other discharges follow. Three were killed, five severely wounded, and several others slightly."

Attucks was killed by Montgomery, one of Captain Preston's soldiers. He had been foremost in resisting, and was first slain; as proof of front and close engagement, received two balls, one in each breast.

John Adams, counsel for the soldiers, admitted that Attucks appeared to have undertaken to be the Hero of the night, and to lead the army with banners. Him and Caldwell, not being residents of Boston, were both buried from Faneuil Hall. The citizens generally participated in the funeral solemnities.

The Boston Transcript, of March 7, 1851, published an anonymous correspondence disparaging the whole affair; denouncing Crispus Attucks as a very firebrand of disorder and sedition the most conspicuous, inflammatory, and uproarious of the misguided populace, and who, if he had not fallen a martyr, would richly have deserved hanging as an incendiary. If the leader Attucks deserved the epithets above applied, is it not a legitimate inference that the citizens who followed on are included, and hence, should swing in his company on the gallows. If the leader and his patriot band were *misguided*, the distinguished orators who, in after days, commemorated the fifth of March, must, indeed, have been misguided, and with them the masses who were inspired by their eloquence; for John Hancock, in 1774, invokes the injured shades of *Maverick, Gray, Caldwell, Attucks, and Carr*.

And Judge Dawes, in 1785, thus alludes to the band of misguided incendiaries. "The provocation of that night must be numbered

among the master springs which gave the first motion to a vast machinery a noble and comprehensive system of national independence."

In judging, then, of the merits of those who launched the American Revolution, we should not take counsel from the *Tories* of *that* or the *present* day, but rather heed the approving eulogy of Lovell, Hancock, and Warren.

Welcome, then, be every taunt that such correspondents have flung at Attucks and his company, as the best evidence of their merits and strongest claim on our gratitude. Envy and the foe do not labor to abuse any but prominent champions of a cause.

The rejection of this petition was to be expected, if we accept the axiom that a Colored man never gets Justice done him in the United States, except by mistake. The petitioners only asked for that Justice, and that the name of Crispus Attucks be surrounded with the same emblems constantly appropriated by a grateful country to other gallant Americans.

During the Revolutionary War, public opinion was so strongly in favor of the abolition of Slavery, that, in some of the country towns, votes were passed in town meetings that they would have no Slaves among them; and that they would not exact, of masters any bonds, for the maintenance of liberated blacks, should they become incapable of supporting themselves. A liberty loving antiquarian copied the following from the Suffolk Probate Record, and published it in the *Liberator*, of February, 1847.

"Know all men by these presents, that I, Jonathan Jackson, of Newburyport, in the county of Essex, gentleman, in consideration of the impropriety I feel, and have long felt, in holding any person in constant bondage, — more especially at a time when my country is so warmly contending for the liberty every man ought to enjoy, — and having sometime since promised my negro man Pomp, that I would give him his freedom, — and in further consideration of five shillings, paid me by said Pomp, I do hereby liberate, manumit, and set him free; and I do hereby remise and release unto said Pomp, all demands of whatever nature I have against said Pomp.

"In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal, this nineteenth June, 1776.

"JONATHAN JACKSON. [Seal.]

"Witness, Mary Coburn, Wm. Noyes."

It only remains to say a word respecting the two parties of the foregoing indenture.

Jonathan Jackson, of Newburyport, we well remember to have heard spoken of, in our boyish days, by honored lips, as a most upright and thorough gentleman of the old school, possessing talents and character of the first standing. He was the first Collector of the Port of Boston, under Washington's administration, and was Treasurer of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for many years, and died in 1810. A tribute to his memory and his worth, said to be from the pen of the late John Lowell, appeared in the *Columbian Centinel*, March 10, 1810. His immediate descendants have long resided in this city, are extensively known, and as widely and justly honored.

Pomp took the name of his late master, upon his emancipation, and soon after, enlisted in the army, as Pomp Jackson, served through the whole war of the revolution, and obtained an honorable discharge at its termination. He afterwards settled in Andover, near a pond, still known as "Pomp's Pond," where some of his descendants yet live. In this case of emancipation, it appears, instead of "cutting his master's throat," he only slashed the throats of his country's enemies.

