

of the University of Virginia, and requested me to loan him my *De Lorme* on such architecture, and I sent the work to him by Colonel B. Peyton; and it was duly returned to my library.

On 3d June died my dear mother, in fine health. With my father she was on a visit to me. She had gone to the city to her sister Elizabeth Howland and niece Nancy (the wife of Captain Bennet), and was seized with laryngitis, which Dr. Mott and Dr. Bull pronounced fatal, though an essay was made by an incision into the throat below the glottis to permit breathing. My father and brother William were present with the Rev. Dr. Feltus. She became easy and died calmly, in full trust in the mercy of her Saviour.

My father's heartfelt prayer at the foot of my mother's bed was for mercy, and her safety in this world, or acceptance in a better, and was a most impressive scene. They had lived in undisturbed harmony and love together forty-one years.

The funeral was from my house, and the interment in the cemetery of St. Ann's at Brooklyn. Dr. William Swift, United States navy (our cousin,) Dr. Prime (another cousin,) Colonel Trumbull, General Gaines, Joshua Sands, F. C. Tucker, Thomas March, Samuel L. Gouverneur, Daniel Okey, my father and brother, and myself. Rev. Dr. Onderdonk officiating.

In this month, at the earnest request of his brother James, I took my son Alexander to West Point, where, by permission of the Secretary of War, and by the kind attention of Colonel Thayer, Alexander was to receive tuition from Mr. Davies and Mr. Ross, my two friends. It was the period of the examination, to which, General Jarvis, the patroon Van Rensselaer, General W. H. Sumner and the Romish Priest Levens, (a very able man), and myself, constituted the board of visitors.

In honor of "independence" this July, the notorious William Cobbet gave a dinner to Governor Tompkins at Tammany Hall. Mr. Cobbet's toast was disrespectful of his sovereign. I declined drinking the toast; Mr. Cobbet asked my reason. I told him not that I had any especial respect for his sovereign, but that I did not approve a subject or citizen's offering a mark of disrespect to the chief magistrate of his native land in

so public a form. The appeal was made to the governor, who said I had uttered his own sentiment. The party became uncomfortable and soon separated. I never met Mr. Cobbet afterwards.

In this summer much effort was made to promote the cause of the oppressed modern Greeks. The remembrance of the glory of the ancients caused many meetings. I was elected to preside at a meeting in their favor on Long Island, and liberal gifts were bestowed, and Mr. Clay and Mr. Webster made stirring speeches. The signal of their cause was erected on the Heights, in my garden, by William Wood, Esq., in the name of the ladies of Brooklyn, and several orations were pronounced to aid in gathering funds to send a frigate to the aid of Greece as against the Turk. A frigate was built by Mr. Eckford called the "Hellenese," etc.

As a member of a committee of the American Bible Society, of which I had been a manager from its institution in 1816, the functions of the secretary were presented as deserving remuneration. The person was the Rev. Dr. Woodhull, and until further consideration I urged that one hundred dollars be presented to the doctor for past services, and the same was adopted.

In August the Marquis La Fayette arrived in the "Cadmus," Captain Frank Allen. At the reception he mistook me for his comrade, Colonel Fish, who had not yet arrived. On explaining he said: "The opportunity is happy for me to regret my not seeing your son at the Grange with his letter." I had given Willy a letter to the Marquis on his going out in the "Cyane" with our minister, Mr. Brown. He then asked me to accompany him to call on Mrs. Lewis, "Nelly Custis" when he saw her last at Mount Vernon with General Washington. The meeting was quite a scene. The interview between La Fayette and Van Buskirk was touching. La Fayette had met the father in the trenches of Yorktown, and given him a sword for his gallantry. This son was a stout Jersey farmer. He held the sword in his hand, and with tears in his eyes said: "My father is dead; he left me this sword, and I am come to see you, and to show it to you, and to tell you that we all love you!" There was not a dry eye in the room.

The next day we had an excursion to the fort of his name at the

Narrows. The work had been built while I was chief engineer, and I had requested the President to name it for La Fayette. While walking the gallery he said: "Do you think the cannon at Monmouth were heard in the Narrows?" looking over to the Monmouth shore. "O, it was a very hot day." I asked him of the conduct of Lee on that day. He said: "General Lee was a brave man, but of bad management on that day." Early in September La Fayette went to West Point, and invited me to accompany him. I was glad to do so, and took with me my son Thomas. On the way up the Hudson he told me Bernard had said to him I had treated him and his family with much kindness, though he knew I was not satisfied with his connection with the corps of engineers. La Fayette mentioned his own and Mr. Gallatin's agency in selecting Bernard, and said: "Your country did not object to my services." My reply was: "O no, general, we are all grateful for your devotion to our cause, but the case is very different, and our necessities also." I craved his pardon for not agreeing with him on this matter. He took my hand in a gracious manner, and hoped I would again enter the army. The meeting at West Point was a burst of boyish and natural feeling. It entirely overcame La Fayette; he wept, but ate a hearty dinner, and drank Madeira by the tumbler, and a good piece of beef, saying: "If I had not had a good stomach the Austrian jail would have killed me;" and so we drank to the health of Huger and Bollman.

On my return to Brooklyn I met my brother-in-law, Julius Walker, and his very nice wife, Mary Ann Smith of Beaufort, South Carolina, a very excellent lady. Julius was ill, and they returned to Carolina early in September on horseback, through upper Virginia and North Carolina, into Pendleton in South Carolina.

In this fall, by correspondence with the members of the United States Military Philosophical Society, the funds of that society were given, by my advice, to the New York Lyceum of Natural History; a large majority consenting, though a few (Colonel Thayer among the number,) thought a better use could have been made of the fund — about two thousand dollars.

In the month of October Mr. Whistler, who had, by my recommendation to General Porter, been attached as draughtsman to the north-west boun-

dary commission, wrote me of the troubles of determining the line, and Major Joseph Delafield consulted me with the maps, and I pointed to what he and myself deemed the true point in the Lake of the Woods.

In November the Schuylkill Coal Company allotted me an interest at par in that company, in some consideration of my services in 1820 in bringing that coal into notice. I sold the stock, and after paying the company the par value had some one thousand four hundred dollars; which is all the benefit I had from an enterprise which, if Charles Snowden had been true to his bargain, had made my family opulent.

This fall Joshua Sands was elected to Congress. Remembrance of my services in King's County during the war, and on Staten Island, and through my friend Mr. Pierson, the iron-master of Rockland, Mr. Sands, an old Federalist, received the major vote at my poll in that democratic district. Mr. Sands told President Adams that but for my exertions he could not have been elected. This was a result of actual personal exertion, with a few influential friends in each district.

At the county court in Flatbush in October, commenced by the grand jury, the first important movement in the improvement of Brooklyn streets. As foreman of the jury I was requested to furnish surveys, which resulted in the opening of Firman Street, the initial act of street opening that led the way to considerable improvement in that place, and market, etc.

In November my father and his old friend and school-mate, General Mattoon, once Adjutant-General of Massachusetts. His object was to get his son Dwight Foster sent to West Point. I made an earnest appeal to that effect to the Secretary of War. From an early day I had advocated sending the sons of the most talented men in the country to that institution, as a better plan than selection by congressional districts, that was beginning to have sway at Washington.

In the same month there was submitted to Governor De Witt Clinton the plan of the Morris Canal. That gentleman consented to go before the New Jersey legislature to give that body his views of the mutual benefit thereof to both States, and by his invitation, and at the expense of the company, I accompanied Mr. Clinton with my plans, etc. Mr. Clinton

urged the benefit of extending banking privileges to the canal, and his views were adopted by the legislature.

Seven hundred and six thousand dollars for United States fortifications appropriated in 1824.

1825. In April, as an agent of the Water Company of the city of New York, (of which, by the charter of March I was a commissioner,) an exploration of the Broux was made, and also of the Croton Rivers for a supply of water. The result in reference to the Broux sustained the gauges made by me in 1819, and of the Croton there remained not a doubt of its abundance; but the corporation declined acting upon those data.

In the summer I placed my son Julius at the school of Mr. Clark at Cow Neck, on Long Island, the school in Brooklyn not suiting my views in consequence of improper associates, and the peculiar disposition to avoid study which Julius evinced, though a boy of fine temper and most generous disposition.

Took my family, with Major Tucker, to West Point, where, with General Brown and Colonel Thayer an examination of the Academy was made, and found to have progressed very usefully under the colonel's care. The general and myself returned to New York with our families and Major Tucker's, and were launched in the Ohio, seventy-four, at the navy yard. This fine ship had been drafted and constructed by our friend Henry Eckford.

In September my wife accompanied me over the route of the Morris Canal to Hopatcong Lake; and witnessed the forging of iron from the loup under the hammer, conducted by John Scott and Fay, men of six feet, and of great strength and dexterity, wielding the tongs and loup with graceful ease.

At this place, by appointment, I met the other commissioner, Colonel Scott, and our engineer, Captain Beach, and arranged with them the location of an inclined plane and aqueduct at Dover, near the Tamarack Swamp, and returned to Brooklyn by Passaic Falls.

Had a meeting of the Morris Canal Company, in which I held a large interest, and became a director of the Fulton Bank.

This fall Mr. Eckford purchased, through the negotiation of Mr. Rathbone, the *National Advocate*, and engaged me to superintend the conducting of the same, and for which I employed Mr. Snowden and Mr. Casey. It was Mr. Eckford's purpose to advocate the election of John Quincy Adams to the presidency. Mr. Eckford recommended me for vice-president of the Life and Fire Insurance Company, and thus I became interested in the stocks, and induced my father and my brother William to invest funds in the Life and Fire. My brother William was married this fall to Miss Mary Stuart, the daughter of the British consul at New London.

I purchased the property on the Seventh Avenue between Thirty-first and Thirty-third Streets, (about one hundred lots,) for seven thousand and odd dollars; borrowed the amount from the Life and Fire Insurance Company, and mortgaged the property to that company as security, and commenced a house and garden thereon.

This winter my sons James and Williams went to the city of Washington, the first to procure from President Adams a restoration to West Point, from whence he had been dismissed for absence for six hours without leave, and for declining to answer a query that would have implicated his class-mate. Mr. O. B. Ogden and Mr. Daniel Webster had presented the case, with their opinion of its severity of punishment, and Mr. Adams called on Mr. Barbour, the Secretary of War, to know why this youth should not be restored. Mr. Barbour said that the son of one who had been at the head of the Academy was a proper example for discipline. In my opinion the stronger cause was that the father was the political friend of Mr. Calhoun. Mr. Adams acquiesced in Mr. Barbour's view, but directed that James should be employed in the civil engineer department, under William Howard, Esq., of Baltimore. My son William was at Washington to be examined for his naval position.

In the spring of this year I had been reëlected to the common council of Brooklyn, and had presented several plans for the improvement of the village.

My friends Isaac Pierson, S. L. Gouverneur, and Mr. N. Prime called on me to caution me, in the month of May, in relation to the extent of Mr.

Eckford's ship building liabilities, and that too much use was made of bonds of the Life and Fire Insurance Company in purchases for the Brazilian frigates building by Mr. Eckford. Without using names I mentioned these rumors to Mr. Eckford. He stated to me that all such rumors were groundless, and I had an implicit faith in him and his ability. In July a note from Mr. Eckford astonished me with an announcement that the Life and Fire Insurance Company could not meet the demands for cash on the bonds becoming due. The next day I was served with a notice from the district attorney, Hugh Maxwell, Esq., that the whole company of the Life and Fire Insurance were indicted for a conspiracy to defraud the State. The trials progressed; the great question was whether a company issuing bonds, failing to redeem on demand, could be deemed guilty of a conspiracy or fraud. The court decided that my trial should be separated from that of others, the testimony was brief, and I made all the defence that was made in my case by simply addressing the court and jury in these words: "I know myself not to have been guilty of any fraud, or of any design to defraud, and if this jury can find me guilty on the evidence I shall silently submit as a punishment for my credulity." The jury in a few minutes returned with a verdict of "not guilty—but *persecuted.*" The last the judge refused. When the verdict of "not guilty" was alone rendered a cry of approbation rang through a crowded audience, and Peter A. Jay, of counsel adverse to me, came up to me with tears in his eyes, saying: "General, this is a righteous verdict, and I am thankful for your acquittal." But the blows of accusation and trial were of course mortifying, and injurious to my influence as a man of business; a severe comment on a poor gentleman's essay to become rich in Wall Street. The validity of these indictments came before the supreme court, and the whole proceeding, the attorney, Maxwell, pronounced illegal. But beyond all doubt the failure of the Life and Fire had been occasioned by the losses in the ship-building business of Mr. Eckford, and in his speculations in real estate. My confidence in Mr. Eckford was high; I had frequently large sums of money at command of his in bank, but I never borrowed a dollar from him. The only charge found on his books was the purchase money of the *National Advocate*, which

had passed through my hands. On my trial it was proven that I was not indebted to the Life and Fire Company. I had placed in Mr. Eckford's hands my city property, in trust to secure the purchase money of that property. Pending these trials President Adams had assured Joshua Sands, Esq., and George Sullivan, Esq., that if my trial acquitted me he should renominate me for the office in the customs held by me; but Mr. Clay's friends wanted place, and Mr. Stagg was nominated on the expiration of my second four years. Probably the President's interest in me had been somewhat blighted by an accidental omission of mine while presiding at the "Ayacucho dinner" at the City Hotel. The toast of President Adams had been misplaced without my privity. I, however, do not intend to say that he purposed me any injustice. He is a man of strong antipathies, and of no strong friendship, and, indeed, I never pretended to enjoy his favor.

In the summer of the current year the Secretary of War had addressed to several officers in and out of the army—General Cadwallader and General Sumner among the latter, and myself also. My views were given on the subject of the secretary's address—the militia, of its classification—and that no higher militia grade should be conferred than that of chief of battalion, and that commissions should be conferred only upon examination of the candidate. My letters on these subjects, and others, may be seen in the *Congressional Reports* of '26 and '27.

\$735,000 appropriated for fortifications.

53,000 wall Boston Harbor.

100,000 for arsenals.

\$888,000 for 1825.

Seven hundred and nineteen thousand dollars for fortifications in 1826.

In this year was made the first appropriation for constructing and improving rivers and harbors.

1827. The commencement of this year found me with a large family and very limited means to support them. I had, by a loan from my brother-in-law, Whistler, the fee he had received for services on the boundary commission; invested the amount in the purchase of a small estate in Flatbush,

and commenced cultivation. But it was not adequate to our support, and I turned it over to Mr. Whistler, and he sold it for the full amount of the loan, to wit: one thousand five hundred dollars.

I thought of civil engineering in the West. The estate of Mrs. Swift's father was in the hands of her brother James, and by him assumed as a debt of over five thousand dollars; said brother James held his father's lands in West Tennessee. I concluded to make a home for my family upon Louisa's portion of these lands. In the midst of my purpose our children were attacked by measles, and one, a daughter Harriet, had died, and was interred in the grave of my mother. Going so far was by some friends deemed doubtful—most movements are so—but I could not find success in a city whose archives recorded me "its benefactor" in the late war. My misfortunes had produced the usual effect, loss of prosperity, loss of influence. I had, however, many instances of confidence among my army associates, especially Colonel Thayer, Captain J. L. Smith, General Scott, etc.; among the merchants of the city, Fanning Cobham Tucker and Daniel Okey, and a touching one from the negroes, who, during my trial prayed regularly for my "safe deliverance from the great uncertainties of the law."

Immediate commencement of my journey to Tennessee was delayed by a summons to Washington before a committee of Congress, on a revival of the assault upon John C. Calhoun, now vice-president, and who had vacated the chair pending the investigation of the Rip Rap contract, while Mr. Calhoun was Secretary of War and myself chief engineer. The details of this political struggle, and its failure, are in the documents of Congress, and on my files.

In February I returned to Brooklyn, and sent my baggage, library, and farming tools to my friend, Gilbert Russell of New Orleans, to be shipped to Memphis. Early in March my wife, Thomas, Sally, Julius, McRee, Josephine and Charlotte, and boy Bill proceeded to Barnum's in Baltimore, and thence by private carriage over the Allegheny mountains to Wheeling, and down the Ohio (passing our son James in an ascending boat,) to Cincinnati, and thence down the river to the Mississippi, to Memphis, and

purchased a ton of bacon and six barrels of flour, and with baggage in wagons to Haywood County in Tennessee; meeting with the Misses Wright at Narhota, and at Boliver in the Big Hatchie, thence to the hospitable log cabin of Mrs. Swift's nephew, Henry Walker, who allowed me the use of a portion of his people until his father settled accounts with his aunt Louisa. I placed four hands to felling a tulip tree seven feet in diameter, and sixty-six feet to the forks, yielding three cuts of twenty feet each. That gave boards for a large log cabin of one room that served for bedrooms, library and dining room. But as to the land, I found that I could get no secure title, nevertheless planted corn, potatoes and cotton, with plenty of stock in the woods feeding on cane grass and the sweet pea vine.

The course of the season developed ill health for my children, though Mrs. Swift and myself were well; and she, with good courage and affection, encountered our privations, never dreamed of in earlier days.

My son James, then civil engineer of the United States on the Hiwassee, came to us leading a fine Pacolet colt for my riding.

I opened a correspondence with General Jackson, at the "Hermitage," on the improvements of the rivers of the State, and explored the country on horseback to Alabama. On my return the ill health of my children determined me to retrace my steps, and seek civil engineering on the Atlantic.

In November, after the crops were in, I sold my movables, and with my family reëmbarked at Randolph, and by New Orleans (where I met my friend Russell, who furnished us with the after cabin of the packet "Frances," Captain Ryder,) we returned to New York in thirty days from New Orleans, arriving the last of the year. Here we met the intelligence of the death of the venerable mother of my wife, and of my brother-in-law, Julius H. Walker, and of my own sister Mary, the beautiful wife of Lieutenant George W. Whistler. Her remains were placed by me alongside those of my mother in Brooklyn.

In my absence had also died the patriot Rufus King, in 1827. I sought his and Mr. Wolcott's advice in reference to my letter to the Secretary of

War adversely to the interpolation of General Bernard into the corps of engineers. That letter received the hearty approbation of both Mr. King and Mr. Wolcott, at Mr. King's, in Jamaica, Long Island.

Four hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars appropriated for fortifications in 1827.

1828. After a few days' rest from a sea voyage with our friends Tucker and March at Brooklyn, in January, my family was placed at board with Captain Chapman, near my father's, in New London; my sons Tom and Jule at the select school, Sally with Miss Allen, myself to New York, the guest of my friend S. L. Gouverneur, and opened a correspondence on the subject of civil engineering with various parts of the Union. I returned to New London in March, and caused grave-stones to be inscribed to the memory of my father and mother-in-law, James and M. M. Walker, and sent them to our friend Dr. A. J. De Rosset, Wilmington, North Carolina, who saw them placed at their respective graves in the cemetery of St. James.

Through my brother-in-law Whistler, and my protégé, W. G. McNeill, I was introduced to George Winchester, the president of the Baltimore and Susquehanna Railroad Company, and was employed as chief engineer of that company, and soon located the route of the road to the Pennsylvania line, consulting with that eminent manager, F. Thomas, and S. H. Long, also with Whistler and McNeill (all of the United States army), who were engineers of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad. Mr. Long I had met in Germantown, Pennsylvania, at Major Roberdeau's, and engaged him as my extra aid in the year 1814, and from his merit placed him as instructor of mathematics in the Military Academy at West Point—a gentleman of large mechanical ingenuity. In the month of July, at the instance of the Baltimore and Susquehanna Company, I examined the only railroad then existing in the United States, at Quincy, Mass., *via* New London, taking Mrs. Swift with me to see our good aunt Lucretia, of Boston. We proceeded thence to the railroad and measured all its parts minutely, thence we called on my cousin Fanny Swift, on Milton Hill, and visited the graves of our ancestors in the old Milton cemetery.

On my return to Baltimore I rented the house of Bishop Eccleston in St. Paul's Lane, and moved my family thither in October, and they were kindly cared for by my friend Robert Barry in my railroad absences; my son Thomas teaching his younger brothers and sisters at home. He had been well instructed by his friend and uncle, G. W. Whistler.

Seven hundred and seventeen thousand five hundred dollars appropriated for fortifications in 1828.

1829. On 15th January died my friend Colonel Isaac Roberdeau, U. S. T. E.

In the winter of this year Mr. Winchester and myself before the legislature of Pennsylvania, to extend the charter of the Baltimore and Susquehanna to the river; but the cloudy minds of the legislature deemed a road of much greater length, to Philadelphia, more patriotic as State policy—one of the absurdities of the influence of artificial boundary lines.

In March with my son Thomas to see President Jackson inaugurated, and to offer my services as a civil engineer through my friend Charles Gratiot, and General Eaton, the Secretary of War. The general said "President Jackson had confidence in my ability," and so gave me charge of the construction of harbors on Lake Ontario. Mr. Monroe had asked General Jackson to reappoint me to the surveyorship of New York, but that place was claimed for party, in which I had no claim. While in Washington I had prepared an essay on supplying the city of New York with water from the Broux and Croton Rivers, and sent the same to the corporation through George Sullivan, Esq., and referred them to my survey of the Broux and Rye Ponds made in 1819.

In April I returned to the Baltimore and Susquehanna railroad, and from thence with my friend John L. Smith, United States engineer, to Philadelphia, and gave Thomas Sully sittings for a portrait for the corps of engineers at their request—see files; thence to West Point, and met my friend Major Thayer and my son Alexander J. Swift, a cadet. So on to Genessee River, and we examined its entrance into Lake Ontario. Major Smith proceeded to Ohio to select a site for an armory, taking my brother-in-law Whistler as his assistant, much depressed by the loss of his wife my beautiful sister, Mary.

In May I surveyed Big Sodus Bay also, and reported the requisite works for both harbors to the engineer department, and fixed my residence at Geneva by the advice of my friend Major Rees of that place. Returned to Baltimore and closed my relations to and with the Baltimore and Susquehanna railroad, and removed my family to Geneva, arriving on 6th June, and taking lodgings in Mr. Hemminway's hotel, and then a house on the square, belonging to Colonel Bogert, commencing with iron spoons, for we had been robbed of all our plate, and many gold and silver remembrances. My father came to visit us. My daughter Sally commenced school with Miss Jones, Josê with Miss Stone, and Jule and McRee with Mr. Davis. Major Rees had purchased the Clark farm of one hundred and forty acres for me of R. C. Nicholas, who made some difficulty about the title, but took the farm himself. Explored the country about Genessee River and Big Sodus Bay for timber and stone for the harbors, and by the last of June had commenced the work at Genessee River (Mr. Wilder my assistant there), and on 4th of July commenced the piers at Big Sodus Bay (C. W. Rees my assistant there), and with John Greig, Esq., Alexander Duncan and Captain Wickham we celebrated our "independence," assisted by Edwards and Dr. Lummis.