The late Governor Eustis, of Massachusetts, the pride and boast of the democracy of the East, himself an active participant in the War, and therefore a most competent witness, states that the Free Colored Soldiers entered the ranks with the whites. The time of those who were Slaves was purchased of their masters, and they were induced to enter the service in consequence of a law of Congress, by which, on condition of their serving in the ranks during the War, they were made Freemen. This hope of Liberty inspired them with courage to oppose their breasts to the Hessian bayonet at Red Bank, and enabled them to endure with fortitude the cold and famine of Valley Forge.

Joshua B. Smith narrated to me "that he was present at a company of distinguished Massachusetts men, when the conversation turned upon the exploits of Revolutionary times; and that the late Judge Story related an instance of a Colored Artillerist who, while having charge of a cannon with a white fellow soldier, was wounded in one arm. He immediately turned to his comrade and proposed changing his position, exclaiming that he had yet one arm left with which he could render some service to his country. The change proved fatal to the heroic soldier, for another shot from the enemy killed him upon the



spot. Judge Story furnished other incidents of the bravery and devotion of Colored Soldiers, adding, that he had often thought them and their descendants too much neglected, considering the part they had sustained in the Wars; and he regretted that he did not, in early life, gather the facts into a shape for general information.

At the close of the Revolutionary War, JOHN HANCOCK presented the Colored Soldiers called the "Buck's of America" an appropriate banner (bearing his initials) as a tribute to their courage and devotion in the cause of American Liberty, through a protracted and bloody struggle. This banner is now in the possession of Mrs. Kay, whose father was a member of the company.

When a boy, living in West Boston, I was familiar with the presence of "Big Dick," and of hearing the following history confirmed. It is not wholly out of place in this collection.

**BIG DICK.**—Richard Seavers, whose death in this city we lately mentioned, was a man of mighty mould. A short time previous to his death, he measured six feet five inches in height, and attracted much attention when seen in the street. He was born in Salem or vicinity, and, when about sixteen years old, went to England, where he entered the British Navy. When the war of 1812 broke out, he would not fight against his country, gave himself up as an American citizen, and was made a prisoner of war.

A surgeon on board an American privateer, who experienced the tender mercies of the British Government in Dartmoor prison, during the War of 1812, makes honorable mention of King Dick, as he was there called.

"There are about four hundred and fifty negroes in prison No. 4, and this assemblage of blacks affords many curious anecdotes, and much matter for speculation. These blacks have a ruler among them whom they call *king* DICK. He is by far the largest, and I suspect the strongest man in the prison. He is six feet five inches in height, and proportionably large. This black Hercules commands respect, and his subjects tremble in his presence. He goes the rounds every day, and visits every birth to see if they are all kept clean. When he goes the rounds, he puts on a large bearskin cap, and carries in his hand a huge club. If any of his men are dirty, drunken, or grossly negligent, he threatens them with a beating; and if they are saucy, they are sure to receive one. They have several times conspired against him, and attempted to dethrone him; but he has always con-

quered the rebels. One night several attacked him while asleep in his hammock ; he sprang up and seized the smallest of them by his feet, and thumped another with him. The poor negro who had thus been made a beetle of, was carried next day to the hospital, sadly bruised, and provokingly laughed at. This ruler of the blacks, this *king* RICHARD IV. is a man of good understanding, and he exercises it to a good purpose. If any one of his color cheats, defrauds, or steals from his comrades, he is sure to be punished for it." — *Boston Patriot*.

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## RHODE ISLAND.

The Hon. Tristram Burgess, of Rhode Island, in a speech in Congress, first month, 1828, said : " At the commencement of the Revolutionary War, Rhode Island had a number of Slaves. A regiment of them were enlisted into the Continental service, and no braver men met the enemy in battle ; but not one of them was permitted to be a soldier until he had first been made a freeman."