In August my sons James and Alexander were with us at Geneva, and my brother William and his wife and son Charles, a year old. My son Thomas suddenly ill; Dr. Cutbush deems the danger to be unequal action of the heart and circulation. He died 2d September, the third day after the birth of a son whom, for him, we named Thomas.

In October my son Williams returned from a three years' cruise in the Pacific, in the "Brandywine," Commodore Jacob Jones. Willy reached home with me in November. I had been summoned to the city in a case between S. L. Gouverneur and the Fulton Bank.

The corporation of Petersburg, Virginia, invited me to be their engineer on a railroad there, but my other prospects prevented acceptance; being in that month of November in treaty with Martin Hoffman of New Orleans to become the engineer of the Ponchartrain railroad. He had been referred to me by Whistler and McNeill. On the suspension of the Lake works

the Secretary of War consented to my sojourn in New Orleans provided I became responsible for the safe-keeping of the United States property at Genessee and Sodus.

On the last of November my son James, having previously taken leave of us, proceeded with Dr. Howard to the Wisconsin River. I left Geneva *via* Niagara Falls, Erie, Ohio and Mississippi Rivers to New Orleans, arriving 20th December, and soon explored a route through a red cypress swamp, (sinking to my saddle girths, but had sand at bottom,) and gave the company a design for their road. While they were cogitating it, and for means to execute, I was invited to the legislature of Louisiana to consult on a plan to improve a system of leveeing the great river to avoid the evil of elevating its bed, as had been long done on the Po, in Italy. Gave them my ideas—see the document in my files. Returned to New Orleans, and made an agreement with the railroad company to return to New Orleans in the following November with mechanics to construct the road. This occupied me the months of January and February.

Seven hundred and sixty-five thousand dollars appropriated for fortifications in 1829.

1830. I had much social intercourse in New Orleans, and very pleasant dinner parties at George Eustis', Mr. Linton's, Mr. Henderson's, Isaac Preston's, etc., where Hon. H. Clay, the patroon of New York, and some foreigners (one who interested me at first, a lineal descendant of Montezuma, a Spanish count, but was disappointed on close view,) were present. The domestic life in New Orleans is charming among the ladies, but the young men are sadly degenerate.

Leaving the railroad under the care of Lieutenant G. W. Long, "on leave" from the army, I left New Orleans, taking my passage in the month of February in the Helen McGregor. Accident detained me till the next boat and we found the McGregor a wreck at Memphis, and her burnt passengers in the hospital there—twenty killed and forty wounded. By Wheeling I arrived at Baltimore on 20th March, at Barnum's, and on entering the reading-room found the death of my first-born (James) recorded. He had been married to Maria Jephson, the charming grand-

daughter of my friend Captain Farquhar, not three months; had recently returned from civil engineer duty with Dr. William Howard on the river Wisconsin; had fallen through the ice, but kept at his duty, from which a cold settled on his lungs.

His brother Willy and his aunt Mary Swift did all they could, and my brother William also, who was there on duty in the general post office.

I returned home to the distressed mother at Geneva with my son Willy, from his examination as midshipman, early in April. We changed the name of my son, substituting James for Delano.

During my absence the War Department had been furnished with accusations that more material had been paid for at Genessee River than had been furnished. The department ordered Major Maurice to examine into this accusation. He reported to the department that he found no truth whatever in the accusation. The department ordered me to proceed with the works; and he also examined the same subject at Sodus Bay, and reported the same result. In June my father came to see us from New London, his military station as surgeon, and in July Alexander came with his widowed sister, Maria Jephson Swift. In August I surveyed Oak Orchard Creek for a harbor at its entrance into Lake Ontario. At the ensuing session of Congress the committee reported a bill in favor of my plan, and Congress appropriated the means.

In this month I employed George Barclay and William Sentell, and carpenters and hewers to go with me in November to construct the Pontchartrain railroad.

I purchased this month the residence of Christopher Campbell and a seven acre lot south of the village, for two thousand one hundred dollars, and moved into the house on 10th September, after recovering from a bilious fever taken at Oak Orchard, and was probably, under Providence, saved from death by the skill of Dr. Cutbush.

The United States funds being exhausted on the Lake works, I closed them for the season 20th September, and then (leaving Alexander with his mother) Willy and I went to West Point and Cold Spring, and to New York, where, with my workmen, we embarked for New Orleans, and by the

“Hole in the Wall” and Tortugas, arrived at New Orleans, on 1st November. Found the city gloomy from yellow fever.

This fall, Alexander commenced his engineering at Oak Island, in Cape Fear, where I had commenced mine twenty-six years previously. Alexander had commenced his first duty, after graduating at West Point, at Newport, R. I., under Colonel Totten, where I had commenced my first duty thirty years previously.

Established my quarters at the Darcoutel Convent and also those of my workmen, and commenced the construction of the Pontchartrain Railroad. Willy returned home in December, my daughter Sally being with Mrs. Chew in Brooklyn, to attend Mr. Van Doren’s Seminary in that place. In the progress of the Ponchartrain Railroad I found that dead shells formed a good foundation and hard track. From Tangepaho we transported by steam some millions of bushels across the lake for sill foundation and horse track. This success gave to New Orleans a fine, hard cover to their streets, at my suggestion.

In the excavation of the vast shell mound of Tangepaho we met the skeleton of a human being of large dimensions, and by comparative anatomy our surgeon and myself measured the bones; they must have been of a being at least nine feet high. I boxed them for the Natural Historical Society of New York. Red cypress from the swamp was used for cross-sills and stringers. Upon the latter was laid the first T rail used in the United States.

Eight hundred and forty-one thousand dollars for fortifications for the year 1830.

1831. Early in March, Hon. Henry and Mrs. Clay, of Ashland, breakfasted with me at Darcoutel. To amuse Mrs. Clay I bloomed the buds of the magnolia G. F. by placing the stems in claret bottles of hot water on the breakfast table—a process of from twenty to thirty minutes.

We gave our guests their first ride on a railroad, using a baggage car, and by aid of six men, whom I had drilled for the purpose, with iron-pointed poles, attained a speed of ten miles the hour for a couple of miles.

In April we opened the road from the Lake to the Mississippi, with the

governor of the State and General Wade Hampton and other magnates for guests, who gave due commendation to President Martin Hoffman for the original design, and to my master workmen, George Barclay and William Sentell, for the excellent workmanship. The last of April I went to Mobile to escort our niece, Julia Osborne, to visit Mrs. Capt. Spatts in New Orleans—Julia's school-mate at Mrs. Clitherall's, in Smithville, North Carolina.

In the month of May, designed a harbor for the lake end of the railroad, and after visiting the battle-ground of Gen. Jackson, Julia and myself ascended the Mississippi in the Convoy, Capt. Rudee, passing the cut-off of Red River Island, that had been a peninsula when I was there in December, 1829. Delayed by breaking a shaft in straining through this cut, arriving at Laneville 28th May; lost four days; by Wheeling, Wellsburgh, Ashtabula, on Lake Erie, to Buffalo, and arriving at home in Geneva on 8th June, finding all well, thanks to God. In the past spring, my son Willy had re-commenced for me the United States harbors at Genesee and Sodus, and had also added to my house five rooms.

Find my United States affairs under good way at the lakes, and, with Major Cook, took a horse-back view of Dr. William Campbell's route of a canal from Cayuga Lake to Sodus Bay by the Montezuma Marshes; concluded it would be better to commence that canal at Clyde, and cut through the Sandy Ridge to the north to the Bay.

Seven hundred and sixteen thousand dollars for fortifications for the year 1831.

In the month of July (20th) Gen. Simon Bernard wrote me a farewell letter on his retiring from the service of the United States, and returning to that of France with much knowledge of every means of defence possessed by my country. He acknowledged my uniform courtesy to him personally, to which I replied as became my position, as may be seen in my files. The correspondence between the Secretary of War and myself on the policy of interpolating into our engineer service any foreigner; and see also the records of the engineer department at Washington, 1816, '17, '18.

The last of July my son Willy left, ordered to the Mediterranean; my

friend Thomas J. Chew and I to the head of Seneca Lake, he from his visit returning home to Brooklyn.

In August, at the commencement of Geneva College, the faculty and board of trustees conferred on me the professorate of "Engineering and Statistics,"—an empty honor, as also was the membership of the Paris Society of Statistics, for which courtesy I returned my thanks to President Moreau, of Paris, through General H. A. S. Dearborn, of Boston. See the document on file.

In September, by request of John Greig, Esq., I explored a new route for a canal from Clyde to Sodus Bay, with General Adams, Major Cook and C. W. Rees as surveyors. Proceeded to New York with my documents and printed my report; sent copies to many; October.

On 23d October, at New York, General Wm. North and myself and many others, attended the funeral of our friend Capt. James Farquhar, at the age of eighty-nine.

In November, G. W. Whistler, W. G. McNeill, Claude Crozet and myself examining the Marsh near Berg's Ridge, N. J., and the Trap Ridge at Hoboken for a tunnel.

On my return to Geneva, at a public meeting of the citizens in November, appointed several citizens, including myself, to lay before the State legislature a plan for a railroad from Ithaca to Geneva. I explored a route and reported to the Secretary of State my opinion in favor of the plan, but it remained unacted upon.

December, I visited Major Van Deventer, at Lindwood; and at Batavia I purchased of David E. Evans, Esq., a farm adjoining Lindwood of two hundred and thirty acres, for two thousand five hundred dollars. Before returning home, G. W. Whistler and Anna McNeill were married at her brother William's, in Bond Street, on 3d November.

For the want of funds, the works of the United States on the lake harbors had gone into some ruin from storms,—a miserable, short-sighted policy, so to commence and so to neglect such works.

1832. In the month of February I visited Colonel W. Fitzhugh, at Hampton, and read the correspondence between General Washington and the

Colonel's father, Colonel William Fitzhugh, of Rowsley Hall, Maryland, in 1777, '78, '79, '80 and '81, on several subjects, and the Revolution. My daughter-in-law, that was to be, consented to copy for me all these letters, which was done, and they are among my papers, and possess interest in reference to our financial policy, etc., in those days.

The last of this month, Dr. Lummis and myself went to New York, through immense drifts of snow, through the Beech Woods route to Jersey, to explain to capitalists the objects of the Sodus Canal from Cayuga to Lake Ontario, using the counting-room of my friend Peter Burtzell, corner Wall and Broad Streets, to exhibit the plans, etc. In the following month of March, to wit.: 8th, Lieut. J. R. Sands, United States Navy, and myself examined the route for a canal to unite the Wallabout and Gowanus Cove, New York Harbor. This idea had originated with his father, Joshua Sands, Esq. I commended the plan to the board of trustees of Brooklyn. In March, resumed correspondence with the North Carolina Railroad Co., of Raleigh and Beaufort, through General Montfort Stokes, to become their engineer.

From the conflict of parties in Congress on internal improvements and its uncertain results, I visited my friend Col. Totten, at Newport, to consult as to my prospects. Returning, visited my father in New London, and met Lyman Law and examined the Groton monument that I had designed, but it was improved by my nephew, Julius W. Adams. With Mr. Law, visited the grave of Uncas, the Mohican Chief. An aged squaw said to us: "Take care of the good land you took from my fathers; it is a good land."

On my return to New York in April, the Harlem Railroad Co. invited me to accompany their board and to examine the rock cuttings on the route of the Harlem Railroad, *i. e.*, 4th Avenue, which I did, and gave the board my thoughts thereon, as to expense, etc.

I then went to Washington to consult the Secretary of War on the subject of going to North Carolina pending the action of Congress on harbors, etc. He advised to wait awhile, and this suspended my accepting Mr. Mhoon's invitation from North Carolina.

In May, on my way home, at Philadelphia, met my friends, the widow and

daughters of Colonel Roberdeau, pleasantly settled in their own house, the result of my efforts, with those of Judge Chase, of Washington, to reclaim from one Pierce, who had married Frances Blair, the sister of Mrs. Roberdeau, the life-rent leases inherited from their grandfather, Dr. Shippen, in that city.

On arriving in New York, I accepted the chief-engineership of the Harlem Railroad at four thousand four hundred dollars per annum, and in a few days had the whole line of work under contract and the rock blasting successfully going on.

In the middle of June, G. W. Whistler and myself went to Little Falls, of the Mohawk, and devised a plan for the town and manufactories of that place for the "Little Falls Co."

In July the cholera appeared, and in a few days nearly depopulated the city, *i. e.*, drove the people to the country. The disease soon spread among the workmen on the Harlem Railroad, and the work was accordingly suspended.

Congress, in this July, appropriated for the lake harbors too late for the commencement of any important work. I, however, got them under way, and in August, at Rochester, was seized by cholera and sunk to a collapse. My cousin, James Watts, hastened to Geneva and brought my dear wife to my bed-side. My escape, as the physicians said, was the consequence of deep blood-letting that reduced me to an extreme debility.

In September I was able to travel to New York to recommence the Harlem road; found the rooms beset with pretenders to engineering among its members. Informed the board that I could not submit to such superficial nonsense and delay without compromising the trust they had reposed in me, and resigned my office, and returned to the lake harbors, and by the end of October the chill of the season closed all the lake works.

In December, to New York in consultation with Mr. Radcliffe to proceed to the Gulf of Mexico and explore a canal route by the Atrato to the Pacific; the plan suspended. Before leaving home, Julia Osborne and A. M. Frink were married at my house.

This month of December, my son Willy arrived at Portsmouth, N. H.,

from a cruise in the Mediterranean, and my son Alexander arrived from Rhode Island. They came with my daughter Sally, who had been on a visit to Mrs. Wm. Kimble in St. John's Square; leaving me in the city, they went to Geneva over the "Beech Woods" route. In this month an association of twelve hundred young men in the city appointed me their chief to offer service to General Jackson, to march in case of any breach of the Constitution, to sustain the laws under his command—having allusion to Southern nullification,—for which I received the thanks of the President.

Six hundred and fifty-four thousand dollars for fortifications in 1832.

1833. In consequence of the illness of the wife of my friend, F. C. Tucker, I had delayed my return home. On this New Year's Day, this beloved lady died. The interment the second day after was in the cemetery of St. Ann's, among her father's family, Joshua Sands, Esq.

The next day I returned to Geneva, passing by Newburgh. The softness of the roads made my travel tedious, and I did not reach Geneva until too late to reach the wedding of my son Willy and Belle at her father's, where Mrs. Swift, Sally and the boys had gone; they soon after joined us at Geneva, *i. e.*, the last of January. Soon after, placed José with Mrs. Record—in April—and sent my son Julius to my farm at Newstead, under the auspices of Major and Mrs. Van Deventer, and with some purpose, myself, to sell out at Geneva and become a farmer in Erie County.

On 11th May attended the funeral, as pall bearer, of Geo. Gallagher, Esq., whose sudden death had left a large family of children in Geneva.

Congress had appropriated this year funds for the harbors, and by the end of April had all the lake works well under way.

In May, Wm. Bayard wrote me that, in examining the records of mortgages in the city, he found one from me to Henry Eckford of my estate on 7th Avenue, and, on calling on the assignees of the Life and Fire Insurance Company, found that my debt thereto had not been paid by Mr. Eckford, as had been declared at the conspiracy trials. Now, I had mortgaged and conveyed this property to Henry Eckford for the express purpose of paying that debt. John B. Thorp wrote me to the same purpose. This information

determined me to commence suit for the equitable decision of this matter, and regain my just rights.

On 6th June I sent to the editors of the *National Intelligencer* an obituary of the late Colonel William McRee, who had died of cholera at St. Louis. (See my files.) Messrs. Gales and Seaton inserted the same.

I was in this month in correspondence with my friends, Rev. J. M. Wainwright and John Delafield, on a plan for a seminary in the city—a university,—and upon the comparative merits of modern systems of instruction, and as to how much of the West Point usage could be introduced into such a university.

My father was with us this summer, and he visited Colonel Fitzhugh and attended an ecclesiastical trial of Rev. Mr. Croes, who was convicted but deemed to be demented. I did not like the aspect of the bishop's influence in the trial.

In July, Colonel Totten inspected the harbors of Lake Ontario, on complaints of waste, injustice and an intimation that *some other* engineer would be acceptable to the public. Colonel Totten reported that the works were properly constructed and at reasonable prices, and that there was no just cause of complaint. My farm at Newstead had been progressing with my purchase of teams and implements, and I began to think of selling out at Geneva and becoming an active farmer. My friend J. L. Smith dissuaded me from this. But I purchased one hundred and twenty acres more land of my adjoining neighbor, John Russell, for one thousand three hundred dollars. I had taken Mrs. Swift and my son Jim Tom to see our friends the Van Deventers this summer, and returned by way of Hampton; the next month of August, Sally and the Carrols from Washington city; and Belle and Willy to Niagara Falls. I left them there and went to Buffalo to consult with Mr. Isaac Smith, an ingenious gentleman, on the construction of a light-house for Buffalo, and other piers to secure the harbor.

Early in September I was in the city with Willis Hall about my chancery suit with the Eckford heirs, and purchased the bonds of the Life and Fire Company to liquidate my debt and to make the assignees co-operators in

that suit. This purchase of bonds J. B. Thorpe made for three hundred and fifteen dollars.

Returning to Geneva and to Rochester to explore a route for a railroad to Batavia and Attica.

In October, died my cousin, William Roberdeau Swift, at Gen. Blount's, in Washington, North Carolina, my last remaining male relation of my family, save my brother and his son, and my own sons.

In October, General Gratiot, the chief engineer, and myself visited Col. Totten and my son Alexander. Alexander and I, in crossing Narragansett Bay, were run down by a sloop, carrying away the mast, boom and bowsprit of our ferry-boat, breaking the shafts of our carriage, and wounding our horse. The sloop towed us to Newport. Repaired and re-crossed, and went to see my father at New London.

In November I returned to the city of New York, and Mr. Gouverneur, Mr. Bibby and myself, *the only* attendants upon a notice of removing the remains of the late President Monroe (who had died 4th July previously), to the new cemetery—a negligence and indifference of the city, in striking contrast to the pomp and sycophancy there exhibited in 1817.

In this month of November died the daughter of Colonel Isaac Roberdeau, Mary E., and also Maria, the daughter of Gen. Winfield Scott. I was with them at this sad scene. Of Mary Roberdeau's death, Elizabeth Morris wrote me an impressive account. She was accomplished and amiable, and an entirely natural character, beloved generally, and by the family of John Quincy Adams especially. (See my files.)

In my absence from Geneva was born there my son Foster on 31st of October.

In December, Mr. Charles Hoyt, of Brooklyn, proposed my return to Brooklyn as a residence, and joining him in purchase of lots there. I agreed to consider his proposal, and returned to Geneva, where the agreeable family of R. A. Tucker, formerly chief justice of Newfoundland, had taken residence for the winter. Before leaving Brooklyn I had, on 12th and 13th November, at 4 A. M., observed a host of meteoric stars, covering

the whole space of air, and continuing a long while. It was said to be in the constellation of Leo.

Seven hundred and seventy-seven thousand dollars appropriated for fortifications in the year 1833.

1834. January. The Rochester and Batavia Railroad, not liking my terms, employed another engineer, and had commenced that work without preparing the sill foundations. They soon found their road in swells and vales and inequalities of surface, the result of a bad economy to save the price of a fair salary in order to have safe advice to follow. A comment of similar nature will apply to many States, and especially to Pennsylvania—losing vast sums by incompetent engineering.

I sent my son McRee to Batavia to be prepared for college in Rev. Mr. Ernst's seminary.

At Lyons, with General Adams, preparing a petition to the legislature to remodel the Sodus Canal charter, and to induce a more useful subscription and support to that important work.

In reply to a request of Governor Marcy, wrote him a plan for a normal school in each senatorial district, and gave a comparative view of ours and the Prussian school discipline.

Early in February observed the defect in vision in my son Willy's eye. The doctor deemed it amaurosis, from too much use at sea, and prescribed the usual remedy. The course was followed by debility and a depression of mental power, unfitting him for full sea-naval service.

I observed in this month of February that the magnetic variation at Geneva was $3^{\circ} 49'$ to the West. In this month, at Newstead, planning buildings for my farm, and in March took a deed at Buffalo from Russell for the one hundred and twenty acres, and at Batavia a deed from D. E. Evans for the two hundred and thirty acres. To Black Rock to see General Peter B. Porter, to consult about farming. In March, at Geneva, Willy became able to do duty and was ordered to the Brandywine at the navy-yard, Brooklyn. When on a visit to Mr. Thomas March he relapsed, and the Secretary of the Navy excused the Pacific cruise, and, with his brother

Alexander, we four returned to Geneva, advising Colonel Fitzhugh of Willy's case in April.

George W. Whistler asks my advice about accepting the direction of the machine factory for steam at Lowell. I reply, "accept, certainly, as a good step to improving that machinery for railroads." He did so.

By the end of April I had the harbors on Lake Ontario under way, though on a limited scale, suiting the meagre supply by Congress, and thus much delay in these works.

In May, Colonel Fitzhugh and Elizabeth visited us, and he had heard from Dr. Backus that Willy's case was a stroke of the sun in the first cruise of the Brandywine in the Pacific, from exposure on duty at the sea-side, watering the ship.

My family and Williamson's and Judge Tucker's—twenty in all—on a jaunt to Bluff Point, of Crooked Lake, and to Jemima Wilkinson's farm, where Rachel Malen—Jemima's successor—was chief of the fanatical, though inoffensive society, save their bad example of pretended spiritual rule. My son Alexander returned to duty at Rhode Island in May, and Willy and Belle to Hampton—his health improving, though his nervous system was shattered in June. In July, my son McRee returned from Batavia to enter Geneva College. My father's health failing, and my brother William with him at New London, he wrote me, and I replied on the most important of all subjects, the future life.

Independence this year at Geneva was respectably celebrated by an oration, feast and fire-works. I presided.

In August I commenced a survey of Rochester, with Mr. Stoddard and Mr. Wallace, my surveyors for drainage. At home, commenced a vestibule to the front of my house. In September, Mrs. Swift's niece, Mary Ann Walker, of North Carolina, with us, and a nice party to Sodus Bay.