" In Rhode Island," says Governor Eustis, in his able speech against Slavery in Missouri, 12th of twelfth month, 1820, " the blacks formed an entire regiment, and they discharged their duty with zeal and fidelity. The gallant defence of Red Bank, in which the black regiment bore a part, is among the proofs of their valor." In this contest it will be recollected that four hundred men met and repulsed, after a terrible and sanguinary struggle, fifteen hundred Hessian troops, headed by Count Donop. The glory of the defence of Red Bank, which has been pronounced one of the most heroic actions of the War, belongs in reality to black men ; yet who now hears them spoken of in connection with it ? Among the traits which distinguished the black regiment, was devotion to their officers. In the attack made upon the American lines, near Croton river, on the 13th of fifth month, 1781, Colonel Greene, the commander of the regiment, was cut down and mortally wounded ; but the sabres of the enemy only reached him through the bodies of his faithful guard of blacks, who hovered over him to protect him, *every one of whom was killed*.

## CONNECTICUT.

Hon. Calvin Goddard, of Connecticut, states that in the little circle of his residence, he was instrumental in securing, under the act of 1818, the pensions of nineteen Colored Soldiers. "I cannot," he says, "refrain from mentioning one aged black man, Primus Babcock, who proudly presented to me an honorable discharge from service during the war, dated at the close of it, wholly in the handwriting of George Washington. Nor can I forget the expression of his feelings, when informed, after his discharge had been sent to the War Department, that it could not be returned. At his request it was written for, as he seemed inclined to spurn the pension and reclaim the discharge." There is a touching anecdote related of Baron Steuben, on the occasion of the disbandment of the American army. A black soldier, with his wounds unhealed, utterly destitute, stood on the wharf just as a vessel bound for a distant home was getting under weigh. The poor fellow gazed at the vessel with tears in his eyes, and gave himself up to despair. The warm-hearted foreigner witnessed his emotion, and, inquiring into the cause of it, took his last dollar from his purse, and gave it to him with tears of sympathy trickling down his cheeks. Overwhelmed with gratitude, the poor wounded soldier hailed the sloop, and was received on board. As it moved out from the wharf, he cried back to his noble friend on shore, "God Almighty bless you, master Baron!"

During the Revolutionary War, and after the sufferings of a protracted contest had rendered it difficult to procure recruits for the army, the Colony of Connecticut adopted the expedient of forming a corps of Colored Soldiers. A battalion of blacks was soon enlisted, and throughout the War conducted themselves with fidelity and efficiency. The late General Humphreys, then a Captain, commanded a company of this corps. It is said that some objections were made, on the part of officers, to accepting the command of the Colored troops. In this exigency, Capt. Humphreys, who was attached to the family of General Washington, volunteered his services. His patriotism was rewarded, and his fellow officers were afterwards as desirous to obtain appointments in that corps as they had previously been to avoid them.

The following extract, furnished by CHARLES L. REMOND, from the pay rolls of the second company fourth regiment of the Connecticut line of the revolutionary army may rescue many gallant names from oblivion.

*Captain, DAVID HUMPHREYS.*

PRIVATES.

Jack Arabus.	Brister Baker.	John Ball.
John Cleveland.	Cæsar Bagdou.	John McLean.
Phineas Strong.	Gamaliel Terry.	Jesse Vose.
Ned Fields.	Lent Munson.	Daniel Bradley.
Isaac Higgins.	Heman Rogers.	Sharp Camp.
Lewis Martin.	Job Cæsar.	Jo Otis.
Cæsar Chapman.	John Rogers.	James Dinah.
Peter Mix.	Ned Freedom.	Solomon Sowtice.
Philo Freeman.	Ezekiel Tupham.	Peter Freeman.
Hector Williams.	Tom Freeman.	Cato Wilbrow.
Juba Freeman.	Congo Zado.	Cuff Freeman.
Cato Robinson.	Peter Gibbs.	Juba Dyer.
Prince George.	Prince Johnson.	Andrew Jack.
Prince Crosbee.	Alex. Judd.	Peter Morando.
Shubael Johnson.	Pomp Liberty.	Peter Lion.
Tim Cæsar.	Cuff Liberty.	Sampson Cuff.
Jack Little.	Pomp Cyrus.	Dick Freedom.
Bill Sowers.	Harry Williams.	Pomp McCuff.
Dick Violet.	Sharp Rogers.	

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BOSTON, 24th April, 1851.

DEAR FRIEND NELL :

The names of the two brave men of color who fell, with Ledyard, at the storming of Fort Griswold, were Sambo Latham and Jordan Freeman.

All the names of the slain, at that time, are inscribed on a marble tablet, wrought into the monument—the names of the *Colored Soldiers last*—and not only last, but a blank space is left between them and the whites—in genuine keeping with the “Negro Pew” distinction ; setting them not only below all others, but by themselves—even after that.

And it is difficult to say why. They were not last in the fight. When Major Montgomery, one of the leaders in the expedition against the Americans, was lifted upon the walls of the fort by his soldiers, flourishing his sword and calling on them to follow him, Jordan Freeman received him on the point of a pike, and pinned him dead to the earth. [Vide Hist. Collections of Connecticut.] And the name of Jordan Freeman stands away down, last on the list of the heroes, perhaps the greatest hero of them all.

Yours, with becoming indignation,

PARKER PILLSBURY.

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Ebenezer Hills died at Vienna, N. Y., August, 1849, aged 110. He was born a Slave in Stonington, Conn., and became free when twenty-eight years of age. He served through the revolutionary war and was at the battles of Saratoga and Stillwater, and was present at the surrender of Burgoyne.

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## NEW HAMPSHIRE.

The Rev. Dr. Harris, of Dunbarton, N. H., a revolutionary veteran, stated in a speech at Francestown, N. H., some years ago, that on one occasion the regiment to which he was attached was commanded to defend an important position which the enemy thrice assailed, and from which they were as often repulsed. "There was," said the venerable speaker, "a regiment of blacks in the same situation—a regiment of negroes fighting for our liberty and independence, not a white man among them but the officers—in the same dangerous and responsible position. Had they been unfaithful, or given way before the enemy, all would have been lost. Three times in succession were they attacked with most desperate fury by well-disciplined and veteran troops, and three times did they successfully repel the assault, and thus preserve an army. They fought thus through the war. They were brave and hardy troops."

The anecdote of the Slave of General Sullivan, of New Hampshire, is well known. When his master told him that they were on the point of starting for the army, to fight for liberty, he shrewdly suggested that it would be a great satisfaction to know that he was indeed going to fight for *his* liberty. Struck with the reasonableness and justice of this suggestion, Gen. S. at once gave him his freedom.

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## NEW YORK.

Dr. Clarke, in the Convention which revised the Constitution of New York, in 1821, speaking of the Colored inhabitants of the State, said : " My honorable colleague has told us that as the Colored people are not required to contribute to the protection or defence of the State they are not entitled to an equal participation in the privileges of its citizens. But, Sir, whose fault is this ? Have they ever refused to do military duty when called upon ? It is haughtily asked, who will stand in the ranks shoulder to shoulder with a negro ? I answer, no one in time of peace ; no one when your musters and trainings are looked upon as mere pastimes ; no one when your militia will shoulder their muskets and march to their trainings with as much unconcern as they would go to a sumptuous entertainment or a splendid ball. But, Sir, when the hour of danger approaches, your ' white ' militia are just as willing that the man of Color should be set up as a mark to be shot at by the enemy as to be set up themselves. In the War of the Revolution, these people helped to fight your battles by land and by sea. Some of your States were glad to turn out corps of Colored men, and to stand ' shoulder to shoulder ' with them.

" In your late War they contributed largely towards some of your most splendid victories. On Lakes Erie and Champlain, where your fleets triumphed over a foe superior in numbers and engines of death, they were manned in a large proportion with men of Color. And in this very house, in the fall of 1814, a bill passed, receiving the approbation of all the branches of your Government, authorising the Governor to accept the services of a corps of two thousand free people of Color. Sir, these were times which tried men's souls. In these times it was no sporting matter to bear arms. These were times when a man

who shouldered his musket did not know but he bared his bosom to receive a death wound from the enemy ere he laid it aside ; and in these times, these people were found as ready and as willing to volunteer in your service, as any other. They were not compelled to go ; they were not drafted. No ; your pride had placed them beyond your compulsory power. But there was no necessity for its exercise ; they were volunteers ; yes, Sir, volunteers to defend that very country from the inroads and ravages of a ruthless and vindictive foe, which had treated them with insult, degradation, and Slavery."

Volunteers are the best of soldiers ; give me the men, whatever be their complexion, that willingly volunteer, and not those who are compelled to turn out. Such men do not fight from necessity, nor from mercenary motives, but from principle.