In October I explained to the Rochester council my system for a double drainage—the upper for surface water and waste; the under for sinks and other offensive impurities; both to be scoured out periodically by a glut from a spring-head south of the town,—the whole to empty at the falls.

They adopted my plan, and then ruined it by diminishing the mains so as to prevent a man's passage to repair.

In November, recommended my friend Rev. Adam Empie, the President of William and Mary, in Virginia, for the presidency of Columbia College, South Carolina. Escorted M. A. Walker, on her way to North Carolina, to Brooklyn, and José to Mrs. North's school in New London, where I saw for the last time our niece, Julia Osborne Frink, on the eve of going to Florida to seek relief.

The last of November I went to West Hills, on Long Island, with F. R. Hassler, my brother William, J. Ferguson and Mr. Dahlgren, on the coast survey, to observe the great eclipse, giving Mr. Hassler a statement of my observation on the meteoric appearance at Major Tucker's, in Brooklyn, on the morning of the 13th November in the east, near the sign Leo. I received, 1st December, from James Prentiss, an invitation to go to Texas, as he reported, by request of Governor Houston, to become a member of the executive cabinet, but did not accede. I introduced Mrs. O'Sullivan and her son John, to Mr. Calhoun and Mr. Robbins of the United States Senate, to promote a claim for relief for losses of her husband, who was lost in South America, on the coast of Brazil. William Bayard afterward told me this claim was unfounded in justice. (See my files.)

Mr. Charles Hoyt renewed his offer to unite in business in Brooklyn, he guaranteeing me \$3,000 a year for three years. This 10th December, 1834, I accepted the terms and commenced operations with George Winchester to purchase Bolton, and with J. U. Cole to buy the flats at Hoboken with Samuel L. Gouverneur; the matter deferred.

My co-executor in the estate of Rev. John Ireland informed me of the sale of the navy-yard lots of Mr. Ireland for eight thousand dollars—approved by the heirs and also by me.

December 26th, Captain Cunningham gave me a stone image from ruins of a temple fifty miles up the river above Tampico, in Mexico, an Aztec God. I deposited the same in the Historical Society of New York by my cousin, Dr. Wm. Swift, United States Navy. I wrote to Jared Sparks of an original letter of Washington's to Governor Dinwiddie, of date 3d June,

1754, just before the death of Jumonville, that would go far to explain the unjust rumor of harsh and cruel treatment by Washington — a sort of gap in the Washington biography. This letter I had deposited with John Pintard, Secretary of the New York Historical Society, and it was received by me from Needler Robinson by the hands of his son-in-law, R. C. Jennings, of Norfolk, Va.

Eight hundred and seventy thousand five hundred dollars for fortifications for the year 1834.

1835. Returned to Geneva in January *via* New Milford, Onego and Ithaca. Advised General Adams of George Winchester's wish to have the Sodus Company's authority to apply to the Legislatures of Pennsylvania and Maryland to promote the Susquehanna navigation to Cayuga Lake and Lake Ontario.

February 20th, Sally and I to Albany, laying plan before the Legislature to improve the ferries at Brooklyn, in co-operation with Mr. Charles Hoyt.

In March, at the invitation of Colonel Worth, examined the ordnance preparations at the Watervliet Arsenal on prospects of war with France — liking to keep up my regard for military affairs.

To Geneva, and purchased the 50-acre lot there of the Cook estate for three thousand five hundred and fifty dollars.

In April, to Brooklyn with Mr. Hoyt, and took his house on Hicks and Remsen Streets, and my daughter Sally commenced furnishing the same.

Returned to Albany and with Charles Humphrey prepared a memorial to the Legislature on the presenting of a sword to Colonel Worth for war honors in 1812.

Returned to New York and employed Richard Morgan to survey Harlem River, to further my plan of a navy dock. (See files.)

In May, received orders and funds from the War Department U. S., to recommence the work of harbors at Genesee River and Sodus Bay, and to commence beacon lights at both places. On my arrival at Geneva, found Willy packing my furniture for a move. Major Rees takes charge of my Geneva property, and on 30th May shipped all things with horses on a canal-boat at the Brewery, and with my family of ten by canal to Albany and

a tow down the river to Brooklyn, and at house-keeping the 6th June, my wedding day. Soon after my wife and I went to see my sick father in New London, and Josê also sick at Dr. North's. We returned to Brooklyn with my brother.

To Baltimore to examine the dredging at that harbor; to see if the machinery would suit the lake harbors. My son Willy, 1st July, to Coney Island with Belle. In this month of July I agreed with the board of Brooklyn to run out and mark a water front of that city. The last of the month Willy with Dr. McDonald.

August 18th, died at New London my venerable father. I could not be there in consequence of Willy and my son Foster's illness. Colonel Fitzhugh and Elizabeth came to see Willy, and returned to Hampton with Belle. My son Julius had gone to China in the ship Sabina. In September my wife and Foster and my brother William went to New London, where William and I qualified as our father's executors.

Found Holmes' dredging machine at New London—a simple and efficient structure—and sent Holmes to Sodus Bay to construct a machine there.

In October, General Gratiot and myself to Rochester to inspect the works, of which the Secretary of War gave me his favorable opinion, maugre the Democratic essays to supercede me in office.

September 30th, had died the friend of many years, Miss Charlotte Farquhar, at Green Hill, in the city.

In October, revised my water line at Brooklyn and attended the American Institute on a committee of inspection of mechanical products.

November 1st, with Major McNeill and Mr. Kirkwood, examining the route of the Long Island Railroad. My son McRee, bit with the desire to be a civil engineer rather than finish his course at college, became an assistant to Mr. Kirkwood. On 5th November the Brooklyn board adopted my water line plans.

November 11th, at Utica as vice-president of a convention on internal improvements and manufactures; Samuel Beardsley, president. Adjourned to meet again, in Albany, in January.

December 16th and 17th, a great fire in the city, when, by request of the mayor, I took charge of blowing up buildings to arrest the fire, and succeeded in thus saving millions of property without injury of any adjacent buildings, in every instance lifting the structure so as to fall into ruin in itself, *i. e.*, a fair "globe of compression." I was aided well by James A. Hamilton and Charles King, Lieut. John Nicholas, United States Navy, and Samuel Swartwont. For similar service at Quebec, an English officer was rewarded with a pension; I was thanked by the authorities of a city which had in 1814 recorded me as her benefactor.

No appropriation for fortifications in 1835.

1836. In January I addressed a memoir to the government on the prospects of war and upon organizing a corps of naval engineers; and on 15th of that month accepted the command of a brigade of Sea Fencibles, formed by young men of the city, and made a contingent offer of service to the President of the United States, and received from the Secretary of War, Lewis Cass, the President's thanks. (See files.)

The last of January, by Hartford, Ct., to Albany, before a committee of the Legislature, to explain the nature and purposes of a water front for Brooklyn, based on the least obstruction of the tide-way. In February, Belle joined her sister and brother Genet Smith coming from Hampton, and with Major Tucker and myself to Brooklyn and found Willy greatly recovered in health.

March 7th, sent a memoir to the chief engineer on a new organization of our army in reference to the reciprocal rights and duties of the government and the army, and on promotion by seniority as the only safe rule—first established by Charles V. of Spain and Germany, as his civil author, Azalon, lays it down in his treatise, *The Precursor of Grotius*.

On March 12th I presented the city of New York a plan to rebuild the burnt district with fire-proof buildings only.

On March 16th, in reply to a letter from General Armstrong, formerly Secretary of War, upon his comments on the war of 1812-14, and subsequently upon McRee's advice to Miller about the redoubt carried at

Niagara, with an account of the council of war at Barnhard's, on the St. Lawrence, in November, 1817, that lost Montreal.

On March 18th I proposed to Thomas Biddle, of Philadelphia, that the United States Bank could enable the Sodus Canal to extend the navigation of the Susquehanna to the lakes, taking the stock for its security.

On March 24th, gave Mr. Richmond a plan, on the survey of McRee, for a harbor at the entrance of Sandy Creek, into Lake Ontario.

Corresponded with Senator Livingston and others upon the tunneling of the Hudson at Albany to facilitate the railroading from the east and south.

April, examined Stewart's system to "Surmount Friction of Wheels" for railroad cars. The plan is fair, but too nice to be applied to the rough machinery and imperfect construction of railroads in their several parallelisms, horizontal and vertical.

On the 19th of April to Albany, where, on the 26th, the law was passed by the Legislature amending the charter of the Sodus Canal, upon which Mr. Hoyt agreed to furnish twenty-five thousand dollars and his and my quota on the work and the town lots. Major John L. Smith, Alexander and myself, on 27th April, examined the major's farm of Sandy Pinery, on the road eight miles west of Albany.

On the 16th of May the lake harbor works were in good progress, Holmes' dredging machine making a fine channel into Sodus Bay of fifteen feet of water.

The last of May, at Mr. Fellows', in Geneva, examining White Springs and Castle Brook, to unite them for water power for the village, and gave the plans and estimates therefor without charge for professional services.

To Ithaca, to consult Charles Humphrey on the improvements south of that town to the river Susquehanna; and thence, on the 10th June, he and Mr. H. and myself to Brooklyn, *via* Erie Canal. At the Montezuma Lock I rescued a boy from drowning.

June 23d, at Brooklyn my Baltimore friend, Robert Barry, called on me with a request from Bishop England to consult on a plan of the Rev. E. M. Johnson and myself to remedy the vagrancy of Irish children in Brooklyn, that had become very annoying, by promoting Roman Catholic schools.

The bishop was very earnest in his school commendation, and was *en route* to Rome to report to the Pope on his Nuncio's acts in benighted St. Domingo.

July 1st, reported to the War Department the successful operation of the dredging machine of Mr. Holmes, of New London, in deepening the channel at Big Sodus Bay; and also that, in all other respects, the progress of the harbors on Lake Ontario were very slow because of the lack of appropriations.

On July 7th, to New York, and, with Major McNeill, to consult with Chas. H. Hall upon the progress of the New York and Albany Railroad — the major as chief engineer, Mr. Allen, the surveyor, as resident engineer, and myself as consulting engineer, by occasional visits, etc.

July 12, Belle, Sally and Willy to Geneva and Hampton; Mr. Hoyt and myself with them as far as Canandaigua, where, at Mr. Grig's office, a meeting of the Sodus Canal Association was held; from whence, on the 16th, the association proceeded to the town plot, at the proposed outlet of the canal, and there confirmed the route of the canal.

In reference to which, I purchased a farm at Clyde of William S. De Zeng, who, failing in title which he could not execute, lost me two thousand five hundred dollars, which sum in justice he is bound to repay to me, I having paid him that amount in cash.

July 19th, from the piers at Genesee river took an open boat and coasted to the mouth of Oak Orchard Creek and there made a survey and planned a United States harbor for that outlet, and sent the same to the War Department.

July 28th, General Adams and myself descended the Clyde River to Cayuga Marshes and Lake, and slept at Colonel Stanley's on the Marsh Island, to explore for any improvement in our plan for crossing the Erie Canal at Clyde, under the Erie, and found no better route.

August 6th, at Geneva, opened the Sodus Canal books for subscriptions to the stock. Half was at once subscribed.

August 8th, to Rochester and arranged with Daniel Ball for my son Julius' interest in the Shiawassee lands in Michigan, and mills. This essay

was an entire failure under the sanguine Mr. Ball, to the loss on our part of one thousand dollars, a great part of which was a gift of Alexander to his brother Julius.

From Geneva Sally and myself to Ithaca, with Mr. and Mrs. Charles Humphrey; from whence to Brooklyn, having for a companion, Colonel John W. Livingston, my superior officer in Rhode Island thirty-six years ago. At Ithaca I designed a plan for Alexander Duncan, Esq., to dam the Canandaigua Lake in the outlet for mill-seats, and sent it to him. My daughter Charlotte, with Mrs. M. P. Lomax, Newport, R. I., at school.

The month of September, exploring Harlem River in reference to the navy depot plan, and for an outfitting and repairing station, both on the Hudson and near Hell Gate, by which to render it imperative in war that our enemy should support two blockading squadrons. Thus by opening Harlem River by a few yards of cutting into the Hudson, and by a canal through Randall's Island, at Little Hell Gate, maintain a choice of passage to sea by either Sandy Hook or the Sound.

September 17th, to Lake Ontario and Lake Orchard to complete my plans for a United States harbor at that place. Thence to Rose Valley in Wayne Co. through the swamp to Clyde, and ran a line on good ground for a canal—the severest labor in the field I ever experienced, from Cayuga Marshes to Clyde, with Major Cook, a very capital surveyor, and Mr. C. W. Rees.

By the last of October returned to my family in Brooklyn, and recommenced the Hell Gate survey, and Barn Island—a strong position for every species of magazines and for defence against an enemy, and especially in case of mobs in the city of New York.

In November, George W. Whistler came to consult on improvements, and he returned to Lowell, Mass., taking my daughter to visit Anna.

In December, at a meeting at Mr. Wm. Bard's, presented a plan of Chas. Butler, Esq., as head of the American Land Company, to establish a town at the outlet of Lake Huron, and a canal from Black Creek to that lake, and sent William Hopkins to make the surveys, while I should visit the Governor of Canada to consult with him on establishing a railroad from

Toronto to the proposed site for a town, and in reference to other Lake Ontario harbors, etc.

December 20th, received from Colonel Justus Post one thousand one hundred and eighty-four dollars, as my share on sales of some lands on Coal River, in which he had interested F. R. Hassler and myself. At a meeting last December of the Sodus Canal Company, at Clyde, the plan of crossing under the Erie Canal there was discussed, and thus to make our first lock at the town plot at Sodus Bay. Sodus is an Indian word of the Seneca dialect, and signifies a creek with a wide mouth—very graphic of Sodus Bay.

One million seven hundred and seventy thousand dollars for fortifications for 1836.

1837. Between the 1st and 15th of January, the canal commissioners at Albany debated the subject of crossing the Erie Canal by the Sodus Canal, and on the 15th made decision in favor of crossing under the canal at Clyde.

Immediately wrote instructions to Major Cook and Mr. C. W. Rees to bore deep in the north side of the Erie at Clyde, to determine the nature of the bed on which to construct the culvert.

18th. Met Fennimore Cooper, and we jaunted to Stockbridge, in Massachusetts, thence through New Haven to the city of New York, as our easiest route thither from Albany.

20th. With Commodore Ridgely, United States Navy, upon a process to lay before the Navy Department the claims of Captain Samuel Augus to a pension, he having been stricken from the navy list by President Adams. Query: the constitutional power of the President to dismiss any commissioned officer whose dismissal is not provided for by law in such way.

26th. Sent my declination as engineer to the Pensacola Railroad Company, by reason of engagements with the Sodus Canal Company, and reported the same to President Greig.

In February the speculations in city lots of Brooklyn by others than Charles Hoyt convinced me that he could not fulfill his engagements with me, and on his agreeing to pay me the balance then due me of two thousand dollars when in his power, I concluded to remove my family to Geneva. In

this month we had the first information of a lung attack on my brother William's wife, and as he was deeply engaged on duty, I offered to escort Mary to the mild air of Florida, but it was not agreeable to her to leave home.

March 7th I was called to Washington to consult on the progress of the work on lake harbors. Met there the minister from Texas, Newman Hunt, at a dinner party given by him to John C. Calhoun, William C. Preston, General Gaines, etc., including myself. The topic was the adoption of Texas into the Union as a State.

The inauguration of Mr. Van Buren had been attended by Mr. John Greig, Alexander Duncan, Chas. A. Williamson and myself, and William G. McNeill. We had a very pleasant club at O'Neil's. On our return we examined the inclined plane of the Morris Canal at Newark, having reference to its probable use on the Sodus Canal, which had now begun to lag from want of funds, the speculations in land having exhausted large capitals and made money very scarce.

The harbor work under way on the lakes early in April, on the 28th of which month I placed my family and furniture on board a canal boat at Brooklyn and thence towed by steam to Albany, meeting an accident at the overslaugh that had nearly sunk our boat in the night. We escaped narrowly, and on May 1st entered the Erie Canal, and on 6th arrived at the foot of the road near my house at Geneva, on the lake shore.

On May 23d summoned to the circuit court at Lyons to testify professionally to the influence and effects of the Clyde mill-dam, nine miles below, in producing what is vulgarly called "piling of water"—*i. e.*, the surface of the water above the dam becomes a curve of large radius, and so elevates the water far up the stream. My experiment to satisfy the jury had been, by taking away the slash boards from the Clyde dam after the water had run out. I placed graduated stakes at several points on the margin of the river, and then replacing the slash boards, noted the surface of the water on the stakes after the pond had filled, which marks on the stakes indicated ordinates in the canal of the back water, etc. The jury, on the exhibition of my diagram, gave verdict against the owners of the dam for surplus

overflowage up the river to a point near Lyons — *i. e.*, a line of eight miles.

In June the United States War Department determined that officers of engineers should superintend the construction of harbors when they were not on military duty — a very proper decision — under which the harbors of Lake Ontario were placed under Lieutenant W. D. Smith (Fraser). Retaining my agency at Big Sodus Bay until other officers could be spared. The dredging at Sodus had opened a channel of fifteen feet, where, in 1829, there had been only eight feet of water.

Independence was celebrated at Sodus this year by the canal company in the Shaker building, the town plot for the new city.

July 19th, wrote Gerrit Smith, Esq., my plan for the abolition of slavery: 1st, to obtain the consent of the slave States to sell all the children born of slaves at birth, and so to be born free; 2d, Congress to make a sinking fund by consent of three-fourths of the States of five million dollars a year, which would buy all the children of slaves, born in one year; 3d, to colonize these children when from ten to twelve years old, under the auspices of emancipated competent blacks, west of the Rocky Mountains.

Aug. 4th. To my farm at Newstead to save what the shark Shipherd had left, Van Deventer having made him our common tenant. I found no crop, and took away my horses and wagon and a harrow, all that was left of many things. Met Alanson Palmer at the farm, to whom Van Deventer in his ill state of health had sold his farm — a sharper — made some settlement with him in Van's name, and advised to retain the land and avoid Palmer.

In September to Eighteen Mile Creek, below Lockport, on Lake Ontario, by order of War Department, to project a harbor for that place, which was done, and the plan sanctioned by the Government.

Thence to Niagara and Toronto, to confer with Governor Sir Francis Head upon a plan of the American Company and the Sodus Canal Company to establish a railroad from the West end of Lake Ontario to Sarnia, opposite Fort Gratiot, at the outlet of Lake Huron, and from thence west to the mouth of Grand River at Lake Michigan. The Governor agreed to promote the operation by his influence in Canada. On my return at Buffalo in company with Henry McLean, the cousin of Mrs. Swift, who

introduced me to Mr. Bates, sold him my farm at Newstead for eight thousand dollars, under mortgage, but he failed to make payment.

October 8th. From Geneva to Sodus, and found the isthmus that unites Point Charles to the main land nearly cut through by storms. Closed up the breach with cribs of stone.

At the request of Major McNeill I went to Alleghany County, taking Louisa and Foster to Hampton with my gray horses, and, leaving them there, went to Angelica to examine the Alleghany County records, and found them very imperfect and much exposed to fire. Thence to Captain Philip S. Church, Belvidere, from whence I wrote McNeill advice how to proceed to save his pine lands, and also to Samuel Glover, his attorney, to prevent attempted frauds through the records.

Early in November, Henry Dwight, Esq., and myself to Albany, and there met the obituary of my brother William's wife, from rapid consumption. She was a fine woman, the daughter of James Stewart of New London, the British Consul, leaving my brother with a son and daughter at the very age when they most required a mother's care.

From Albany to the Waverly in New York, and there delivered the books of the Tioga Coal Company to John B. Thorp, having received them from Joseph Fellows, Esq., at Geneva.

December 1st, visited Major John L. Smith at Governor's Island, and met there General Scott, Colonel Thayer, Delafield, McNeill and Whistler, and my brother William. Thence William and I went to Hempstead Harbor to see F. R. Hassler, who was in trouble from the calls of the Secretary of the United States Treasury to vary his plan of conducting the coast survey, greatly retarding the progress of that work, and gave my advice to Hassler to remain quiet and not write long letters to the Secretary, who probably did not comprehend Mr. Hassler's scientific mode of conducting the work.

December 19th, by appointment made at Governor's Island, G. W. Whistler and myself proceeded to Stonington to meet the Stonington & Providence Railroad Company on plans for improvement thereof, and the next day to Providence with the company and others to remedy the causes of delay. The following day the company returned to Stonington, and on

our way cut off the head of a horse by the force of the locomotive as the horse was standing at night with his head over the rail. On my return to New York, stopped at Fort Schuyler to examine that place with Major J. L. Smith, and met here William Cutbush, formerly Captain of United States engineers, and employed as surveyor.

No appropriation for forts this year.

1838. January 20th. Delayed at Brooklyn by the common council, who thought my charge for making a water front to their city too high. My demand was eighteen hundred dollars, including my visits to Albany to explain the matter to the legislative committee. The common council sent me a check for twelve hundred dollars, and remained in my debt six hundred dollars.

On January 22d, to Harlem with Major McNeill and Philemon Dickinson, Esq., of New Jersey, and with Charles H. Hall it was agreed that to promote the navy dock I should draw up a report on the project of the Hudson and Harlem River and Little Hell Gate for docks, yards, etc. Took my quarters at the Astor House, and finished the report. It was laid before the common council of the city, and produced the adoption of the High Bridge of the Croton aqueduct to permit the passage of ships-of-the-line, etc. (See files.)

On February 3d, a meeting of American Land Company at William Bard's. I gave them an account of my sojourn at Toronto and interview with Governor Head, together with my plan for a harbor at the Gratiot outlet of Huron, which they adopted, to wit: Messrs. Bard, McBride, Beers, Willet, Charles Butler, and Arnault; R. K. Delafield, Secretary.

The next day, by aid of Mr. O'Connor, succeeded in settling the affairs between the daughters of my late friend, Peter Birdsell, and their brother John, by which the girls have the income of rent at the old stand, corner of Wall and Broad Streets.

February 7th. Reported to the United States Navy Commissioner and to the United States Chief Engineer my views of the importance of the Barn Island and Little Hell Gate passage, and Harlem and Hudson River sites for United States navy docks and yards, and its offering space and security

and two passages to the ocean, thereby obliging an enemy to use two guns to our one by the necessary blockade off the Hook and Montauk, our two passages to sea.