Said Martindale, of New York, in Congress, 22d of first month, 1828 : "Slaves, or negroes who had been Slaves, were enlisted as soldiers in the War of the Revolution ; and I myself saw a battalion of them, as fine martial looking men as I ever saw, attached to the northern army in the last War, on its march from Plattsburg to Sackett's Harbor."

It is believed that the debate on the military services of Colored men was a prominent feature in granting them the right of suffrage, though the ungenerous deed must also be recorded, that Colored citizens of the Empire State were made subject to a property qualification of two hundred and fifty dollars.

Plutus must be highly esteemed where his rod can change even a Negro into a man. If two hundred and fifty dollars will perform this miracle, what would it require to elevate a monkey to the enviable distinction.

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## PENNSYLVANIA.

The late James Forten, of Philadelphia, well known as a Colored man of wealth, intelligence, and philanthropy, relates "that he remembered well when Lord Cornwallis was overrunning the South, when thick gloom clouded the prospect. Then Washington hastily gathered what forces he was able and hurried to oppose him. And I remem-

ber," said he, "for I saw them, when the regiments from Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Massachusetts marched through Philadelphia, that one or two companies of *Colored* men were attached to each. The vessels of War of that period, were all, to a greater or less extent, manned with Colored men. On board the 'Royal Louis,' of twenty-six guns, commanded by Captain Stephen Decatur, senior, there were twenty Colored seamen. I had myself enlisted in this vessel, and on the second cruise was taken prisoner, and shortly after was confined on board the old Jersey Prison Ship, where I remained a prisoner for seven months. The Alliance, of thirty-six guns, commanded by Commodore Barry; the Trumbull, of thirty-two guns, commanded by Captain Nicholson; and the ships South Carolina, Confederacy, and the Randolph, each were manned in part with Colored men."

The digression from *military* services to those rendered voluntarily during the *pestilence*, seemed to me warrantable in this connection.

In the autumn of 1793 the yellow fever broke out in Philadelphia, with peculiar malignity. The insolent and unnatural distinctions of caste were overturned, and the people called Colored, were solicited in the public papers to come forward, and assist the perishing sick. The same mouth which had gloried against them in its prosperity, in its overwhelming adversity, implored their assistance. The Colored people of Philadelphia nobly responded. The then Mayor, Matthew Clarkson, received their deputation with respect, and recommended their course. They appointed Absalom Jones and Wm. Gray to superintend it, the Mayor advertising the public that, by applying to them, aid could be obtained. This took place about September.

Soon afterwards the sickness increased so dreadfully, that it became next to impossible to remove the corpses. The Colored people *volunteered* this painful and dangerous duty — did it extensively, and hired help in doing it. Dr. Rush instructed the two superintendents in the proper precautions and measures to be used.

A sick white man crept to his chamber window, and entreated the passers by to bring him a drink of water. Several white men passed, but hurried on. A foreigner came up — paused — was afraid to supply the help with his own hands, but stood, and offered eight dollars to whomsoever would. At length a poor black man appeared; he heard — stopped — ran for water — took it to the sick man; and then staid by him to nurse him, steadily and mildly refusing all pecuniary compensation.

Sarah Boss, a poor black widow, was active in voluntary and benevolent services.



A poor black man, named Sampson, went constantly from house to house giving assistance everywhere gratuitously, until he was seized with the fever and died.

Mary Scott, a woman of Color, attended Mr. Richard Mason and his son, so kindly and disinterestedly, that the widow, Mrs. R. Mason, settled an annuity of six pounds upon her for life.

An elderly black nurse, going about most diligently and affectionately, when asked what pay she wished, used to say "a dinner, Massa, some cold winter's day."

A young black woman was offered any price, if she would attend a white merchant and his wife. She would take no money; but went, saying that, if she went from holy love, she might hope to be preserved — but not if she went for money. She was seized with the fever, but recovered.

A black man riding through the streets, saw a white man push a white woman out of the house. The woman staggered forward, fell in the gutter and was too weak to rise. The black man dismounted, and took her gently to the hospital at Bush-hill.

Absalom Jones and Wm. Gray, the Colored superintendents, say, "a white man threatened to shoot us if we passed by his house with a corpse. We buried him three days afterwards."

About twenty times as many black nurses as white, were thus employed during the sickness.

The following certificate was subsequently given by the Mayor:—

"Having, during the prevalence of the late malignant disorder, had almost daily opportunities of seeing the conduct of Absalom Jones and Richard Allen, and the people employed by them to bury the dead, I with cheerfulness give this testimony of my approbation of their proceedings, as far as the same came under my notice. The diligence, attention, and decency of deportment, afforded me at the time much satisfaction."

Signed,

MATTHEW CLARKSON, Mayor.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 23, 1794.

On the capture of Washington by the British forces, it was judged expedient to fortify, without delay, the principal towns and cities exposed to similar attacks. The Vigilance Committee of Philadelphia waited upon three of the principal Colored citizens, namely, James Forten, Bishop Allen, and Absalom Jones, soliciting the aid of the

people of Color in erecting suitable defences for the city. Accordingly, two thousand five hundred Colored men assembled in the State House yard, and from thence marched to Gray's ferry, where they labored for two days, almost without intermission. Their labors were so faithful and efficient, that a vote of thanks was tendered them by the committee. A battalion of Colored troops were at the same time organized in the city, under an officer of the United States army ; and they were on the point of marching to the frontier when peace was proclaimed.

During the week of mob law against the Colored people, August, 1842, the following items were gleaned by a philanthropist.

A Colored man, whom I visited in the hospitals, called to see me to-day. He had just got out. He looked very pitiful. His head was bent down. He said he could not get it erect, his neck was so injured. He is a very intelligent man, and can read and write. I will give you his story.

Charles Black, over fifty, resides in Lombard street. Was at home with his little boy, unconscious of what was transpiring without. Suddenly, the mob rushed into his room, dragged him down stairs, and beat him so unmercifully that he would have been killed, had not some humane individuals interposed, and prevented further violence. He was an impressed seaman on board an English sixty-four gun ship, in the beginning of the War of 1812. When he heard of the War, he refused to fight against *his country*, although he had nine hundred dollars prize money coming to him from the ship. He was, therefore, placed in irons, and kept a prisoner on board some time, and then sent to the well known Dartmoor prison. He was exchanged, and shipped for France. Shortly afterwards, he was taken, and sent back to Dartmoor — was exchanged a second time, and succeeded in reaching the United States. He soon joined the fleet on Lake Champlain, under M'Donough ; was with him in the celebrated battle which gave honor (?) to the *American* arms. He was *wounded*, but *never* received a *pension*. His father was in the battle of Bunker Hill, and his grandfather fought in the old French War.

## SOUTH CAROLINA.

Even in the Slaveholding States did Colored people magnanimously "brave the battle field," developing a heroism indeed as though their own liberty was to be a recompense. But we find no proof that the boasted chivalry of the Palmetto State extended the boon demanded by simple justice.

The celebrated Charles Pinckney, of South Carolina, in his speech on the Missouri question, and in defiance of the Slave representation of the South, made the following admissions : —

"They (the Colored people) were in numerous instances the pioneers, and in all the laborers of our armies. To their hands were owing the greatest part of the fortifications raised for the protection of the country. Fort Moultrie gave, at an early period of the inexperience and untried valor of our citizens, immortality to the American arms."

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## LOUISIANA.

In 1814, when New Orleans was in danger, and the proud and criminal distinctions of caste were again demolished by one of those emergencies in which nature puts to silence for the moment the base partialities of art, the free Colored people were called into the field in common with the whites ; and the importance of their services was thus acknowledged by General Jackson : —

"HEAD QUARTERS, SEVENTH MILITARY DISTRICT, MOBILE, SEP-  
TEMBER 21, 1814.

*"To the Free Colored Inhabitants of Louisiana :*

"Through a mistaken policy, you have heretofore been deprived of a participation in the glorious struggle for national rights, in which *our* country is engaged. This no longer shall exist.

“As Sons of Freedom, you are now called upon to defend our most inestimable blessings. *As Americans*, your country looks with confidence to her adopted children, for a valorous support, as a faithful return for the advantages enjoyed under her mild and equitable government. As fathers, husbands, and brothers, you are summoned to rally round the standard of the Eagle, to defend all which is dear in existence.