February 17th. With General Scott and Charles King, Esquire, at the Astor, consulting on the necessity of the general's speedy movement in return to the frontier to check the secret movements of the sympathizing traitors. The general departed that evening with Captain Keys. Quite a scene between the captain's wife, Colonel Monroe and myself on the lady's objections against her husband's duty.

February 19th. At John L. Graham's with Long Island Railroad Company to treat about my taking charge of that road. The meeting adjourned, etc.

February 23d. The exchange of lands between Dr. Fitzhugh and the Shakers of Sodus delayed by the difficulty in raising funds. John Greig and Charles Hoyt, Esq., at my room at the Astor to devise security to Dr. Fitzhugh. A meeting of the Sodus Canal Company called for early in March. The cold very intense on the 24th, when Mr. Greig and I took stage for Albany, Major John L. Smith meeting us with a noble pair of blankets, his present to Mrs. Swift, that made us comfortable all the way home.

On March 1st citizens of Geneva appoint General Whiting, myself and others a committee to locate the proper entrance of the Rochester & Auburn Railroad into our village.

March 8th to Canandaigua at the meeting of the Sodus Canal Company at President Greig's. "The pecuniary difficulties of the times" suspend the whole work, a severe blow to my prospects; but shall make further essays to revive the work.

In April summoned to New York to testify on the subject of my blowing up houses with gunpowder in the great fire of December, 1835. The owners succeed in recovering from the city in whose cause the blasting was done.

Last of April my brother William and myself to see the first of the great steamers, the Western, Captain Judkins, a grand movement to promote the intercourse and the peace of nations.

May 1st. The agents of the Illinois Canal called on me, McLaren and Hardy, on the subject of connecting a railroad therewith, and we visit the Long Island Railroad to show them the process, etc. They propose to me to unite with them. I deemed it something of an interference with my brother's affairs, and had no more to say to the gentlemen.

On May 3d I was with General Waddy Thompson, who, as a friend of John C. Calhoun invited me to write to Mr. Calhoun on the subject of nullification. As an intimate friend I did so, embracing my views of the whole subject, and urged on him the settling the matter, as I deemed him to hold great influence with the North. But Mr. Calhoun had gone too far to attempt such a purpose. With his great mind he could have done much, and no doubt did assuage the violence of his compeers.

This spring I continued the small work doing at Sodus Bay Harbor, and finished repairing the breach in the Isthmus of Point Charles.

On August 15th Captain Samuel Swift, my cousin, of Geneva, and family, moved to the vicinity of Princeton, Bureau County, Illinois, to a farm he had there purchased, and left his Geneva property in the care of James H. Woods, Esq.

On the 18th my son Alexander made us a few weeks' visit from Cape Fear, North Carolina. This fall great confusion upon our frontier among the sympathizers on both sides of the line of boundary.

General Adams trying to keep alive the Sodus Canal by a current of water washing out the sandy loam from the Clyde north to the head of Sodus Bay. He is an indefatigably industrious man, and will accomplish as much as he has means to use therefor. I went to look at the successful essay in the month of October, and on my return on November 1st to Geneva, I found Major John L. Smith, United States Engineer, at my house, with instructions from Secretary of War, Mr. Poinsett, for the major and myself to examine the condition of the people in the country on the shores of Lakes Ontario and Erie, in reference to secret operations of "Sympathizers" and the like, to disturb our relations with Canada. At Buffalo we conferred with Colonels Bankhead and Crane, United States Army, and thence to Erie, in Pennsylvania, and Cleveland, in Ohio.

Detected several plans that were urged on by misguided men, and by the close of November returned to Geneva, and the major made his report to the Government, of a confidential nature of course.

One million eleven thousand dollars for forts in 1838.

1839. In January Captain W. D. Smith (Fraser) by order of the War Department commenced to examine into the disbursements upon the United States Harbor at Big Sodus Bay, from the commencement of the work in 1829 to the close of 1838, under secret charges from William Edwards, one of the contractors, of fraud and waste. This occupied Captain Smith eight days from January 15th, and on the 23d he left for other duty. A copy of his report was sent to me by order of the Secretary of War. The report states that not a single fact sustained any charges—that they were totally unfounded. There has been for these ten years a series of essays to oust me from office by good Democrats of Wayne and Monroe Counties.

The last of January to Albany with General Adams to call on Governor Seward on the subject of State improvements, and especially the revival of the Sodus Canal, which the governor approved, and said he would further its progress as chief magistrate. A meeting of stockholders was called at Brooklyn, at Mr. Hoyt's, March 9th, when it was agreed that I should go to Philadelphia to consult with Thomas Biddle and Mr. Dunlap, of the United States Bank, which I accordingly did on March 27th, and left my explanation with them, after a thorough conversation, while I should be absent in Washington. When the Secretary of War expressed his satisfaction with Captain Smith's examination into the Sodus Bay expenditures, the Secretary informed me it had been determined to give me the general supervision of the harbor, and on Lake Ontario, and so far modify the order to employ only the engineer officers; accordingly on April 4th Colonel Abert, topographical engineer, appointed Captain Canfield to aid me in an inspection of all the harbors on Lake Ontario.

April 5th Colonel Abert and myself to see an old friend, Phineas Lacy, at Alexandria. I ride out to see Bruce Walker at the theological seminary, and in Alexandria my cousin Mary Harper Swift, Mrs. Summers — Sophia

Potts that was—my early friend in Alexandria thirty odd years ago, at Notty Hall, etc.

April 9th President Van Buren entertains the pacificator. General Scott, in allusion to his services in nullifying days in South Carolina, border troubles at Navy Island, Niagara, and with Sir John Harvey in Maine. The party consisted of the heads of departments, foreign ambassadors, and three of Scott's friends—Generals Towson, Gibson and myself. On the 10th the general and myself to Philadelphia, at Nicholas Biddle's, etc. I met Thomas Biddle, who informs me the United States Bank cannot co-operate with the Sodus Canal Company on the subject deputed to me. To New York, and on April 15th with Belle, Willy and Louisa march to Geneva. On the 28th to a Sodus meeting at Mr. Greig's, Canandaigua, and report the failure of negotiations with the United States Bank.

May 2d. At Rochester piers, and by steam to Oswego, and meet Captain Canfield, and commence our inspection, as a board, of all the harbors of Lake Ontario, and on the 11th I return to Geneva and send instructions to the agent, Judson, at Oswego, to commence the permanent piers there with Beton, and to Mr. Peters at Mexico Bay, Salmon River, to go on with the piers, and the same to Mr. Rees at Genesee River.

July 4th. Celebrate the day at Geneva. Hon. Gideon Lee recently settled among us, with his excellent wife. He presides on that day.

On the 20th our friends the Marchs, of Brooklyn, come to see us, and we take my grays to Hampton and the Wadsworth's, Miss Elizabeth the heroine of the valley. We get back to Geneva on August 1st.

On August 13th Colonel Abert arrives at Geneva, and invites me to a survey of both lakes with him. The next day we proceed to Oswego, and by steamer to Buffalo, and thence to Erie, Pennsylvania, and return from inspection of Presque Isle to Buffalo, and meet the Secretary of War and Mr. Gouverneur Kemble, at the Falls, and so on to Geneva, the colonel being suddenly summoned to Washington on public affairs. On the 26th to Clyde to see General Adams about his scouring process on the Sodus Canal, and thence by canal to Syracuse and Oswego, from whence on the 28th

Colonel Worth and myself to Sacketts Harbor, and explored our scenes there of 1813, and awaited the arrival of President Van Buren and Secretary Poinsett, on 29th, and proceed to review and inspection of the troops; and thence to the mouth of Black River and Brownsville, and dined with Mrs. General Brown and Major Kirby, and on to Watertown, where Mr. Fairbanks gave the President an account of his extorting a large amount of money from Paymaster Edmonson, by threats of drowning him in the lake. The money was concealed in a bed, and, on ripping up the same, Mrs. Edmonson committed suicide.

August 30th, to Oswego, where the President in his address, reprimanded his political friends who had been sympathizers, a severe and deserved and well administered castigation.

On 31st President inspected the new Beton Harbor work, and Mr. Poinsett pronounced it good, etc.

On September 1st I went to Sodus Bay with Smith, Van Buren to Alexander Duncan, a farmer living on the Shaker tract. Mr. Van Buren and Poinsett went direct to Genesee River, where the Secretary, with Captain Loud of United States Artillery, inspected the decaying wood work of the piers, and saw the effect of the negligence of Congress in delay of appropriations. The President then went to Geneva to have a few quiet days with his early friend, Judge Sutherland, and to see William K. Strong's fine farm, the old Robin Rose farm on the lake shore, and then returned to Albany and Washington. I accompanied him and the Secretary to Waterloo, and he thanked me for the "acceptable service rendered him in the harbors and by my personal attentions."

November 2d. The vestry of Trinity Church at Geneva sent me a delegate to the Episcopal convention at Rochester.

On December 24th I hurried to Hampton to see the last of Colonel William Fitzhugh. He died on the 29th, at the age of seventy-nine, a worthy and consistent Christian gentleman. I wrote his obituary. He had been a cornet of dragoons in the Maryland line, and aid-de-camp to General Gist in the Revolution. He had reared a family of twelve

children, and left them all the means of comfort in this world, and an excellent example.

Three hundred and thirty thousand dollars for forts in 1839.

1840. Alexander left us on 2d January for Washington, to receive his instructions from the War Department to proceed to France to prepare to instruct a corps of sappers and miners, and he sailed from New York for Havre de Grace on February 12th.

During the month of February prominent Democrats of Monroe and Wayne counties wrote the War Department that I was interfering adversely to the interests of the Van Buren party, and requested that some good Democrat should be placed in my office. A silly accusation, but without any foundation in fact, for during my United States agency I had refrained from all political meetings and political action, excepting my free and open vote.

In the spring an effort was made to keep the Sodus Canal project before the public, and General Adams (June 1st) and myself went from Clyde to Geneva to negotiate with the Shakers for securing their payments for the Sodus tract, but without success. Our operations had become impeded by the stringency in the money market, and our own wealthy stockholders could not see the policy of finishing the work for less than a fourth of a million, a work that would open intercourse between Chesapeake Bay and Lake Ontario, and yield to the United States Government every means of transport of military supplies to protect the country and its lake commerce in plaster, salt, iron, coal and lumber. The finishing of the work had become simple and cheap. But our capitalist stockholders did not revive the work, and the land reverted to Messrs. Greig, Duncan, Butler and Fellows. General Adams, however, with respectable perseverance adhered to the plan of scouring out the easy sandy loam from Clyde to the head of Sodus Bay, and exhausted his private means in the essay. I have devoted much time and labor and my means to this work, but shall reap no other benefit than the gratification of knowing it will be revived for the benefit of others and the country at large.

In June I went to New York to advance my chancery suit against the Eckford estate. My counsel, Messrs. Foote and Davies.

June 17th consulting with Mr. Canon of Troy upon employment upon the Schenectady Railroad, and agreed to return to Troy with my brother William on this subject. On 19th Major McNeill and I to Stonington and Providence on that railroad business, and thence to Boston to consult with Patrick Jackson. On 21st William and I via Worcester to view the well conducted asylum there, and thence by Norwich and New York, and with the Troy and Schenectady Railroad agent, Mr. Canon, and not liking his terms I returned to New York, and William to Springfield.

June 28th to Elizabethtown, New Jersey, to consult General Scott in reference to a reply to Thaddeus Phelps, who, at a Democratic meeting had nominated me for the chief magistracy of New York. General Scott said that although the nomination was based upon my official relations formerly with Jefferson, Madison and Monroe, and my never having been a prominent political actor, he thought it would not be consistent with my federal principles to consent to any further proceedings, and by no means suitable to my limited pecuniary means, in all which I agreed with him, and wrote Mr. Phelps in accordance therewith.

July 2d Mr. Foot accompanied me to Mr. W. P. Rathbone's, in Hackensack, New Jersey, and learned from him that my city property on Seventh Avenue he knew had been conveyed to Henry Eckford, solely to secure J. G. Swift's debt to the Life and Fire, and for no other purpose. Accordingly at the next meeting on my case, before Master in Chancery Lansing, the testimony of Mr. Rathbone, S. L. Gouverneur, Mr. Hoxie and General Bogardus, taken and recorded, and these meetings continued at periods until the end of the year, detaining me at my friend Tucker's through the illness and to the death of my child in Geneva. Charlotte died there on December 31st, at the age of fifteen.

Seven hundred and eighty thousand dollars for forts in 1840.

1841. February 8th. At the request of Leffert Lefferts, Esq., at the expected disturbance of the United States with France, I gave him my views on paper on the means of defending New York, with a plan for

raising volunteers to occupy the fortifications of the harbor in co-operation with troops of the United States. At the instance of General Scott I examined "Mr. Carter's ball propeller." It had excited much attention in the city. I drew up an argument to show that no centrifugal force created by manual strength and applied to cranks and hollow spokes of wheels, would propel even a small cannon ball with sufficient velocity to accomplish military purposes.

On February 19th the last examination before Master Lansing. The Eckford counsel presented a mortgage of my Seventh Avenue property. It was deemed a bar to further action until I could initiate a new case, because this mortgage is only part and parcel of the one and same transaction, namely, to give Henry Eckford a trust of my property to pay my debt. He never had given a cent in consideration for this property, and I had never been indebted to him for any amount whatever. I am tired of this litigation, and shall leave the pursuit of justice to my heirs.

March 10th. To Washington on a visit to Colonel Totten. The officers of the army at Washington had united in a petition to General Harrison to reinstate me in office, an extremely pleasant evidence of the regard of my military associates. (See the document on my files.) With General Macomb I waited on President Harrison, who said he had something for me to do. This referred to the proposal of Colonel Abert to send me upon a visit of inquiry to Canada, having reference to border difficulties. General Harrison and General Macomb concurred on the necessity of further information of the views of the British Government, and the President requested the Secretary of War, Mr. Bell, to arrange with me for this expedition, my compensation to be that of Brigadier General commanding, and all traveling expenses.

On March 27th to New York, and on April 3d to Geneva, the first meeting with my family since the death of my daughter Charlotte.

On April 16th to New York, and with Major McNeill to Boston. Here I consulted with an early friend, Jeremiah Mason, who gave me letters to Sir John Caldwell in Canada. With Patrick and Dr. Charles Jackson, and my companion of the days of fortifying Boston, and other eastern harbors

in 1800, etc.—Henry A. S. Dearborn—who had excellent views of our relations with Canada, and of our means of purchasing the whole province. We passed several days together in examining Colonel Thayer's newly commenced fort at Georges' Island, and visited Mount Auburn.

May 1st, on board the steamer *Columbia*, and in forty hours over a heavy swell arrived at Halifax, and found rooms at the Masonic Hall Tavern, and passed a week in examining docks, forts, and the canal of Shubenacadie. Sir John Harvey invited me to the review of two thousand troops. I estimated them at twelve hundred. He introduced me to Lord Falkland, the Governor, who invited both to dinner, and had a pleasant discussion on the relations of our respective governments. I gave them my ideas, that they required our timber and we their trade, and both upon equal terms. I met Colonel Smelt of Eighth Foot, who presented me to his lady, a daughter of Beverly Robinson. The lady exhibited much American feeling and courtesy. The colonel is the reputed son of George III, and is much like the portraits of that king. He had been sick.

He had been wounded severely on the Niagara frontier in 1814. He spoke kindly of his treatment by the Americans. Lady Harvey, a plain person, and well-informed, the daughter of Lord Lake, of East India celebrity. Lady Falkland is very pretty, of a sad countenance, as if she were thinking of her mother, Mrs. Jordan, and her father, William the Fourth. Sir John Caldwell was one of the guests. I had a letter to him. We dined at the mess of the Eighth, Thirty-Seventh and Sixty-Fourth regiments, in a room designed by the Duke of Kent, not much of architectural taste. Sir John Harvey sent warm messages to his friend, General Scott. They had been able pacificators between New Brunswick and Maine. On 11th I took the coach, and by that beautiful harbor above Halifax, of an extent sufficient to moor a fleet of one hundred sail; came to the margin of a trout torrent near the dividing ridge, and descending the road, thence to Windsor, through a rough, stunted growth of pine, alder and birch, to the river of Windsor. Examined its plaster beds and the bridge across to Falmouth, the rise and fall of the tide at its piers varying from forty-five to sixty-five feet. I found several of the descendants of the refugees from the United

States in the war of 1776. Judge Halliburton, whom I had been introduced to in Washington by General Scott, the Sam Slick of the romance, and some army and navy officers, all very courteous.

On 14th on the appropriately named steamer, the Maid of the Mist, through much fog in the Basin of Mines, out to clear weather after rounding Cape Blowmedon, to St. John, N. B. Our captain, an officer of the navy, honored me with a salute, which made my entrance to the city more public than I had expected. On our passage I observed very strong cross currents and whirls, and the steering very difficult, arising from the power of the tide and the great volume of water that had to pass and repass twice a day between headlands on both sides of the Bay of Fundy.

At St. John I met Charles, son of the consul, James Stewart, Esq., of New London, now in England; Mr. Jewett, whom I used to know, a ship carpenter at Smithville, North Carolina, thirty years ago. He was in affluence, and he treated me with much civility. Also Mrs. Campbell, the sister of "Tom Moore, the Coau Mrs. Joshnsul," and Sands of Brooklyn. At high tide over the falls by steam to Frederickton, on the St. Johns, where I was courteously treated by the governor, Sir William Colebrook, and by the officers of the Thirty-Seventh Foot. On May 22d I returned to Boston by the North America, by the Saint Croix and Campo Bello to Tremont House, from whence I made my report to the Government at Washington. (See my files.)

On May 24th with P. T. Jackson, Esq., to examine the water power and steam machinery at Lowell, over the best railroad as yet constructed in the United States. The next day with General H. A. S. Dearborn, discussing the views of the policy of acquiring Canada by purchase, showing England first the inevitable event of our becoming one government; as we were descending the harbor to see our mutual friend, Colonel S. Thayer, and his accurate fort of masonry on George's Island.

26th. Met General Wool at the Tremont, and had some Canadian talk; also G. W. Whistler. We two went to his house in Springfield, and then by Worcester, Norwich and New London, to New York.

June 1st. Arrived at home in Geneva, and found all well, thanks to God.

On 3d to Buffalo and Niagara, inquiring into the purpose of the great assemblage of negroes on the Canada side, as they said, by English authority. Saw many fugitives from the South, and much excitement and threats of revenge for ills inflicted by slavery, etc.

15th. To Saratoga over the grounds of the battles of Gates and Burgoyne. Met James Stevenson of Albany. Thence to Whitehall, on Lake Champlain, to Ticonderoga and Crown Point, and received on board the steamer, Mrs. Colonel Churchill of United States Army. To Burlington. Bishop Hopkins has a beautiful seat here. The scenery of the distant Adirondacks and Green Mountains admirable on one of the clearest days of June.

To St. Johns, passing Isle au Croix, and thence by railroad to Lachine, and through the rapids that had half a dozen stout men at the helm, better than a wheel, because more controllable; and on 17th had nice rooms at Rosco's, in Montreal. Called on Lady Selby, who presented me to several of her Canadian friends. That lady is a daughter of the House of Longueville. On the following day, invited to a review on the race grounds, and had a sham battle of Waterloo. I had a fine horse of Colonel Oldfield's. At dinner Madame Selby addressed me very audibly: "General, I hope when you take Montreal that you will give my house a safe-guard." This badinage drew upon me the eyes of many strangers and army officers. My reply was that my hope was that all my visits to Canada might meet the gentility and hospitality of peace, such as then surrounded me. My time was agreeably filled till 19th, when I went to Quebec and met Sir James McDonnell, the hero of Waterloo. He told me the merit of closing the gates at Hogueuont was more due to Sergeant —— than himself. General Scott introduced me to Sir James. In reviewing the troops the fine looking men of the Coldstream Guards were conspicuously handsome.

Cape Drummond and General Wolfe's route and monument, where he fell and united with Montcalm in the city, had my respects.

On 21st to the Falls of Montmorenci, stopping at Beauport to see the French, still of the aspect of Louis XIV. At the falls I gathered a bouquet of wild flowers and gave them to a pretty girl in a garden at Beauport.

The people thronged about me and invited me to their church. Quite a scene.

To Point Levy and the navy slips. The whole scene at and from Quebec one of the grandest type in nature.

On 23d ascended the St. Lawrence through the remarkable black rocky gorge of Richelieu, and in Lake St. Peters could only see the tree tops on either shore. Made a halt at William Henry, the outlet of the Sorel, and at Montreal rejoined Colonel Oldfield of the engineers, and Lieutenant Bainbridge, Colonel Campbell, etc., of the army, and again reviewed the troops with General Jackson.

To the mountain, one of the noblest river and forest views probably on the globe.

Examined the Cathedral, and then on 26th up the St. Lawrence to the battle ground of November 11th, 1813, Chrysler's Field.

To Prescott and Ogdensburg, and by the Thousand Isles to Kingston with Mr. Herbert, son of Lord Clive, and met my Geneseo friend, R. A. Tucker, and reviewed the troops and looked at the forts, and passed on to Oswego, and met Mr. Henry Fitzhugh, and so home to Geneva, after hearing Sir Allan McNab in the Parliament House, Kingston.

July 19th made my second official report to the government. (See my files).

July 26th to Niagara and Canada, taking Hortense and Josê to General P. B. Porter's, and with General Porter to his battle ground of Chippewa, 1814. On 31st to Buffalo with Hortense and Josê to Mrs. Van Deventer's. To Cleveland, Ohio, and Detroit, Lake St. Clair and Canada.

On August 8th to Buffalo; 10th, destruction of steamer Erie. I returned to Geneva and waited till 19th for Anselm K. Terry, to whom I sold my Newstead farm for seven thousand three hundred and fifty dollars.

On 31st at old Fort Niagara with Captain W. D. Fraser, United States engineers.

September 1st to old Fort George and Messisauga in Canada, and on board the steamer Transit to Toronto; my fellow passenger Doctor Edward Mitchell of South Carolina, my schoolmate at the academy in Taunton,

forty-two years ago; our first meeting since those days; he had been a lover of my sister Nancy, and much beloved by all of us. We recognized each other on the deck of the steamer simultaneously. I had the pleasure of promoting the enjoyment of the doctor and his family and Mr. Chew of the State Department at Washington, through the civility of General Clitherow, at the reviews of the English troops, Ninety-third especially, in which Captain Neil Buchanan furnished me a fine cavalry horse for the reviews. In Toronto was entertained by the family of R. A. Tucker of Geneseo memory, Captain B., etc.