“*Your country*, although calling for your exertions, does not wish you to engage in her cause, without remunerating you for the services rendered. Your intelligent minds are not to be led away by false representations — your love of honor would cause you to despise the man who should attempt to deceive you. In the sincerity of a soldier, and the language of truth, I address you.

“To every noble hearted free man of Color, volunteering to serve during the present contest with Great Britain, and no longer, there will be paid the same bounty in money and lands, now received by the white soldiers of the United States, namely, one hundred and twenty-four dollars in money, and one hundred and sixty acres of land. The non-commissioned officers and privates will also be entitled to the same monthly pay and daily rations, and clothes furnished to any American soldier.

“On enrolling yourselves in companies, the Major General commanding will select officers for your government, from your white fellow citizens. Your non-commissioned officers will be appointed from among yourselves.

“Due regard will be paid to the feelings of freemen and soldiers. You will not, by being associated with white men in the same corps be exposed to improper comparisons, or unjust sarcasm. As a distinct, independent battalion or regiment, pursuing the path of glory, you will, undivided, receive the applause and gratitude of your countrymen.

“To assure you of the sincerity of my intentions, and my anxiety to engage your invaluable services to our country, I have communicated my wishes to the Governor of Louisiana, who is fully informed as to the manner of enrolments, and will give you every necessary information on the subject of this address.

ANDREW JACKSON,  
Major General Commanding.”

The second proclamation is one of the highest compliments ever paid by a military chief to his soldiers.

On December 18, 1814, General Jackson issued, in the French language, the following address to the free people of Color : —

“SOLDIERS ! When on the banks of the Mobile I called you to take up arms, inviting you to partake the perils and glory of your *white fellow citizens*, *I expected much from you* ; for I was not ignorant that you possessed qualities most formidable to an invading enemy. I knew with what fortitude you could endure hunger and thirst, and all the fatigues of a campaign. *I knew well how you loved your native country*, and that you, as well as ourselves, had to defend what *man* holds most dear — his parents, wife, children, and property. *You have done more than I expected*. In addition to the previous qualities I before knew you to possess, I found among you a noble enthusiasm, which leads to the performance of great things.

“Soldiers ! The President of the United States shall hear how praiseworthy was your conduct in the hour of danger, and the representatives of the American people will give you the praise your exploits entitle you to. Your General anticipates them in applauding your noble ardor.”

“The enemy approaches ; his vessels cover our lakes ; our brave citizens are united, and all contention has ceased among them. Their only dispute is who shall win the prize of valor, or who the most glory, its noblest reward.

By Order,

THOMAS BUTLER, Aid-de Camp.”

The Pennsylvania Freeman, of March 10, 1851, heralds as follows :

“The article below from the New Orleans Picayune, of a recent date, revives an important historical fact which, — with all similar evidence of the devotion of the *free* people of Color, to their country’s safety and welfare, notwithstanding the injustice they have received from its hands, — the enemies of the Colored people have been careful to conceal, in their calumnies against this injured people. Let those men read and ponder it, who fear dangers to the nation from the presence in it of a population of Colored *freemen*, protected by law in the full possession of all their rights. The incident narrated is also a burning rebuke from a Slaveholding community to the vulgar negro-hatred of the North, which drives worthy Colored men from popular processions, parades, schools, churches, and the so-called ‘respectable’ avocations of life.”

"THE FREE COLORED VETERANS. — Not the least interesting, although the most novel, feature of the procession yesterday, (celebration of the Battle of New Orleans,) was the presence of ninety of the Colored veterans who bore a conspicuous part in the dangers of the day they were now for the first time called to assist in celebrating, and who, by their good conduct in presence of the enemy, deserved and received the approbation of their illustrious Commander in chief. During the thirty-six years that have passed away since they assisted to repel the invaders from our shores, these faithful men have never before participated in the annual rejoicings for the victory which their valor contributed to gain. Their good deeds have been consecrated only in their own memories, or lived but to claim a passing notice on the page of the historian. Yet who more than they deserve the thanks of the country and gratitude of succeeding generations? Who rallied with more alacrity in response to the summons of danger? Who endured more cheerfully the hardships of the camp, or faced with greater courage the perils of the fight? If in that hazardous hour, when our homes were menaced with the horrors of war, we did not disdain to call upon the Colored population to assist in repelling the invading horde, we should not, when the danger is past, refuse to permit them to unite with us in celebrating the glorious event which they helped to make so memorable an epoch in our history. We were not too exalted to mingle with them in the affray; they were not too humble to join in our rejoicings.