September 5th to Niagara Falls, Buffalo and Geneva.

On 20th to New York on my way to Washington. At Newark measured the machinery and planes of the Morris canal, and sent the results to Captain Bainbridge, English engineer, at Montreal, for him and Colonel Oldfield.

On October 7th to Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington, and from the topographical bureau sent the new map of the United States to Colonel Oldfield of the English engineers, with my thanks for the information about Canada that he had furnished me at Montreal.

With General Scott to call on the President to converse on the subject of my embassy. Mr. Tyler renewed an acquaintance that had commenced at Richmond many years previously, when no one dreamed of his attaining the chief magistracy. I found him so full of joy at having brought Mr. John C. Spencer into the War Department, that Mr. Tyler could give little heed to the subject of buying Canada on General Dearborn's plan, which I was endeavoring to explain to him. In fact I was reminded of the remark of Colonel Monroe at the door of General Harrison in the previous spring: "Harrison will die, and the luckiest man in Virginia will occupy his chair." The levity of Mr. Tyler's manner does his sense no justice. Judge Baldwin was with us, and was impressed as I was when Mr. Tyler remarked on Mr. Clay that he was vastly inferior to Patrick Henry—an uncalled for and very unsuitable remark, even if true. We agreed that Mr. Spencer was a man of high attainments and experience in politics, for he had been prominent in every party of the Union, etc. To Mr. Spencer, Mr. Tyler referred me to commune on my Canadian excursion.

October 11th attended as member of a meeting of the National Institute, where my son Alexander's memoir on the moving sands of the south Atlantic shore of France, called the Downs, which he had examined, and the mode of arresting their progress by planting willows and grasses, with a view of employing similar means on the coast of Carolina.

October 17th conversed with Mr. John Bell, late Secretary of War, on the purchase of Canada, and of the purpose of General Harrison in my Canadian expedition. Mr. Bell approved of my views, as also did Secretary Spencer and General Scott and Colonel Abert.

Mr. Spencer addressed a note of approbation on the termination of my service. (See document on my files).

On November 5th General Scott, Major McNeill and myself to Baltimore. At Mr. Sehly's, Baltimore, conversing on the Canadian affairs. Met here my friend Doctor Wyatt, with Bishop Chase and Mr. Whitingham.

On 19th to Brooklyn.

Four hundred and fifty-five thousand dollars for forts in 1841.

1842. This winter had much correspondence with Colonel Abert on national affairs, and especially upon internal improvements and of my conviction that the democratic party had ever opposed them. The next day replied to Mr. Germain's proposal to experiment on some eastern road with his railroad car having a parallel motion to adapt itself to any curvature. On 12th to Springfield to arrange for this experiment with Whistler, *ad interim* to New York to bring Josê to Springfield, where Whistler had just received letters that invited him to Russia. We went to Boston to consult with Patrick T. Jackson, and the last of April I escorted Whistler's men to Providence and Kingston, R. I. On my return to Providence met Alexander Duncan, Esq., and aided him in conveying valuables to Boston to avoid the threatening aspect of affairs in the Dorr rebellion, meeting there Colonel Thayer and Julius W. Adams.

On May 3d I returned to Springfield to see Whistler on his Russian plan.

On the same day met Mr. Germain with his car from Catskill, and made an experiment on the sixty-foot plane with his car and one of Mr. Winans' eight-wheeled cars. By their spontaneous descent on that inclined plane

both cars accumulating velocity by their descent, ran through the depot track. Winans' crossed the bridge; Germain's did not reach the bridge. Equal loads in both, proving that a too easy movement of the parallel, to adapt the wheels to the curve, had caused them to move from side to side too readily, *i. e.*, such an arrangement of motion requires a more perfect construction of railway than has yet been accomplished; also that the spring of the long car of Winans is better suited to the curves of our roads than Mr. Germain's. The last may be improved, but thus far Winans' is best. I was present in 1828 at Baltimore when Winans first proposed his car. The great fact about facile motion is that the car gear and the rail track must correspond in accuracy and nicety of construction.

May 4th Whistler and Debo, Josê and myself to Albany. McRee went to Geneva with Josê, and Debo, Whistler and myself to Washington, where we arrived on the 7th, meeting Major Bautatz of the Russian service, and General Tallmadge, who gave Whistler some points in the character of the Emperor Nicholas, in reference to his industry and desire to improve public works, that may be useful to Whistler.

On 8th met the Russian ambassador, Mr. Bodisco, and arranged for Whistler's service at twelve thousand dollars a year. Had with Mr. Bodisco an interesting conversation on the difficulties of a Russian campaign across the Indus and the sands to India, and of its inutility, while England had the supremacy of naval power.

May 10th with Mr. Tyler and Major McNeill to converse upon my plans for a navy dock on the Harlem and Hudson Rivers. (See my report of January, 1838, on my files.) The President too much engrossed in politics to be much interested in our subject. General Tallmadge gave the President some strong remarks on his leaving the measures of the Whigs, who had elevated him. The President replied that the Whigs had left him, and that he had therefore "chumped" Congress, alluding to a waggoner's mode of retarding his wheels.

On May 15th Whistler and myself to Albany, he to Boston for England and Russia, and I home to my family in Geneva.

June 29th Major Tucker and family with us. Examining the new Trinity church, now up to the floor.

At the celebration of Independence our families witnessed a sad scene of negligence at the fireworks, by which several people were killed and wounded by the rockets.

July 19th to Rochester, and by the steamer to Niagara with Major Delafield and family to the Falls. Returning home the last of the month, and found our son Alexander, who had arrived from Washington; his first visit home after his return from France. (See his journals.) Also met at our house the artist, Daniel Huntington, and the artist Verbryck, a very interesting person, as also is his brother Huntington.

September 8th to New York to attend the wedding, on the 15th instant, of my son McRee and Hortense, the daughter of my friend, Thomas I. Chew, at 94 Willow Street, Brooklyn, married by Reverend Doctor Cutler of St. Ann's. Guests, Colonels Totten and J. Smith, A. J. DeRosset, Mr. Dickinson and my son Alexander. On 23d I went to see Alexander and Mr. Davies at the Point, and the worthy widow of Colonel Mansfield said to me, "You may expect most of your worldly joys in the decline of your days."

While in New York on September 16th my brother William and I called on Life and Fire Insurance Company receivers, Mr. Hoffman and J. T. Lawrence, about the notice of July 6th, 1842, in the papers, of a dividend on the stock of that company. I held four hundred and seventy-seven shares of it, four hundred of which had been transferred to me by Henry Eckford while on his trial in 1826, and which four hundred shares after the trial Mr. Eckford had required me to re-transfer to him, and which by advice of my counsel, George Sullivan, I declined doing. These acts of Mr. Eckford I have never understood. I owed him nothing. My mortgage and deed to him of my Seventh Avenue property was to secure my debt to the Life and Fire Company. He never paid that debt, and went to Turkey and died there, and his executors never paid it, but on the above receivers declining to pay me any dividend, I employed John B. Thorp to buy Life and Fire bonds for me to balance the debt therewith, and this he did to enable the receivers to join me in my chancery suit against the Eckford

estate. September 22d Reverend Dr. Hawks showed me the memorial of the Episcopal Church of St. James, New Hanover, North Carolina, October 1st, 1759, signed by Lewis John De Rosset, planter and member of His Majesty's Counsel and Receiver-General; William Walker (brother of James), Sheriff N. H. John DuBois (uncle), merchant and justice of peace, and Moses John De Rosset, M. D.

One million, three hundred and sixty-six thousand dollars for forts in 1842.

1843. This winter I employed myself lecturing to the Young Men's Association, and in preparing papers for my files.

The spring opened early. Busied myself with new fences and gardening, having no professional employ.

On June 22d Peter Richards, Junior, and my daughter Josephine were married by Rev. P. P. Irving, Mr. George Richards attending, and Bishop DeLancy and Major Rees, and Mrs. J. W. Woods. Our joy was in some degree diminished by the death of our friend and neighbor, Doctor Edward Cutbush. The wedding party dispersed, some to the Falls, others to New York, etc.

On 26th Judge Brown Whiting, Mr. DeLeng and myself to the head of the lake and to crossing on the Chemung, and thence by railroad to Blossburgh to examine the coal and iron mines at that place, in reference to forming a company to transport these to Geneva and to Lake Ontario at Sodus Bay.

August 15th R. C. Nicholas and myself to the Episcopal convention at Auburn, as delegates from Trinity at Geneva. Here was commenced the first conventional action of the laity adverse to the theological influence of the Oxford tracts, and to their influence in the theological seminary in New York. Mr. Nicholas and myself were appointed a committee to see Bishop DeLancey, and to say that if the *Gospel Messenger* published any extracts from the Bishop's address in favor of that seminary, the lay members of the convention would deny their accuracy. The Bishop said *no* extract should be published, and none was. Those of the laity opposed to the ultra church

views at this convention, made an essay to sustain their views in a new paper to be published in New York.

September 4th John Delafield came to buy a farm. I aided him to find the three hundred and fifty acres on the Rose tract, opposite Geneva. He moved his family to it in the middle of October, and soon gave that farm the best aspect of any in Western New York.

October 19th, forwarded to Willy at Buffalo orders from Secretary of the Navy for him to join the Ohio, seventy-four, at Boston.

November 2d, Sally and myself to West Point, to see Alexander, and thence to Brooklyn. Met Willy on his way home from the Ohio, he having been there "surveyed" by a board of surgeons and found unseaworthy by reason of the injury received on board the Brandywine.

December 21st a meeting with some quiet Whig friends at General Tallmadge's, where it was agreed that I should proceed to Washington to present to Mr. Tyler the views of those gentlemen in reference to the contemplated annexation of Texas, and upon the purpose of abandoning protective measures. I found at Washington that Mr. Secretary Upshur favored our views in these matters, and with him laid the thoughts before Mr. Tyler, having reference to the wishes of the men who had nominated him at Harrisburg. But Mr. Tyler deemed these views "anti-democratic," an open admission of his abandonment of the Whigs.

Five hundred and eighty-eight thousand dollars for forts in 1843-44.

1844. I continued in Washington the month of January, and early in February visited cousin Mary H., the widow of William R. Swift, and found her at her needle between his and my portraits, by J. W. Jarvis, and the old family tankard on the table. These Mary intends for my family. At Washington I quartered with General Scott and family. The daughter Virginia ill, and had entered the nunnery at Georgetown, where the General and myself visited her, finding there also, as Lady Abbess, Wilhelmina Jones, the daughter of Commander Jacob Jones. The daughter Virginia died in this nunnery.

February 20th, Honorable N. G. Walker, Washington Hunt, Colonel Abert and self and others on board the steamer Princeton, by invitation

from Captain Stockton, to go below Mount Vernon to experiment with his immense gun, throwing a ball of two hundred and twenty pounds, with some percussion, two miles at a target. The concussion very sharp and acute in sound, that was injuriously stunning.

February 22d. The anniversary of the great namesake for whom the city was called, rather insipid, and so, unbecoming.

My friends in Washington offer me a place in the War Department, the chief clerkship, but it did not suit me, and, with thanks, I declined any further movement, and on February 27th left for home. In my route was overtaken by an express giving the dreadful news of the bursting of the gun on board the Princeton, killing Secretary of State, Secretary of War, Mr. Maxy and Doctor Gardiner, etc. Colonel Abert and myself had been invited to that experiment, and escaped by my hurrying from the office purposes of my friends.

On March 1st, with my wife and family, left Brooklyn by steam to Bridgeport on the Sound. Saw large flocks of wild geese resting in their northern flight, and by the Housatonic to Albany and Geneva.

On Easter Monday the church elected me again to their vestry. On 11th I gave a lecture to the Young Men's Association on the durability of the Union. (See my files.)

On May 8th Cousin Henry Walker and Mr. Chatham on a short visit from Baltimore, where he from Arkansas, and James W. Osborne from North Carolina, had both been vice-presidents in the Clay convention.

July 19th Colonel Abert came to see me to converse on the probability of re-commencing the lake harbors, and on 21st he returned to West Point.

On 25th had a visit from Mr. Audubon, the naturalist. He gave me the history of the Campinola that corrected the extravagant story of Waterton as to the loudness of the tones of the bell bird. I gave Mr. Audubon letters to promote the sale of his great work.

August 8th an interview between the Bishop and Wardens Nicholas and Rees, in reference to the notions of church furniture, not otherwise important than as indicative of more important purposes in the Oxford party. I confess I do not understand Bishop DeLancy's views, though he returns to

ancient usage. At the next meeting of our vestry a motion was lost to print Bishop Onderdonk's last sermon in Geneva, where the movement in Pennsylvania was mentioned in reference to Henry Onderdonk, which influenced the vote in some degree.

On October 16th Colonel and Mrs. Totten came to see us, he to inspect the harbor of Sodus Bay, with Commodore Morris, and in reference to naval purposes.

November 11th I sprained my ankle, and laid up and examined the English and American accounts of the various battles of 1812-14.

Five hundred and eight thousand dollars for forts in 1844-45.

1845. On 12th February went to Brooklyn, and met my son Alexander.

February 25th Alexander and myself went to Washington, and I took my quarters with my brother William H., at the junction of F and Twentieth streets, west. Visited the venerable Daniel Carroll and daughters at Duddington. Mr. Carroll gave me many anecdotes of Washington, with whom he had a close intimacy. The last of the month my friend John L. Smith arrived in Washington from an exploration of the Tortugas in the Gulf of Mexico.

March 1st Governor Marcy and myself called on Postmaster-General to secure the office of postmaster of Geneva to Major James Rees.

March 4th attended, with General Scott, the inauguration of Mr. Polk as President.

March 12th with Colonel Abert on the formation of a board of engineers consisting of Colonel Kearny, Major Trumbull and myself, to repair to Buffalo to form a plan of a harbor and break-water. The last of the month returned on my way to this duty to my residence in Geneva, and on April 7th the board met at Buffalo. (See report in War Department). On May 21st returned to Geneva.

On 27th to Brooklyn, where I wrote Major Whistler a caution not to write me too plainly of the misdoings of Klein Michel, lest his letters should be overhauled and he sent to Siberia.

On June 3d left Brooklyn and went to my brother William in Washington, to remain with his family at F and Twentieth streets, during his absence in

Illinois on the business of the Barings of London as to the canal and lands. The middle of the month with S. J. Gouverneur and daughter Lizzie on horseback to Oak Hill in Loudon County, and explored the Blue Ridge and valley. Surpassingly beautiful.

June 27th the obsequies of the late General Jackson celebrated at Washington. General Scott and myself had a carriage assigned for us, and at the Capitol Mr. Bancroft gave an eloquent eulogy.

July 4th celebrated at Washington, killing three inexperienced gunners.

July 5th Mr. Secretary of War Marcy arrived, and I had a long interview with him explanatory of the works at Buffalo, and closing my agency therein.

July 20th Mr. Harbeck called on me with a report of a fire in Broad and Exchange Streets, New York, destroying among the many the store of my son-in-law, 54 Exchange Place. The insurance nearly covered the loss.

On August 2d my brother, W. H. Swift and daughter, returned from Illinois, and the next day accompanied General Scott and myself to New York.

On 9th to West Point on a visit to my son Alexander, then superintending the military academy *pro tem*, and there met General Scott, who read to me his political paper on the presidency; my opinion given to him was, it was best for him to command the army. We examined Delafield's fine improvements and road through the cedars, etc., round the Point. They do Delafield much credit.

At the close of this month the government at last sent Commodore Morris, United States Navy, and Colonel Totten, Chief United States engineers, to examine Big Sodus Bay. I sent them my views, long since formed, on this subject.

September 8th Mrs. Swift's cousin, Francis B. DuBois, of Tortola, visited us. His account of the evils of British emancipation of West India slaves, though a good object, was made unwisely, and was promotive of laziness and other vices.

This fall I had much correspondence with Reverend P. P. Irving on the petition of the ladies of Trinity for him to return. Our vestry divided on this high and low subject. I had recently had a grave conversation with

Bishop DeLancy on the bad influence of the decision of the ecclesiastical trial of Washington Van Zant.

At the close of this month Mr. DuBois commenced a suit to recover the Minnisink lands that belonged to Dominie Gualthemus DuBois, Mrs. Swift's great-grandfather, and I gave Mr. DuBois an order on the consistory of the Dutch church in the city to deliver the portrait of said Reverend Walter to him as next male heir.

Eight hundred thousand dollars for forts in 1845-46.

1846. January. At the last meeting of the vestry of Trinity in Geneva a majority of voices elected Reverend _____ our pastor, and advised him that the call was unanimous. I informed him on his arrival that the information was incorrect. He then declined.

February 2d the vestry elected Reverend John H. Hobart. I voted for him and was requested to correspond with him. When he arrived he informed me that his church views were higher than Mr. Williams'. I sent Mr. Hobart a drawing of our parsonage, and he preached his first sermon April 19th.

May 3d my brother William from his Baring agency at Chicago. Conversed with him on the war coming with Mexico, and tendered my services to the President, but was not called to serve.

May 22d my son McRee became engineer and superintendent of Weldon and Wilmington, North Carolina, Railroad.

On 12th Mr. Cady and other commissioners examined the vicinity of Geneva for a site for an hospital. They fixed on Rochester. I accompanied them in the Geneva examination.

May 26th General W. H. Adams on Sodus Canal at my house. That had been sleeping a long while.

July 8th my friend, Benjamin Armitage of the musical club of New York and Brooklyn, visited me at Geneva, and revived memoirs of F. C. Tucker, Daniel Okey, Reverend J. M. Wainwright, John Delafield, Joseph Chesterman, Ab Taylor, Walter Phelps, etc.

On July 21st died my friend Thomas J. Chew, at Brooklyn, at the age of seventy years, father of Hortense, wife of McRee.

August 16th Colonel Totten's daughter and her intellectual husband, Telford, and son, visited us.

On 19th declined the membership of our Episcopal convention because I disapproved our church adopting any of the peculiarities of the Oxford school.

September 5th my son Alexander visited us to take leave and march with the "sappers and miners" that he had organized to assault Vera Cruz.

In October I explored Seneca County with John Delafield. He commences to lecture on agricultural chemistry to the farmers, and, as Mr. John Johnson told me, with very great and useful success.

October 3d Colonel and Mrs. Totten made us a short visit, the colonel on an inspecting tour.

November 10th at Newburg, where my son McRee was engineer of the New York and Erie branch. Lodged at the old tavern, where I had lodged when I was a cadet, forty-five years ago.

November 19th I visited our friend Major John L. Smith at Governor's Island. Examined Vanderlyn's Columbus, and Brown's bust of Ambrose Spencer, a good *Vespasian*.

November 26th conversed with General Scott and Major J. L. Smith on the proposed campaign to Vera Cruz. My age assumed to be the cause of my services not being accepted. I suspect my being a New Englander to be a stronger influence. At the General's request I promised my attentions to his family in his absence, and escorted them to Elizabethtown, December 1st.

On 5th we had our first advices of Alexander's arrival with sappers and miners and pontooneers at Rio Grande.

Consultation with United States officers as to a gun-boat system to occupy the shoals in the lower harbor of New York, laying up the gun-boats, etc.

December 15th I wrote a memoir of Colonel Jonathan Williams, for Doctor Williams of Deerfield, Massachusetts, who is collating facts of that numerous family.

The last of December visit Mrs. General Scott at Elizabethtown, and arranged to accompany Mrs. Scott and family to Philadelphia, in Washing-

ton Square, and made a plan to enlarge the Hampton House at Elizabethtown, and made a contract with Mr. Thompson to execute the plan.

1847. I passed my New Year's day with a friend of long endurance, Thomas Cadwallader, of Philadelphia, who married Miss Biddle; met James Monroe, and conversed upon our prospects in the erroneous war with Mexico, and met General Sam. Houston and Mr. Rusk of Texas on the same subject, and with Monroe and Colonel George Bomford, (United States ordnance) and J. Eakin, Esquire, returned to Brooklyn, stopping at Elizabethtown to give directions to Mr. Thompson in reference to extending the Hampton House for Mrs. General Scott.

Wrote a plan for a camp of instruction on Hempstead Plain for a rifle brigade, to meet the Mexicans in their defiles. Mr. Poinsett says the Mexicans are excellent elements to form an army, from their nomadic life and very simple diet, and recklessness of life. Mr. Poinsett was our minister in Mexico, an observing and accurate gentleman. I wrote and sent to the topographical bureau my ideas of occupying the Huas-a-hualeos Pass and Tehuantepec, and constructing a railroad to the Pacific on that pass.

February 15th resigned my membership of the vestry of Trinity Church, Geneva.

February 16th, Major F. C. Tucker and myself, as guardians of Julia, the daughter of Commodore Samuel Evans (United States navy), closed our relations in that matter—the beautiful Julia having married Mr. Gettings of Baltimore.

March 23d, Major Tucker, Mr. March and myself (three of Judge Leffert Lefferts' intimates) went uninvited to the funeral of the judge at Bedford. He was seventy-three years of age.

April 3d Mr. Richards, Mr. D. Huntington and myself selected a lot in Greenwood—in Twilight Dell—for Mr. Richards' and my family. Deed on my files. On same day my friend Gouverneur Kemble informed me that the books and Bird's scale given to me by Professor Hassler (left by me at the West Point foundry) had been remounted, and had now become worth one thousand dollars; a delicate acknowledgment of my services in establishing West Point foundry, and for which Mr. Kemble sent me his bond at

seven per cent. interest. My original investment in West Point foundry I lost by endorsing for Thomas Shields.

April 6th, Louisa and myself sat to Mr. Huntington for our portraits in one cabinet size. We dined that day with the Kembles, and next day with Major M. T. Leslie, United States army.

April 13th, I disinterred the remains of my mother and sister Mary, and my child Harriet, and reinterred them in Twilight Dell in Greenwood; the coffins in good condition, the silver plate on Mary's very bright.

On 18th wrote General Brooks, United States army, New Orleans, of my son Alexander's sickness, there arrived from Vera Cruz with the Mexican bowel disease.

On 19th wrote General James Gadsden, my former aid-de-camp, on my nephew G. W. Whistler's establishing a steam machine manufactory at Charleston, South Carolina.

On 19th, McRee to Brooklyn; met Dr. Wood, United States army, who informed us of Alexander's being very ill at New Orleans. I reported the same to Generals Scott and Worth.

On 29th Mr. Wilson placed stone pillars to sustain my mother's grave stone. On the same day I removed the remains of my friend Thomas John Chew, Chew's son Lawrence and his cousin Samuel to Mrs. Chew's lot in Greenwood. McRee's calls professionally compelled his absence.

On 30th I examined the record at Major Tucker's, and found that the corner stone of St. Ann's, Brooklyn, (which church twelve of us commenced by loan of five hundred dollars each,) was laid March 31, 1824, consecrated July 30th, 1825, fifty-seven pews sold for eighteen thousand three hundred dollars.

On 3d May the dreaded intelligence came through Dudley March of the death of my son Alexander at New Orleans 24th April, 1847. The next day came Colonel Totten's authentic notice thereof. I wrote Captain J. G. Bernard, who paid every attention to the temporary interment at New Orleans, and to send the remains to my son-in-law, P. Richards, Esq., who had that day handed me Alexander's will and stock documents.

May 14th, McRee and self to West Point, where Professor Weir and

self went to prove the will before Surrogate Borland, at Montgomery, Orange County.

June 10th, sent my record of my wife's claim for seven thousand dollars on the estate of her father to James Henry, son of James, the executor.

June 11th, Willy and I to New York to meet the remains of Alexander coming from New Orleans; met William Murphy, who came on, Alexander's servant, and who reported the death of Alexander as peaceful; that he read much Wilson's *Sacra Privata* given him by his mother. Placed the remains in the receiving vault at Greenwood, and on 16th interred the remains in Twilight Dell. Funeral service had been performed at New Orleans, as Colonel Bankhead and Captain Barnard informed me.

On 23d to West Point and met Colonel Totten, Professor Mahan and Captain F. A. Smith, who each accepted a silver cup from me in memory of their friend Alexander.

July 4th Alexander's goods arrived. Willy has Mr. Weir's portrait of me, after Sulley's at West Point, for Alexander.

July 17th. Extract from Rev. Francis Hawks' manuscripts, of Hanover County, North Carolina: "Cape Fear, 1st Oct., 1759. Lewis John De Rosset, planter and of the king's counsel, and Receiver-General revenue; Wm. Walker, Sheriff N. Hanover, John Du Bois, Esq., Moses John De Rosset, M. D., the uncles of Louisa, and her grandfather, etc."

July 25th wrote to W. W. Seaton (*National Intelligencer*,) to commend to the Secretary of the Navy to cause navy officers to gather potato seed in the gorges of the Cordilleras, coast of South America, where Pizarro's army had fed on that succulent, as Prescott says.

August 5th visited Judge Ambrose Spencer at Lyons, and took to him some of Mrs. Gideon Lee's fine old port. The Judge was not in good health.

August 12th Dr. David Drake of Cincinnati visited us. He gave me his thoughts on the Mississippi valley, and of deepening the channel at the mouths of that river. They are all on record in his report to the United States government.

Memo.—Of the grave stones sent by me from New London in the year

1828 to Dr. De Rosset, who had them placed at the graves of Captain James Walker, ob. 18th January 1808, æ. sixty-six, and Mrs. M. M. Walker, æ. seventy-two, ob. November 1827. My son's, James Foster, at Washington city, was set up by my brother W. H. Swift, March, 1830, where James died 18th March, æ. twenty-four years.

August 26th, the first regatta on Seneca Lake — seventeen boats.

September 13th, wrote General H. A. S. Dearborn on potato rot. I had observed its approach, and advised the Secretary of the Navy to collect new seed in South America.

October 4th, Townsend Harris, Esq., called on me to enquire as to Professor Webster of Geneva College and the Free Academy. I gave him my opinion of Mr. Webster. I gave my earnest advice to Mr. Harris not to lose Mr. Webster as superintendent of that new institution in the city.

November 15th, my brother, W. H. Swift, arrived from his tour to the Illinois Canal. He informed me that he deemed his vocations forbade his remaining in the United States Topographical Engineers, and that he should resign next spring. Conversed on my becoming a commissioner of light-houses, and which office I expected to receive.

December 6th, wrote Geo. W. Whistler at St. Petersburg, on his son's idea of a steam machine shop at Charleston, South Carolina—to move Ross Winans in its favor.

December 25th, Dr. Fitzhugh, Mrs. Tallman, and Mrs. Whitney, Bell and Willy at our family Christmas. The year closes with all of us in fair health. Thanks to God, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

1848. The new year commences very mildly, but by 10th January the thermometer gets down to four above zero.

January 13th, sent to Mr. Rose in Congress, evidence of Mrs. Augu's just claim to her pension.

January 14th, commenced a plan to turn my twenty-one acre lot into a cemetery at Geneva. It will give one thousand five hundred lots, and abundant alley way.

On 15th accepted cousin Samuel Swift's offer of his sixteen-acre lot, opposite my twenty-one acre lot, for one thousand six hundred dollars.

February 5th, attended John Delafield's lectures on agricultural chemistry, to the farmers of Seneca County.

On 23d applied to the Navy Department for a midshipman's warrant for Clarence Delafield.

On 25th to Rochester with Ellen Williams; and met at James Watts' my aunt Elizabeth Delano, who informed me that Zachr. Macy and my grandfather, Thomas Delano, owned the Quaise and Polpi's farms on Nantucket.

March 9th sent rambo apple cuttings to James H. Watts.

May 1st, McRee and I to Greenwood, and selected a plan for Mr. West to execute for Alexander in Twilight Dell.

May 6th, Thomas March and I to Spring Brook, L. I., trouting. He and I and Willy, on 9th, examine steamer "America."

May 18th, closed my executorship on estate of Rev. John Ireland, with Major Tucker. On 19th, with Belle, Willy and Jim Tom to High Bridge, and on 22d home to Geneva, leaving me in the city, where, with Mrs. General Scott I met Governor Marcy at the City Bank.

May 25th, General Scott's reception in the city, arriving from his Mexican campaign.

June 1st, McRee and myself in the steamer "Thomas Powell" to Newburg, and to examine his railroad route, and went to see the old Nicholl place, (Du Bois,) below New Windsor.

June 5th, to West Point foundry, and on 6th my marriage anniversary. Examined, in McRee's possession, Mr. P. P. Hunn's map of the Minnisink patent lands, in which Louisa, my wife, has of the Du Bois lands two shares.

June 7th, home to Geneva; all well, thanks to God.

June 8th, met Charles A. Williamson and Mr. Fraser from Scotland, of the House of Lovat, and with J. H. Woods to Sodus Bay, and explained to them the plan of Sodus Canal.

June 20th, gave Mrs. Ellet the meeting of General Scott with Honorable Lady Johnson, at Bath, G. B. She was a Franks of Philadelphia, and a reformed tory. Also the story of Mrs. Bailey's (of Groton, Ct.) noble conduct before Fort Griswold in the war of the Revolution, and of her interview with President Monroe in 1817.

July 8th, wrote general Scott on the opposition of Mr. Polk and Governor Marcy to his, the general's, prospects for the presidency.

July 19th, Dudley March on a visit to Willy, on his, Dudley March's, way to his western lands. He took two hundred and twenty perch out of the lake at Geneva in four hours.

August 1st, my son Foster entered Geneva College.

August 7th, Mr. J. H. Woods introduced me to J. H. Wilton, an English sprig of nobility. I went with him to visit Mr. John Greig at Canandaigua. He is a very accomplished man, but a rascal of uncommon ability, and has been often rescued by his family in England from degradation and want.

August 11th, Mr. Irving and I to a meeting of the Evangelical Knowledge Society, much disapproved of by Bishop De Lancy.

August 22d, wrote Dr. R. H. Wood at Baltimore on General Taylor's reputed letter, advising in reference to the presidency that the general should not write anything. On 4th September his reply, that he had sent my letter to the general.

September 8th, Timothy Tounay cleaned out my well, and found two small streams of water flowing in at the bottom, one of ordinary, the other of sulphur water. I have a slightly charged sulphur spring in my dell.

September 9th, the first balloon ascension at Geneva. It floated gently through the air up the lake, and came down near Ovid, some fourteen miles "as the crow flies."

September 14th, Sally and I to Rochester, where was a meeting of the Evangelical Knowledge Society. I advised a published reply to Bishop De Lancy's objections.

October 2d, Chas. A. Williamson returned from an exploration of the coast of Lake Superior, and presented me a map of the same.

Fraser of Lovat has his home in Inverness, Scotland, at "Greysachen," *i. e.*, Glass Water. He deems himself heir to the barony.

November 7th, all my family who vote gave theirs for General Taylor's electors.

November 25th, wrote to General Taylor, and recommended to his notice

General Gadsden of South Carolina, formerly my aid-de-camp, who will meet the general in Washington.

December 2d, Mr. Benjamin, president of the Chemung Railroad, called on me to subscribe for shares; and took five hundred dollars of them.

December 21st, sent to General Gadsden my publications in the Rochester paper in his favor as a member of General Taylor's cabinet, and sent them also to my friend Seaton of the *National Intelligencer*.

1849. February 6th, Mr. Williamson and myself to see Mr. Greig, on the wishes of the former to explore the country to California, and agreed to promote it with our government. On my return home found Colonel E. R. Cook at my house, and gave him an introduction to the Chemung Railroad Company, as an able and trustworthy contractor.

February 26th, Mr. John Greig and myself to Albany, at Congress Hall. We visited Dr. Romeyn Beck to examine the presents of Pio Nono to the academy; thence by Housatonic Railroad to the city. Recommended General W. G. McNeill to the President, and Mr. W. R. Thompson, son of the revolutionary captain of artillery for the office of United States store-keeper in New York. Met General Scott, and conversed on his relations to and with General Taylor on Mexican affairs, and I advised peaceable relations. Met Mr. S. B. Ruggles, and Messrs. Greig and Duncan on the subject of reviving the Sodus Canal to the new administration, as a route from Chesapeake Bay to Lake Ontario.

March 9th, with C. H. Hall exploring Harlem River with Mr. John Randall, one of the best surveyors the country had, and with reference to removing the navy yard at Brooklyn to Harlem.

March 10th, wrote Chas. A. Williamson that the government would give him escort across the country to California with Colonel Sumner. Gave John R. Johnson a free right to build the "Ben Loder" steamer on the shore of my sixteen-acre lot, south of my house.

March 12th, died my friend Thomas Morris, son of Robert, the revolutionary financier. He and Mr. Greig were fellow students of law.

March 20th, Judge Ogden Edwards, in presence of C. H. Hall and Henry Weston, declared in their presence, and said it was his purpose to put on

record that on the "Life and Fire trials, 1826," his conviction was as judge that my honor as a man was not impugned by the testimony given in that court. See on my files Judge Edwards' letter to that purpose.

March 26th, wrote to Susan Shipherd and Isabella Croysdale, 115 Suffolk street, city of New York, about Arthur Pinnel's wife and child, kidnapped on their arrival in the city of New York from London.

April 1st, Major Brown, J. P. Kirkwood and myself on the New York and Erie Railroad to Binghamton, at Julius Adams', and next day examined viaduct, Cascade Bridge and Susquehanna Bridge, and returned to the city on 4th.

April 5th, before a Master-in-Chancery, Mr. Melville, overhauling my memory of Governor Tompkins' affairs, in settling of which, under the law of the State, making me a commissioner with Edmund Smith and Thomas Hyatt in 1824 and 1825. The master found my memory accurate.

May 6th, Brother William's wife and I go to Jones in Philadelphia, and there meet my brother. In the evening I call on Mr. Helm, an Englishman, who corroborates the accuracy of my memory in the Tompkins matter. He was a creditor of the governor. Met Hartman Bache, and with brother William and wife on to Washington. Sent Charles Williamson his papers to move to California with Colonel Sumner. Made an essay to get Markoe, of the State Department, a chargé at some European court.

April 13th, with General Taylor, and had an intimate conversation with him on his mode of administration, especially on his mode of appointing officers, and, at his request went to see Mr. Clayton, Secretary of State, in reference to the consequences of the exercise of the appointing power. I urged that it should not be merged in the functions of any minister; that such a procedure was unconstitutional, which held the President responsible. The President had said that he would be glad to have me in Washington, and asked me how the patent office would suit me. I replied that, with the extensive acquaintance I had, there was no office in Washington that could enable me to support my family there; that although I had some income well managed by a prudent and sensible wife, I could not expose

her to a perpetual necessity of saving, and there that subject ended for the time, and I did not revive it.

April 20th, my brother William and myself dined with the President, and after dinner I conversed much with the general on the subject of his relations with General Scott, and counselled peace between them. I requested the President to have my nephew, Julius Adams, employed as an engineer, but nothing resulted therefrom. I saw that the power of appointing to office had fallen from the President's hands. I left the city to return to my home on 22d, and on my arrival at Baltimore found my friend Barry's family in distress by the death of his son-in-law, Dr. Julius Ducatel. On my arrival in New York 27th April met General Scott, and advised him of my conversation with General Taylor in reference to their affairs, and my belief that he was desirous of peace between them.

April 30th, examined the Free Academy with my friend Professor Webster, its president. Saw evident results of his good management of that institution.

May 2d on my way home, at McRee's, in Newburg, examined his work on that branch of the New York and Erie Railroad. In the cemetery of Newburg I found a red sandstone at the grave of Louisa's worthy aunt, Margaret Du Bois, who died in Newburg 21st March, 1813, æ. sixty-seven years eleven months and twenty-nine days. Her husband, uncle John Du Bois' grave was alongside, without any memorial stone. They were an exemplary pair, of conjugal life, of affection and piety.

May 4th, left my son McRee, and, on board the steamer "Alida" met the daughter of General Armstrong, Margaret, the wife of Mr. W. B. Astor, and her son-in-law, Mr. Delano, (a far-off cousin of mine whose mother was named for mine, Deborah), also Mr. Robert Tillotson, but could not accept their invitation to visit them at that time as they landed at Tivoli. Arrived at home finding my family in health, thanks to God.

May 11th came the painful intelligence of the death of George W. Whistler at St. Petersburg, Russia, on 7th April, in the service of the Emperor Nicholas.

May 21st, sent to Richard Derby a biography of his father-in-law, Colonel

George Bomford, United States Ordnance, whom I had brought into the army in 1803—a very valuable officer.

May 24th, received accounts of the death, by cholera, of my friend General Worth on 7th May in Texas, and also of the death by cholera of my former friend and neighbor Charles A. Williamson, in Missouri, on way to California, on 14th May, and on 29th came the account of the death of his wife in Edinburgh, Scotland, on 9th May.

June 1st, my son James with us, and a family party to Clifton Springs. These waters had relieved my son Willy from severe tetanus.

July 2d, invited to examine the Chemung Railroad with its board of directors, and met my friend Benjamin Armitage at Jefferson, and commended him for treasurer of their board.

August 2d, met Colonel John Livingston of Newport memory, 1800, and at Ithaca Charles Humphrey, whom I had known in Albany as the excellent speaker of the State assembly. He had served well in the war of 1812 as captain in the Forty-first Infantry.

August 4th, with Major Thompson S. Brown, who had accepted the office of engineer to succeed G. W. Whistler in Russia.

August 22d, letter from McRee on his first son's birth, and another from Mr. Richards of his third son's birth.

On 22d a call on me to aid to pay the debt of Trinity at Geneva. I replied that when those of the congregation who had not subscribed to build the church had done their part I would do mine.

August 25th, in the name of the citizens of Geneva I advised Dr. Wood, at Niagara, that they would be happy to welcome President Taylor on his route to the East. I offered the President the use of my retired house. He accepted it, but was lying ill at the Falls.

September 1st, wrote Williamina Williamson that I had some very interesting papers of her grandfather, Colonel Charles W———, and his journal of a travel in Turkey, and of his original offer to the Hopes of Amsterdam to purchase the soil of the territory of Ohio, etc., and that those papers were subject to her disposal.

September 6th, Dr. Woods writes of the increasing illness of the

President, and of the need of going east at once by steam and lake, and of abandoning any further meetings with his fellow citizens.

The past summer, as president of the board of health of Geneva, we had kept the village pretty clean, and had generally good health.

September 14th, sent McRee my ideas of an inscription for a cenotaph in memory of George W. Whistler in Greenwood, on Julius Adams' design, now in Twilight Dell.

October 2d, sent to Colonel Abert my views of constructing a railroad from the Mississippi to the Pacific, through Texas and the River Gila, and to San Francisco.

October 14th, Louisa's birthday; Colonel Totten came to see her, and to talk about Alexander.

October 17th, my former deputy surveyor of the customs, Samuel Terry, came to see me and urged his restoration to the custom house, and also that of John Morris; two of the most efficient and honest men in that service of the United States. Joseph Grime and Joseph Hoxie joined me in this effort—not successful—and got Terry the place of assessor in Brooklyn; and Morris became a merchant.

November 2d, Sally, James and I to West Point foundry, and to the former residence of Captain Phillipse.

November 14th, closing meeting of the board of health of Geneva, and all accounts settled.

November 16th, for the fourth time essayed to have a bridge across the ravine at the south boundary of Geneva, to extend in a direct line the main street. Failed.

1850. My thoughts on this New Year in reference to my vocation, that has become null by the omission of Congress to continue the experimental construction of harbors on the lakes, and by which those that remain unfinished are rapidly falling to decay. So I must turn to some other employment, and accordingly, on the 4th January I went to Lyons to see General Adams about the revival of the Sodus Canal charter. I commenced also to write a History of the Rise and Progress of Internal Improvements in the United States, aided by the suggestions of S. B.

Ruggles, Esq., and commenced thereon with my son McRee, who, and family, were with us that day.

January 18th. The "Ben Loder" steamer commenced operation on our lake at Geneva, to the head of the lake; a very good progress in internal commerce.

February 2d, my son McRee commenced to organize his division of the New York and Erie Railroad—Almond to Olean. On 5th he left us, after seeing his brother Julius, who had just arrived ill with a typhoid, taken in the service of the New York and Erie Railroad at Piermont. He died on the 6th—one of the most unselfish of beings. His remains rest beside his brother Thomas and sister Charlotte. His bearers his shipmates, and Dr. Covin Gray, who was with him at his death; a kind and benevolent man.

February 28th, had collected petitions from many towns to revive the charter of the Sodus Canal, and sent them to General Adams.

March 21st, to Albany to aid in the revival of the Sodus Canal charter, and before the canal commissioners heard the objections to that canal from Henry Fitzhugh, while so many were petitioning to have that canal route opened to the Susquehanna River. The charter was renewed.

On 30th March, McRee telegraphed me of the sudden death of my friend Thomas March, at Brooklyn. Hastened to Brooklyn.

April 1st the funeral; F. C. Tucker and Joshua Sands the chief mourners. His two brothers, Charles and Frank were there.

April 2d, at General W. G. McNeill's, at the marriage of his daughter to Mr. Rhodewald.

April 8th, Messrs. Wainwright, Tucker, Oakey (Wm.,) renewed our old club.

April 27th, employed in gardening and improving my south lots—about forty acres.

Received advices from Samuel Gouverneur of the death of his wife Maria, the daughter of President Monroe. Governor Cales called to see me, and revived the days of Mr. Jefferson and Mr. Madison at Washington.

August 22d, Foster and myself to Danville, and met McRee, and in his carriage on to Almond and Belvidere, and revived old times with Captain

Phillip Church, and on to McRee's residence at Friendship, on the New York and Erie Railroad. Examined McRee's bridge at Phillipsburg; to Cuba and Olean, and on 2d September to Sonyea at Dr. Dan. Fitzhugh's, and so on to Rochester, and home.

October 8th, Clarence Delafield arrived from McRee's with the distressing account of Henry Clark's death, by the accidental discharge of his fowling piece.

October 21st, arrived Rev. Dr. Wyatt from Baltimore.

Measured my lot, one hundred and fifty-one feet front and three hundred feet to the lake; about an acre and one-eighth.

November 2d, a law and order meeting at Geneva, self president, Major Rees and John Delafield vice-presidents, to sustain the "Compromise" against the wild purposes of anti-slavery. The evils of slavery not to be reached unconstitutionally.

Memo. My orders as chief engineer, 1814, to Lieutenant D. B. Douglass and Lieutenant Horace Story, to report to Major E. D. Wood on the Niagara frontier.

November 13th, to Brooklyn.

November 15th, the family went to see and hear Jenny Lind at Terpsicore Hall. Mr. Daniel Webster and Jenny exchanged salutes.

We also attended Mitchell's astronomical lectures in Brooklyn.

November 25th, gave Malcolm Douglass the resolutions of the Greenwood Association, to appropriate two lots to remove the monument to D. B. Douglass, who had recently died at Geneva.

December 14th, wrote the Secretary of State commending Francis B. Du Bois for United States consul at St. Thomas.

December 24th, called with Colonel Murray on Hon. Daniel Webster, at the Governor's Room, City Hall, and went with Mr. Webster to his room at the Astor House, and had a short conversation with him on the irritable state of the southern mind. I said to him that I hoped to see him President. His reply was: "General, my first wish is to spread a desire to have the laws obeyed, and as to the rest, the country will decide," etc.

December 28th, met Mr. Holford, the wealthy Englishman who had made

a large loan to Arkansas, at Colonel Murray's. I told Mr. Holford that his meeting with Henry Walker in Arkansas was intended to support his (Mr. Holford's) claim, and not to promote the evil of repudiation.

The last day of the year, in a snow storm attended the funeral of Maria, the wife of my protegé William G. McNeill, on my sixty-seventh birth-day. She was an excellent wife, mother and friend.

1851. February 10th, had an explanation with Mr. Samuel Swartwont about what he deemed a loan to me of five hundred dollars. I considered it as a fee for my services in promoting the improvement of the marshes at Hoboken. I repaid him the amount at his request, he being in many pecuniary difficulties.

February 27th, Louisa, Sally and myself to Philadelphia at my brother William H. Swift's, and through Mr. Fisher, had a pleasant meeting of my old friends Biddle, Cadwallader and others, at the rooms of the Philadelphia, Baltimore and Wilmington Railroad Company. We examined the college of Girard and Laurel Hill, and the grave of my friend Ferdinand Rudolph Hassler, and his profile in marble on the stone. At the mint Mr. Dale placed in the hands of Mrs. Swift an ingot of gold — six thousand dollars — about twenty-five pounds.