"Such we think is the universal opinion of our citizens. We conversed with many yesterday, and without exception they expressed approval of the invitation which had been extended to the Colored veterans to take part in the ceremonies of the day, and gratification at seeing them in a conspicuous place in the procession.

"The respectability of their appearance and the modesty of their demeanor made an impression on every observer, and elicited unqualified approbation. Indeed, though in saying so we do not mean disrespect to any one else, we think that they constituted decidedly the most interesting portion of the pageant, as they certainly attracted the most attention."

The editor, after further remarks upon the procession, adding of its Colored members, "We reflected that, beneath their dark bosoms were sheltered faithful hearts, susceptible of the noblest impulses," thus alludes to the free Colored population of New Orleans.

"As a class, they are peaceable, orderly, and respectable people,

and many of them own large amounts of property among us. Their interests, their homes, and their affections, are here, and such strong ties are not easily broken by the force of theoretical philanthropy, or imaginative sentimentality. They have been true hitherto, and we will not do them the injustice to doubt a continuance of their fidelity. While they may be certain that insubordination will be promptly punished, deserving actions will always meet with their due reward in the esteem and gratitude of the community."

From the foregoing it will be seen that the seven years conflict and also the War of 1812, were both dotted by the devotion and bravery of Colored Americans, despite the persecutions heaped Olympus high upon them by their fellow countrymen. They have ever proved loyal and ready to worship or die, if need be, at Freedom's shrine. The *amor patriæ* has always burned vividly on the altar of their hearts. They love their native land, "its hills and valleys green." The white man's banquet has been held and loud peans to liberty have reached the sky above. While the Colored American's share has been to stand outside and wait for the crumbs that fall from Freedom's festive board.

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A TRIBUTE, BY AN EMANCIPATOR, BEING AN EXTRACT FROM THE  
WILL OF A. P. UPSHUR, A MEMBER OF PRES. TYLER'S CABINET.

"I make and publish this as my last will and testament :

"1. \* \* \* \* \*

"2. \* \* \* \* \*

"3. I emancipate, and set free, my servant, David Rich, and direct my executors to give him one hundred dollars. I recommend him in the strongest manner, to the respect, esteem, and confidence of any community in which he may happen to live. He has been my Slave for twenty-four years, during which time he has been trusted to every extent, and in every respect. My confidence in him has been unbounded ; his relation to myself and family has always been such as to afford him daily opportunities to deceive and injure us ; and yet he

has never been detected in a serious fault, nor even in an intentional breach of the decorums of his station. His intelligence is of a high order, his integrity above all suspicion, and his sense of right and propriety always correct, and even delicate and refined. I feel that he is justly entitled to carry this certificate from me, into the new relations which he now must form. It is due to his long and most faithful services, and to the sincere and steady friendship which I bear him. In the uninterrupted and confidential intercourse of twenty-four years, I have never given, nor had occasion to give him, an unpleasant word. I know no man who has fewer faults, or more excellencies than he.

Signed,

A. P. UPSHUR."

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[From the Alexandria D. C. Gazette.]

#### A TRIBUTE FROM THE EMANCIPATED, BY WASHINGTON'S FREED MEN.

Upon a recent visit to the tomb of Washington, I was much gratified by the alterations and improvements around it. Eleven Colored men were industriously employed in leveling the earth and turfing around the sepulchre. There was an earnest expression of feeling about them, that induced me to inquire if they belonged to the respected lady of the mansion. They stated they were a few of the many Slaves freed by George Washington, and they had offered their services upon this last melancholy occasion, as the only return in their power to make to the remains of the man who had been more than a father to them; and they should continue their labors as long as anything should be pointed out for them to do. I was so interested in this conduct that I inquired their several names, and the following were given me :—

"Joseph Smith, Sambo Anderson, William Anderson his son, Berkley Clark, George Lear, Dick Jasper, Morris Jasper, Levi Richardson, Joe Richardson, Wm. Moss, Wm. Hays, and Nancy Squander, cooking for the men. — *Fairfax County, Va., Nov. 14, 1835.*"