The middle of March we returned to Brooklyn, after having made a run to Baltimore, and meeting Richard Rush, Esq., Governor Patterson, Thomas Biddle and Governor Edward Cales (at Willy's friend Ingersoll's, of the navy,) at dinner.

March 18th, wrote an obituary of Major James Rees; of the meeting of Washington and Robert Morris on the square, head of Market Street, Philadelphia, *en route* with his army for Yorktown, 1781.

March 25th, to Newark and Belleville to see my grandsons Fitzhugh and Joseph G. at Mr. Welles' school; a man of education and talent, but deficient in the common sense of life as it exists. The scenes at Belleville reminded me of Alexander Macomb and myself there in 1803 — shooting and other amusements, visiting Passaic Falls, etc.

March 26th, with James Whistler, a cadet, son of George by his second wife, to West Point foundry, at Gouverneur Kemble's, and next day to

West Point, and introduced him to my friends there, all of whom, for the sake of his father, took an interest in James' success. Had an explanation from Captain Brewerton, the superintendent, that the omission of the name of Colonel Jonathan Williams on Captain Cullum's register, would be remedied in the next edition by an ample record of facts, etc. Returned to Brooklyn.

On 1st May I received instructions from the Topographical Bureau at Washington, to commence to examine the position and condition of lighthouses on Lakes Ontario, Erie, Huron and Michigan.

May 9th, to New Haven to see my nephew, George W. Whistler, an engineer on the New York and New Haven Railroad. Was much gratified by my reception by his wife, the daughter of Dr. Ducatel.

May 10th, returned to Brooklyn, and with Louisa to Twilight Dell in Greenwood the next day. We had an interesting view of the British steamer "Pacific" going down the bay for Liverpool.

On 20th May, Louisa and I returned to Geneva, and thence on 26th May I proceeded to Sodus Bay on Lake Ontario, in the execution of my instructions, and so on to Buffalo, up the lakes and among the islands and lighthouses, and so on from Detroit through Lakes St. Clair and Huron to Saginaw Bay, and to Mackinaw and Sheboyagow in Wisconsin Lake, Michigan, and thus employed until August, when I returned to Geneva, and sent from thence my report and plans to the Topographical Bureau at Washington.

My son McRee visited me at Geneva to converse on what had occupied our previous thoughts, a sojourn in Europe, and we determined to make the voyage, etc. [See my journal of that journey of McRee's and myself, so omit record here until our return in May, 1852.]

1852. May 9th, my family at church and returned; thanks for the reunion in health and safety.

May 10th, I wrote Bishop Hawks of Missouri a request to interest himself for the discharge of an English youth, Thomas Parr, who had left his friends and enlisted in the United States army, one of whom came fellow passenger with me from England to seek the boy.

May 11th to Rose Valley and Clyde, in Wayne County, with General W.

H. Adams, to examine as to what might be done to continue the general's "washings" to extend the canal from Clyde to the head of Sodus Bay. Did not find any difficulty in the route of the canal, and it seemed strange to me that capital should be wanting to complete so easy and cheap a work to unite Lake Ontario and Chesapeake Bay, and open up the vast resources in that whole line. The mere exchange of gypsum, flour, and fish, for coal, iron and lumber, would sustain a fair profit to stockholders.

Returned to Lyons by a farm owned by an escaped slave from the South, and considered what was my duty, under the constitution, in reference to breaking up this slave's farm, and concluded to be silent.

May 30th, with Mr. Greig on Sodus Canal affairs, he holding large interests in Wayne County. He was averse from again entering into that project. We conversed about his friend Mr. Watson, whom I had seen in Edinburgh, Scotland, in reference to the Williamsons' interests in the United States, and also upon what both of us had seen on the continent of Europe.

June —, corresponded with the Secretary of War, General Totten, and Major W. H. Chase, on the error of introducing a foreign officer of engineers into our own corps—General Bernard—who had served several years, and became Secretary of War to Louis Philippe of France.

June 19th, my friend Colonel Thayer arrived and passed a few days with us, and then traveled West.

July 6th, the remains of Henry Clay arrived in the cars from the East, *en route* for Kentucky, escorted by Governor Cass, General Sam Houston, etc. Introduced Dr. Fitzhugh to them, and had a brief conversation with General Cass in reference to the claims of Colonel Abert to the action of Congress, to place him on a par with other useful officers in rank.

July 14th, I wrote my distant cousin, Edmund L. Swift, of the Tower of London, on the prospects in the United States for his wife, a McGregor, and an highly educated lady, to establish an extensive seminary in the United States, as he was about declining his office of conservator of the crown jewels, etc.

July 15th, wrote to Barrister Guest of the Temple, whom I had met in

England, and gave him all I could collect of what had been done in the United States in reference to codification. He soon after became master of laws at Cambridge.

July 26th, with my son James and nephew Charles Swift to Niagara, to celebrate General Scott's honors there. Met Mr. John King and Washington Hunt, and Mr. Greeley, the distinguished editor. The celebration was a failure. Also met Colonel Andrews of Boston.

From 29th September to 22d October attending, as witness, the trial of Mayor Lawrence and the Pentz, and others, at Newark, New Jersey, in reference to the houses that had been blown up by me at the order of the mayor at the great fire, December, 1835.

General Scott, Samuel L. Gouverneur, who had married Miss Lee of Petersville, Maryland, in Newark.

In November I wrote, for Counsellor Davies, a statement of the gun powder blasts, and what I deemed unjust to the owners of that property, so destroyed, in a strict legal sense, and also stated what I deemed a neglect of my services and exposure at that fire of 16th December, 1835, while England had knighted a young engineer officer for similar services at Quebec, in Canada, on a much smaller scale. To determine how much powder would shake a house down and not damage neighboring houses, was of importance as a service. That had been accomplished at every house so blown up at the great fire of 16th December, 1835.

I returned home to my family in Geneva, where we had assembled at Christmas, eight of my family, and two days after McRee escorted his mother to Mr. Richards', Brooklyn.

1853. On New Year's day I arrived at Mr. Richards', Brooklyn, to where my wife had preceded me.

January 3d, Mr. John C. Adams called on me by previous appointment, and I agreed to go to Boston with him to explain to the capitalists there the whole system of the Sodus Canal. We arrived in Boston on 4th, at my brother William's. I presented the plan to the bankers, Thayer and others, but they did not enter with any spirit into the subject.

February 1st, George W. Whistler and myself left Mount Vernon Place

for New York. I had previously seen President Walker at Cambridge, and arranged with him for my son Foster, a graduate of Geneva College, to enter Harvard College as a junior. On my return to Brooklyn, met William G. McNeill, very ill, on his arrival from England, in the kind care of his mother-in-law, Mrs. Camman, where he died on 16th February. I wrote an obituary of this distinguished man, and sent it to the secretary of the Society of Civil Engineers in London, of which society General McNeill died an honorary member. He was a person of much talent, and commanding and winning manner, and was one of the principal pioneers of railroad improvements in the United States.

March 16th, I shipped to Wilmington, North Carolina, a marble slab that I had caused to be made in Brooklyn, and wrote my namesake, Swift Miller, a request to see this slab carefully erected at the grave of Mrs. Smith in "old Brunswick Cemetery, Cape Fear River." The inscription is thus: "In Memory of that Excellent Lady, Sarah Rhett Dry Smith, who died 21st November, 1821, aged 59 years. Also, of her Husband, Benjamin Smith of Belvedere, once Governor of North Carolina, who died January, 1826, aged 70." The slab was properly erected.

March 20th, wrote my son Foster at Harvard College, where he had entered as a junior, agreeably to the consent of the faculty; and sent him afterwards a memoir of my Grandfather Samuel Swift, a graduate of 1735, that was requested by some one at Harvard making memoirs of distinguished graduates of old times.

March 30th, gave Richard S. Tucker my opinion of forty years' duration in favor of supplying Brooklyn with the best of water, from the brooks east of the bridge that discharge themselves into the Jamaica Bay.

March 31st, wrote to Colonel Thayer upon the omission of due notice of Colonel Jonathan Williams, in the newly published register of West Point, by Captain Cullum, to promote a correction of that omission.

May. Early in this month essayed to retain Gold S. Silliman, Esq., as postmaster of Brooklyn; an excellent officer and worthy gentleman, with whom I had maintained friendly relations from the year 1800 at Newport, Rhode Island.

Met General Scott several times this month on the subject of recording his campaigns in Mexico. He read to me the first chapter. I deem it well done.

May 23d, kept the seventy-second birthday of my friend F. C. Tucker at No. 1 West Sixteenth Street. The age is a matter of doubt. He and General Scott, Major Robert Anderson, and Colonel James Monroe came to see Mr. and Mrs. Richards and Mrs. Swift at Brooklyn, on that day.

June 8th, Louisa and self visited our friends General Adams' family at Lyons, on the death of their daughter Jane in South America, and of their sons James and Sibley, all three very intelligent children. A sad bereavement.

June 16th, died our friend George R. Lewis at New London.

June 24th, to see my friend John Greig, Esq., Canandaigua; failing in health and strength.

In July I was confined some weeks by jaundice, and expected to depart, but by good nursing of my wife and daughter so far revived as to use horseback exercise, and to receive the children of my friend Charles A. Williamson, deceased, to wit., Wilhelmina and her husband Captain Wickham, of Thirty-third Regiment Infantry of the English Army, who was seeking a farm to retire upon in the United States.

August 1st I purchased a pony, and found benefit to my health by riding.

Ferdinand Hassler visited me to get my memoir of his father, the late superintendent of the United States coast survey. Rev. Dr. Judd read to me his reply to the high church doctrines about baptism; a well composed view of that subject, adverse to Romanism.

The month of September was noted for ague and fever at Geneva, especially in the lower parts of the village and the flats bordering the lake on the north, also several cases on the higher lands; my son Willy one of them. The treatment was quinine, and successful.

October 22d, died my friend John Delafield at Oaklands, on the opposite side of the lake, aged sixty-seven years, a great loss to the farming interests of Seneca County. I directed the interment on 25th in our Geneva cemetery.

1854. January 10th we celebrated Bell and Willy's marriage day, their twenty-first anniversary, at Willy's Geneva home.

January 30th, Mr. Robert Tillotson arrived, and we discoursed of our former days in the city. He described to me the mode of conversion of his son to Romanism, under the auspices of Cardinal Wiseman and Mr. Newman, and of that son's union with the Oratory at Birmingham, in England. So much for the Puseyism of Western New York.

February 2d, received from the singular William Wood, of Canandaigua, a present of a view of the Colosseum of Vespasian at Rome. He said that his life had been passed without being able to see it, and that as I had seen it he wished me to accept the engraving—an old Amsterdam production.

Sent to Colonel Thayer a memoir on West Point, and to Mr. Seaton of the *National Intelligencer*, a notice of the United States Military Academy, West Point.

February 10th, Mrs. Swift's nephew, James Walker Osborne of North Carolina, visited us, and also her cousin John Barrow, grandson of her aunt McLean.

Sent my application to government in favor of Mrs. Commodore Angus' claim for her late husband's back pay, etc., to Charles Abert, Esq., at Washington, to present to Congress. Wrote Mr. Barrow in London how to proceed to gain title to the lots in Dock Street, Wilmington, North Carolina, that belonged to Mr. Barrow's mother, Margaret Du Bois (McLean), and to Henry McLean, and to Mrs. Margaret McLean Hatfield.

March 15th, Major Tucker, Anna Beck and myself to R. S. Tucker's, at Gowanus, and revived some of "the club" music of other days.

March 20th, Colonel John Lind Smith, my useful and true friend, began to recover from a long confinement from a wound in the groin, received at the battle of Cerro Gordo in Mexico. A doubtful recovery. Dr. Buck.

April 10th, wrote Commodore Morris, United States Navy, advising to promote the use of the old ordnance upon Brown's statue of Washington, now in progress for Union Square, New York city.

April 22d, visited my friend Charles Hoyt and wife and children at

Norwalk, in Connecticut. He proposes going to Europe. Of doubtful benefit.

July 15th, my first report to the United States lighthouse board, through Colonel Abert, for a tripod iron light on South Shoal of Nantucket — my place of birth — probably the finale of my essays in civil engineering.

July 22d, my son Foster arrived at home. He had graduated at Harvard College respectably.

July 25th, David Williamson and wife, the daughter of the iron master of Tredegar, in Wales, made us a visit. The son of Charles A. Williamson.

A long drouth this summer, and on 8th and 9th September our first rain for three months. The leaves on the trees so dry as to rattle like wood in sound when shaken by wind.

On 12th I commenced writing the Secretary of Navy, General Scott and Commodore Charles Stewart on the difficulty of forming a retired list for the navy, unless the plan proposed be greatly modified, to do justice to faithful services performed.

On 22d November José's child, Margaret Weston, was born; named for Mrs. Cronkhite.

November 23d I attended a clerical party at Major Tucker's, of five bishops, fifty presbyters and deacons and twenty-five laymen.

1855. At the opening of this year I began a correspondence with several military friends on the condition of the country, and especially as to giving quiet to the South, where, under cover of opposing the tariff and abolition extravagancies their real object, I suppose to be, to perpetuate and extend slavery as a right of the South. As to the tariff, it is a question in which the Union has interests as well South as North, and should be equalized to meet those interests justly, and probably a direct tax may accomplish much toward quiet. As to abolition — an influence growing at the North — it is now about one voter to two hundred. But the South seems intent upon ruling or breaking up the Union. My letters reviewed Mr. Secretary-of-War Davis' plan to subvert the existing army organization under the guise of an imperfect staff. My chief correspondent being Colonel Abert. Sent some essays to the *National Intelligencer*.

January 6th, my application to Congress through Charles Abert succeeded, giving the widow of Captain Angus a pension. That lady sent me a goblet and ring of silver in token of her acknowledgements. I replied it was not my wish so to tax her income.

On 31st found the winter oppressively and unusually cold; the temperature was about as usual.

April 11th, fine weather. Mrs. Delafield (the widow of John of Oaklands) took leave of us, having sold their farm to Mr. Fuller.

April 25, gave my criticism of Major Douglass' memoirs, especially on the war of 1812 and Military Academy, to President Hale. Copy on my files.

May 23d, my brother and wife and Miss Eliza Howard arrived, and 29th, McRee consulted him about going to Iowa. On the same day I wrote Mrs. Gratiot on the death of her husband, the general.

June 1st, Sally designed a celebration of Louisa's and my fiftieth anniversary of our marriage 6th June, on which day twenty-six of the family had assembled at Geneva, and we kept up the season for some days. Louisa enjoyed this occasion and reunion exceedingly.

June 14th I was called to Lyons to the funeral of Mrs. Adams, the excellent wife of my friend General W. H. Adams. How close together our joys and sorrows.

June 30th, I replied to Daniel Huntington's inquiries as to the belief in General Washington's blasphemy, stating my total disbelief in such impressions; that I had conversed in my youth with General Alexander Hamilton, Lieutenant-Governor Cobb, Colonel Trumbull, Major Baylies and General Chief Justice Marshall as to the domestic and social character of Washington, all adverse to his having any habit of using oaths, etc.

July 4th, attended the exhibition of Dr. Reed's school as an examiner, at Walnut Hill.

July 20th, arrived my friends William Kemble and wife and Professor W. H. C. Bartlett and wife, from West Point, and on 30th Foster's friend Mr. ———, of Roxbury.

August 6th, Louisa, for the first time in our married life, made a visit

abroad without me, going with Foster to see Hortense and family at Avon.

August 17th, wrote General Scott on the injurious tendency of Secretary Davis' plan to repeal the law of 1802 that limits the detail of a superintendent of the United States Military Academy to the corps of engineers; injurious in two material facts: extending executive power to defeat the purpose of the law of 1802, namely, by appointing an uneducated person, or a personal favorite to that office, making the office thereby a mere political or party agent, and annulling the only national institution in the Union, save the supreme court.

August 23d I commenced to execute a design long entertained, to visit my native place, Nantucket, and the residence also of my father, neither of which had I seen for sixty-three years. Arrived at Brooklyn on 29th, took the cars for Springfield and met my brother William and wife at Miss Howard's, and my sister and self visited the graves of my aunts Elizabeth and Mary Swift, (both had been wives of Colonel Burt of Longmeadow,) in which cemetery both with the colonel rest.

On 29th to Boston, and met at the depot my friend Colonel Thayer, and with him to Fort Warren on George's Island, where, in the year 1841, General H. A. S. Dearborn and myself had visited him in the early construction of that fort. I am much gratified at the scientific aspect of the colonel's work. We visited Fort Independence also, and Governor's Island, where thirty-eight years ago the colonel commenced his engineering career as a lieutenant.

September 4th Colonel Thayer accompanied me to Taunton, the scene of my school days, and on to New Bedford, where the Colonel had, in 1808, commenced a fort. We visited the scenes of those days, the residence of my grandmother Delano, Clark Cove, etc. The colonel was summoned back to Boston, and I explored the scenes of my childhood in Dartmouth, at Russell's Corners and Smith's Mills at the head of Pasquemonsett, where I lived at John Smith's, Esq., while at Master Hart's school, and the scene of rescuing a slave from the hands of William Anthony in 1791. I explored the old Hathaway house near Russell's corners, the residence of my father's family until we moved to Taunton, 1792. I took cuttings from the Talman

sweeting apples that I enjoyed when a child. Returned in my "horse and chaise" to New Bedford and visited my cousins Betsy and Nancy, (Mrs. Bennett,) at Fair Haven, and on 6th September on board the steamer for Nantucket. My companions were Mrs. Brayton, an acquaintance of my mother's, a very aged Quaker lady, and Captain Matthew Crosby and his handsome wife, of Siasconset. I recognized Broat Point and Roach's old store on landing, and Delano Corner, Hammet's residence and "Wesco Hill." Met my schoolmate Timothy Hussy, and lodged at Captain Stephen Weet's, where his daughter, Mrs. Clasby, lived. The captain was in his eighty-fourth year, had been a friend of my grandfather Thomas Delano, who had lived at the opposite corner, my birthplace, and who died there 18th November, 1799, at the age of sixty-seven. At small cost entertained by Matthew Crosby with the old Nantucket dish, corn pudding. Met there Franklin Folger the chronologist, who gave me the lineage of the Delanos and Swains, and how they were the cousins of the Folgers and Coffins. I also met the Mitchells, especially Miss Maria the astronomer, and what with the excitement and consequent fatigue of examining every corner, I became ill, and was carefully nursed by Mrs. Clasby, and visited by Mr. Charles Folger and his sister of Geneva.

On 17th I left the beloved old island for home. My son James hearing of my illness had gone to Nantucket for me, so we passed each other in the steamers. He followed me to Brooklyn, where I was joined at Mr. Richards' by my daughter Sally. I came from New Bedford to Fall River, and thence by the steamer Metropolis to the city, finding Foster waiting my arrival.

On 6th October Mr. Richards accompanied me home, meeting the Kembles and Professor Bartlett at Peekskill and Garrisons. We two arrived at Geneva the next day, and found Louisa at her usual place at the window of the dining room watching our coming, and receiving us with her habitual cheerfulness. I had been at Brooklyn seized with gout, much to the surprise of Gouveneur Kemble, when we met at Peekskill.

November 4th, Louisa, Sally and I attended the communion. Louisa expressed great thankfulness for this reunion.

November 9th, Louisa had some indisposition from cold supposed to be taken in examining the corn in the stable, thought by her to be lumbago. On 10th she was languid and pale, though we played at domino in the evening.

November 11th, Louisa not well enough to go to church, but earnestly wished Sally and myself to go. On 13th McRee arrived, and on 14th Louisa growing more ill. In the morning she joined our hands and said she was to die, and at six A. M. 15th, this excellent wife and mother departed. On the 16th it was deemed needful to inter the body. To the end of the year the loneliness of my bedroom, that had so recently been the scene of Louisa's early rising and industry, was essayed to be made tolerable by my children's attentions.

1856. January, occupied much of my time in replying to Mr. Birney's "Christians." See my letter book.

Middle of April, we left Geneva for Brooklyn, and found José with an excellent portrait of her mother suspended before her bed, the work of the artist, Daniel Huntington. This and photographs, and the family piece by the same Mr. Huntington, done by request of Alexander, (shades of a good wife, mother and friend,) were mournful relics.

July 19th, I had a unanimous call to preside at a meeting to approve the nomination of Colonel Fremont. On taking the chair I announced that I was thoroughly in favor of preventing the extension of slavery into the territories, but not in favor of meddling with slavery in the States where it existed; that under the constitution slaves were a species of property, not in the sense that horses and oxen were property; that slaves had a species of franchise through State action, and thus far had claims to personality adverse to chattelism.

July 25th, a letter from the widow of Alden Partridge, of West Point memory, to aid in getting his son a cadetship at the Military Academy. I wrote to the War Department and to Senator Foot in favor of the appointment.

1857. January 1st, Mr. Richards and myself, in pursuance of ancient usage, made new year's calls in Brooklyn.

January 12th, with General Scott in Twelfth Street conversing on the condition of slavery, and upon its influence in the relations of North and South, and also upon the Secretary of War's interference with the individual rights of army officers.

Mr. Edward Blunt explained to me the use of Trott's longitude chart;—correct in principle, and useful to within four seconds of a degree. Also of the American telescope, that it was in all respects equal to the Munich glasses.

February 9th, Sally and I to Boston, and at Springfield called on the worthy Mrs. Carew, the friend of my mother and father. At Boston with my brother William and wife at No. 6 Mount Vernon Place. The families of the elder Quincy and his son very desirable visiting places, and I enjoyed them, and Dr. James Jackson, and Mr. Guile's and Mr. Elliot's (Samuel,) and Judge Warren's, where we met Colonel S. Thayer. The Athæneum a charming resort. At Mr. John Savage's, to converse on his forthcoming genealogical work; also the families of Mills. Examined the Historical Society documents of Pemberton, Adams, Swift, etc., from 1720 to 1775. Had the pleasure to listen to Mrs. Kemble's readings of Shakspeare.

March 8th, visited my ancient maiden cousins, Sarah and Mary Swift, at Dorchester, the Baker house, and cousin Sally Delano Williams at Roxbury, and with Sally and sister Hannah to see our cousins on Milton Hill, and the cemetery, where are fifteen graves of the Swift family and a tomb. Went to see my cousin Fanny at Mrs. Harris', in Cambridge, and Roberdeau at Charlestown. Met Colonel Thomas Aspinwall at the Guiles', and Joseph Grafton.

March 16th, Sally and sister Hannah and myself to New York and Brooklyn. Visited several of the clubs there and in the city of New York. Useful establishments to promote intelligence and easy intercourse. Mr. Richards and Mr. Cronkhite members.

On 30th March Mr. Huntington commenced my portrait for a member of an historical picture.

April 6th, wrote Dr. Hawks on the promotion of quiet between the North and South by his contemplated efforts at the South, in speaking there on

the anniversary of the Declaration of Independence at Mecklinburg, in May, 1776.

April 14th, wrote Mr. Howe, of Brooklyn, my opinion in favor of Mr. Kirkwood's location of the Nassau water works.

April 18th, wrote the venerable Quincy of Boston, and J. G. Wright of Wilmington, North Carolina, upon the troubles growing up between the North and South, and that non-extension of slavery was an essential element of any permanent settlement to quiet, and that Mr. Wright should urge this highly indispensable principle at the coming celebration in Mecklinburg County on 20th May, to promote quiet.

May 7th, wrote General Totten and Colonel Abert, United States Army, on the newly proposed organization—especially its staff. Commended G. B. Shaw to General Totten for an assistant engineer.

May 23d, died in Paraclepta, Arkansas, Eliza Younger Walker, the cousin of Mrs. Swift and wife of James W. Walker.

June 6th, heard of the death of my friend Thomas Biddle of Philadelphia, æ. eighty, and on this, my marriage day, found the turf on the grave of Louisa very fresh; José and Sally had placed many flowering plants there.

June 8th, the steamer "Loder" passed our house with thirty-eight canal boats "in tow," and a raft of lumber one-fourth of a mile in length.

June 17th, wrote the family of the late General J. De B. Walbach my readiness to promote adjustment of claims on the United States. Heard of the fate of the Ledyards in the steamer on the St. Lawrence.

September 6th, the worthy Henry Dwight died æ. seventy-six, at Geneva. My cousins Fanny and Elizabeth Swift of Milton visited us, and brought with them, for me, the family arms that had been brought from Rotherham in England, 1630, by our ancestor, Thomas Swift of Dorchester, son of Robert of Rotherham.

In October I wrote General Scott my impressions of the vulgar assault upon his Mexican services by General Pillow, and of the utter improbability of making any impression upon the public mind unfavorable to General Scott.

October 12th, wrote to the ordnance department upon a hemispherical

empty shell opening by a hinge, being placed in the bore of a cannon or mortar before the cartridge, and opened by explosion, so as to prevent windage.

In November I wrote to the canal commissioners that great damage was occurring to the banks of Seneca Lake, by the obstructions placed in the outlet at Waterloo, in the process of what is commonly called "piling of water," *i. e.* back water, and referring them to the facts on Clyde River, near Lyons, for similar effects, and to experiments in France to sustain my opinion.

1858. In February wrote my cousin Fanny Swift, of Milton, for a transcript of the inscriptions on the grave stones of the fifteen graves there of our family.

February 18th, my cousin Henry Delano of New Hampshire with us. He informed me of the death of his mother, Elizabeth Hamet Delano, on 3d of this month, æ. seventy-eight years.

April 24th, my grandson Fitzhugh, failing to receive a cadetship, went to sea "before the mast" in the ship "Amaranth" for Australia, from New York.

April 12th, Joseph Fellows and myself attended the funeral of John Greig, Esq., of Canandaigua, who died on 9th April, æ. seventy-eight, leaving a fortune acquired in the United States to his relations in Scotland, after ten thousand dollars a year for life to his wife.

May 8th, a beautiful day. Sally aided me in surveying my forty-acre lot south of the town.

June 11th, my cousins, the Pattens, visited us. I gave them my certificate of my knowledge of a portrait of Washington by the elder Peale, after the "Battle of Princeton," painted by the consent of Washington for my uncle Jonathan Swift of Alexandria, where in 1804, and onward, I saw it, and my uncle gave me its history as above.

July 5th, wrote General Scott that the widow of his companion in imprisonment in Quebec, Major Van de Venter, wished his aid to secure a pension for her husband's just claims.

July 10th, received a present of charts of United States and South America from G. W. and Edward Blunt.

July 14th, in correspondence with the adjutant-general, Samuel Cooper, and sent him files of army memoir. 1800 to 1813.

August 5th, arrived the report of a successful laying of the cable from Newfoundland to Valencia in Ireland, one thousand seven hundred miles, greatest depth six thousand feet, and of a message between Victoria and the President of the United States going by that cable both ways.

September, the comet, of unusually brilliant aspect in the western sky. Query: Is it that which Professor Hassler and Colonel Williams, Mr. Garnett and the officers at West Point observed in this month in 1807?

September 26th, wrote General Webb of my purchasing, as United States agent, Sandy Hook in 1820, for twenty thousand dollars, and proposing that the dispute between New York and New Jersey be settled by the United States granting a site there for an hospital. Also sent Colonel Webb the facts of the Brooklyn water line in 1835; that my map and report had been secretly taken from the archives of the city of Brooklyn; of the line as adopted by the then common council, and of the infringements on that line by lot owners.

November 3d, visited Twilight Dell in Greenwood. Sally and I attended the singing of Piccolomini at the Athæneum.

November 4th, Colonel J. L. Smith and Major W. H. Chase and wife, and adopted child, visited us. We had a conversation on the great question of slavery and its tendency. Chase a southern mind on that matter; Smith silent. He had made free his sixteen slaves, and sent them to Liberia.

On 8th November Colonel Smith, Mr. Cropsey and myself take the rail-cars at Green Point to Flushing, and thence by carriage to Willet's Point, examining the plan for the fort for that site, and then crossed over to the coöperating Fort Schuyler. The Colonel and I had some conversation on his making a will. He said he had no existing relative on earth to his knowledge. He and myself thence to Harlem, and thence by steamer to the city. The colonel though cheerful, and as ever, entertaining in his remarks, is much reduced in strength of body, and his appetite small.

November 9th, with J. P. Kirkwood and Captain Green inspecting the

Nassau water line on Long Island, and on 12th inspecting the beginnings of the Central Park of the city of New York, and the foundation of the large water reservoir therein.

November 19th, an interesting dinner party at B. D. Silliman's. Professor Leiber, Dr. G. W. Bethune, Daniel Lord, Esq., Mr. Izard and Mr. Pringle from South Carolina, Mr. Pierrepont, Mr. G. S. Silliman, the father of B. D. Silliman. The constitutional aspects of slavery the subject of discourse, and the prospects of trouble between the South and the North sections. The fact that the North can never submit to an extension of slavery into the territories admitted, save by the gentlemen from South Carolina; and Mr. Lord, a very clever man, seemed to be of opinion that the constitution contemplated support to slavery.

November 27th, in reply to a letter from P. S. Sanger of Washington, on the subject of removing the dead from one cemetery to another, relied on him to advise me what had been done with those of my son James Foster Swift and the grave stones; said son having been buried in the cemetery north of the President's mansion in March, 1830. Removed to a new cemetery.

December. Early in this month Major Chase and Captain Barnard advised me of the increasing illness of the best friend I ever had, Colonel John L. Smith. I wrote Colonel Thayer and General Gadsden of it.

December 13th, the colonel died very peacefully at Mrs. Ellen Robinson's boarding house, 64 Amity Street, New York City, at the age of about seventy years. A will could not be found, and the assets in the Leather Manufacturers' Bank went, with his library and other things at Fort Schuyler, into the hands of the city administrator. Buried at West Point on 16th. At Christmas we heard of the safe arrival of Mrs. De Lancy and the bishop in England.

1859. January 4th, wrote the chief engineer of the United States that a will of the late Colonel J. L. Smith might be found among the papers of the late General James Gadsden, of Charleston, South Carolina, an intimate friend of Colonel Smith's, and to whom I knew that Colonel Smith had sent money to aid a friend of his mother's.

In this month I commenced a correspondence with Colonel Delafield and Governor Morgan, to induce the Legislature to permit the property of Colonel Smith to be expended in constructing and endowing a school at West Point, in memory of Colonel Smith. The judiciary committee reported adversely.

January 14th came accounts of José's being very ill. Sally went to her. The dear child declined rapidly and died on 16th, and was interred in Twilight Dell at Greenwood.

April 19th, wrote Josiah Quincy my impression of his Life of John Quincy Adams, that Mr. Quincy had sent me; that it was an instructive volume, and remarkable for what had been omitted as to John Quincy Adams' early and long-continued Federalism, and abandonment of its principles; and also upon our prospects nationally; and that the growth of cotton in the East Indies, etc., would so depress the value of slaves as to convince the South that labor paid for would be more profitable than slave labor.

April 23d, the most severe snow storm of the year. It moderated soon after and swallows appeared 30th, and May opened most gently.

July 4th, sold my out-lots, about forty acres, to Dr. Reed for three thousand dollars.

July 15th, my brother William and wife passed a week with us, and we had pleasant conversations of our respective visits to Europe. William bought a fine picture in Italy, — a St. Cecilia.

September 18th, Mr. Richards and his brother, Dr. Wolcott Richards, go to South Hampton, England, in the Arago.

On 30th I requested the Secretary of the Interior to send me my land warrant. McRee had it located in Nebraska on the Rolling Fork of the Wolff River, by Mr. Everett.

October 14th, arrived our new bell for Trinity; gave twenty-five dollars on this birthday of Louisa.

At Christmas — Willy, Belle, Lizzy, James, Joseph G., Joseph S., Tony, Maggy, Sally and myself.

1860. As my family had not gone to Brooklyn in the past fall, and Mr. Richards was in Europe, leaving Tony and Maggy with Sally and myself to

pass the winter in Geneva, it gave me plenty of time to reflect on the aspects of our country, that were growing in anxiety; and yet I have hopes that events may assuage the evils of meddling with the compromise line of 36° north latitude. The great object now being, as it appeared to me, to impress the South that an essay at secession would be ultimately defeated, and that, therefore, going out of the Union would be far more detrimental to southern interests than could be brought about by tariffs or abolition societies; and that the great desire of the South to maintain political rule must be defeated by the natural progress of northern population. In furtherance of these views I coöperated with my fellow citizens of Geneva of the Whig name, and presided at several of their meetings: commencing with a declaration of my creed, namely, not to countenance any interference with slavery in the States as protected by the constitution, but to oppose every species of extension of slavery into the United States Territories; because if such extension was tolerated slavery would become the basis of our government, and the consequence of such a government would be laziness of slave-owners and a descending scale of public and private morals, and thus a ruin to free institutions, for a free government can only be maintained by mental activity and bodily industry.

Early in the month of March, Mr. Richards' letters from Rome advised us of the death of Mr. J. P. Cronkhite in that city, and of his interment in the Protestant cemetery there. Mr. Richards and his brother, and the wife of Mr. Cronkhite were with her husband at his death.

On 6th November I voted for electors to elect Abraham Lincoln President, not that I deemed Mr. Lincoln to possess equal talents with Edward Everett, though Mr. Lincoln's speeches in Illinois adverse to the policy of Mr. Douglass evinced a strong common sense; and I deemed the Bell and Everett ticket favorable to too great a sacrifice of northern ability to prevent disunion. Immediately after voting I proceeded to the cars, and arrived the 7th at Brooklyn. On our arrival at the Delavan we received the first telegraph reports of Mr. Lincoln's success.

November 8th, called on General Scott, (with whom was Colonel Thomas, the assistant adjutant-general,) in Twelfth Street. Conversation

at once commenced on the purposes of the South. The general had written to a host of acquaintance of his in *every Southern State* his views of the destructive consequences of secession. He expressed great fear that the earnest advice he had given in the past month of October to President Buchanan, to arm and furnish every fort at the South, *had been totally neglected.*

Before 20th November, South Carolina raised the palmetto flag, Virginia was summoned to an extra legislative session, and Major Anderson had been sent to relieve Colonel Gardner at Fort Moultrie.

At the meeting of Congress I was astonished by the tone of Mr. Buchanan's message, denying power in the executive to avert the action of secession.

On 14th December Governor Cass resigned the Department of State, a position he had filled during all the strange acts of the Secretary of War and Secretary of the Treasury, and must have seen some of the purposes of these men.

December 20th, South Carolina essays secession.

On 26th Major Anderson leaves Moultrie and occupies Sumter, with one hundred and eleven men.

I received several letters from Major W. H. Chase on the fine prospects of the South in forming a new confederacy. I replied in November that it would be better to know what they were doing at the South before going to extremes, and that he, Chase, being a Boston boy would find that the South would not trust him as "one to the manor born."

1861. January. After various consultations with Major J. G. Barnard and others, I selected a syenite from Mr. Edwards' marble factory, (it came from Aberdeen, in Scotland, and cost seven hundred and seventy-two dollars,) for a monument at West Point to the memory of Colonel John Lind Smith. This was done under the decree of the surrogate of New York, giving to my discretion one thousand dollars for the purpose, and on 7th May I had it at West Point set up in the cemetery there, and advised Mrs. Elizabeth Gray of Dundee, N. B., of my course in this matter. My grandsons Joseph S. and Huntington accompanied me. We were hos-

pitably received by Professor W. H. C. Bartlett, and at Mr. Kemble's and Parrot's, at West Point foundry.

May 1st, I addressed a letter to Jefferson Davis on the strength of being his early commander, and urging on him my reasons why he could not succeed in breaking up the Union. I sent the letter for the perusal of President Lincoln, and to be forwarded by the Postmaster-General, so as to avoid the aspect of corresponding with traitors in an improper way. I also urged Mr. Davis to use the influence of his position to mollify his coadjutors, and promote a quiet return to the Union. See my letter book.

While at West Point I wrote President Lincoln on the character of Thayer, Mansfield, Lee and others as capable general officers, especially W. H. C. Bartlett, and also upon the importance of having West Point under the superintendence of one as nearly like Thayer as might be found. See my letter book.

June 14. Digestion attended with nausea and vertigo.

In the past summer I met at Commodore Craven's in Geneva, Mrs. Farquhar of Pottsville, in Pennsylvania—quite a traveler. This lady said to me that she had met a cousin of mine at Aix-la-Chapelle who had been the conservator of the crown jewels in the tower of London, who gave to Mrs. Farquhar the circumstances of my meeting this gentleman, Sir Edmund Leuthal Swifte, and of the interview between myself and the yeoman of the guard who had mistaken me for Sir Edmund, and who had pointed out to me the residence of Sir Edmund in Ann Bolen's Tower, 1851–1852, as is mentioned in my journal of my travels in England, etc. Another of the curious coincidences of life in human affairs.

From the arrival of General Scott from France in December, 1861, I was with him frequently in conversation upon the passing events of our unhappy rebellion, until—

1862. April 15th, when he went to his home at Hampton, in Elizabethtown, N. J., where I joined him on 17th, and remained most of the time until 1st of June, when he went to Cozzens' charming hotel below West Point, and I went to visit my friends at the Point and at West Point foundry, at Mr. Parrott's, enjoying theirs, and Gouverneur Kemble's and

William's hospitality, and at Mr. Parrott's had at dinner a warm discussion with the Russian ambassador on the condition of my country; he sorrowing for our downfall, and I denying the need of his sorrow.

In the course of the summer my son Foster and Miss Alida Fitzhugh had fixed on 29th October for their marriage at Geneseo, where both families assembled under the hospitality of Mrs. Bachus and Mrs. Brent, and Mr. Ayrault, with my late wife's cousin, Rev. John C. Du Bois of St. Croix. Both families met at the church, and the marriage was celebrated by the Rev. Mr. Ayrault, brother-in-law of the bride, and Rev. Mr. Du Bois, cousin of the groom.

In the year 1861 my son Foster, in the spring, volunteered as a surgeon in the 8th New York Regiment, and proceeded to Annapolis and Washington, and on 21st of July was in the battle of Bull Run in Virginia—a defeat of both armies. Foster deemed it his duty to remain with the wounded in the field and hospital, a prisoner; was sent for by Beauregard and paroled, and sent to Richmond, thence to Old Point Comfort and thence home, and has not been exchanged until the day of writing this, December, 1862.

1863. I had proposed to comment on the strategy of this war of rebellion in my diary, but the gazettes and the monthly journals so abound in knowledge of what should have been done, and what left undone, that I will refrain from remark save recording that I deem the yielding to party what belonged to the country (which has distinguished the States of New York and New Jersey) as lamentable evidences of want of patriotism. The anomalous interview between politicians and the English ambassador being among the most prominent of errors.

1864. We, after casting our votes on 8th November for Mr. Lincoln, took the cars on 9th, and arrived at No. 70 Eleventh Street on 10th.

On 30th December my brother William H. and myself attended the funeral of our cousin, Dr. William Swift, United States Navy, at the doctor's house No. 12 Carroll Place, Brooklyn. The doctor died of heart disease at the age of eighty-five years, a worthy man and a good officer. He had been while surgeon in the United States Navy our consul at Tunis,

Africa. He left a competence to his wife, an amiable and intelligent woman, and three nice young sons.

December 31. My son James Thomas gave me my birthday dinner; all my family there save Willy's, including two Misses Weston and General Scott and General Anderson. A nice party.

1865. January 4th, attended with General Scott, General Anderson, Mr. John Travers and others, as pall-bearers, the funeral of Mrs. Margaret C. Kemble, the wife of William Kemble, Esq. This excellent lady died at the age of sixty-eight years, forty-two of which she had been intimate in my family. Mrs. Kemble combined many qualities of heart and mind that made her dear to her family and to a long list of acquaintance.

January 7th, I wrote to Miss Susan M. Quincy, of Boston, on the death of her father, Josiah Quincy, at the age of ninety-three years—a useful and valuable citizen in many stations—as member of Congress and president of Harvard College, etc. I also mentioned to Miss Quincy that Mrs. Sigourney had sent to me, as a memorial, a letter to herself from Mr. Quincy.

On 24th January I wrote to the President of the United States on the miserable policy of retaliating upon the Confederate prisoners at Beaufort, South Carolina; and alluded to a substitute by confiscating rebel land and other rebel property, in favor of southern men who had not voluntarily aided the rebellion, and also in favor of aid to the slaves of such men; and that the whole subject might be embraced in a war proclamation, to meet the Confederate plan of arming their slaves to battle against the Union.

On 31st January I wrote again to President Lincoln on the subject of the treasonable talk in this city of New York in favor of southern independence, and expressing my hope that the subjects of treason, *habeas corpus*, State rights, tenure of civil office and executive power might be amended in the Constitution before the advent of peace.

THE writer of this journal died at Geneva, western New York, July 23d, 1865, and his remains rest in the family plot there, marked by a monument with the following inscription:

JOSEPH GARDNER SWIFT,
 SON OF FOSTER AND DEBORAH SWIFT,
 BORN NANTUCKET, MASS., DEC. 31, 1783.
 DIED GENEVA, NEW YORK, JULY 23, 1865,
 FIRST GRADUATE OF THE U. S. MILITARY ACADEMY,
 WEST POINT.
 CHIEF ENGINEER U. S. ARMY 1812.
 BREVETTED BRIGADIER GENERAL 1814.

In the "Biographical Register of the Officers and Graduates of the United States Military Academy," by General Cullum, is the following record:

"GRADUATES OF 1802.

"1. (Born, Mass.) JOSEPH G. SWIFT. (Apd. Mass.)

"*Military History*.— Cadet of the United States Military Academy from May 12, 1800 to October 12, 1802, when he was graduated and promoted in the army to Second Lieutenant Corps of Engineers, Oct. 12, 1802.

Served as superintending engineer of the construction of Fort Johnson, North Carolina, 1804-6; at the Military Academy, 1807; as superintending engineer in the erection of Governor's

(First Lieut. Corps of Engineer Jan. 11, 1805.)

(Capt. Corps of Engineers Oct. 30, 1806.)

Island batteries, Boston Harbor, Mass., and in general supervision of the defences of the northeastern coast, 1808-10;

(Major Corps of Engineers Feb. 23, 1808.)

as superintending engineer of the fortifications of the Carolina and Georgia harbors, 1810-12; in the war of 1812-15 with Great Britain, as aid-de-camp to Major-General Pinckney,

(Lieut.-Colonel Corps of Engineers July 6, 1812.)

(Colonel and Chief Engineer of the U. S. Army July 31, 1812.)

1812; as chief engineer of the army under command of Major-General Wilkinson in the campaign of 1813 on the St. Lawrence River, being engaged in the battle of Chrysler's Field, Upper Canada, Nov. 11, 1813; and of the forces for the defence of the city and harbor of New York (including Brooklyn and Harlem Heights,)

(Brev. Brig.-General Feb. 19, 1814, for meritorious services.)

1813-14; as superintending engineer of the construction of the fortifications of New York Harbor, 1814-17; in command of the corps of engineers July 31, 1812 to November 12, 1818, having charge of the Engineer Bureau at Washington, D. C., April 3 to Nov. 12, 1818; and (*ex-officio*) superintendent of the Military Academy July 31, 1812 to July 28, 1818; and its inspector April 7 to Nov. 12, 1818; and as member of board of engineers for the Atlantic coast of the United States April 21, 1817 to Nov. 12, 1818.

Resigned November 12, 1818."

Civil History. — Surveyor of the United States Revenue for the port of New York, 1818-27. Member of the board of visitors to the Military Academy 1822 and 1824. Chief Engineer of New Orleans and Lake Pontchartrain Railroad, (the first laid with T rail in the United States,) 1830-31. Civil engineer in the service of the United States, superintending harbor improvements on the lakes, 1829-45. Aided in suppressing Canada border disturbances 1839, and was appointed by the President in 1841 on a mission to the British Provinces with reference to a treaty with Great Britain. Member of several scientific and historical societies, and of "La Societe Française de Statique Universelle de Paris," 1839. Degree of LL. D. conferred by Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio, 1843.

Died July 23, 1865, at Geneva, N. Y., aged eighty-two.

The superintendent of the Military Academy, General Cullum, directed honors to be paid to General Swift's memory in the following order:

"HEADQUARTERS U. S. MILITARY ACADEMY, }
"West Point, N. Y., July 30, 1865. }

"The first graduate of the U. S. Military Academy, General Joseph G. Swift, departed this life at his residence, Geneva, N. Y., on the 23d inst., at the advanced age of nearly eighty-two.

"General Swift was born Dec. 31, 1783, in Nantucket, Mass., was graduated at the Military Academy soon after its organization, and was promoted October 12,

The Memoirs of Gen. Joseph Gardner Swift, U.S.A. with a Genealogy of his Family. - Link Page

[PREVIOUS.....Part 2](#)

[NEXT.....Part 4](#)