

Thomas, Douglas Hamilton

Genealogical record of the
family of Thomas

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To John W. Hanson
from his kinsman and friend
Douglas H. Thomas

GENEALOGICAL RECORD

Jan'y 25. 1892
OF THE

FAMILY OF THOMAS.

COMPILED

FROM PAPERS IN POSSESSION OF DR. J. HANSON THOMAS.

BY

DOUGLAS H. THOMAS.

Baltimore, 1875.

BALTIMORE:
CHARLES HARVEY & CO., BOOK AND JOB PRINTERS,
Corner South and German Streets.
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GENEALOGICAL RECORD.

THE first settlers in this country of our family of Thomas, were *James* and Samuel Thomas; they were from Wales, and emigrated during the reign of Queen Ann, settling in Kent County, Maryland. The records in our possession show them to have been men of wealth and high standing.

Samuel died unmarried, leaving his property to two of his nephews. *James* was twice married; his first wife being an English lady, who emigrated with him; his second wife was named Hacket, a respectable family of English origin: they had several children, among whom was *James*, who married Miss Elizabeth Bellicum, whose ancestors were from Holland, and were among the first settlers on the Delaware, in the County of New Castle, at that time in the Pennsylvania Government.

James and Elizabeth Thomas had issue *Philip*, William, Sarah and Rebecca. Mrs. Thomas married twice, Farrell being the name of her last husband, by whom she had three sons.

William Thomas is mentioned as having been a great Latin, Greek and Hebrew scholar. He died at the age of 19, being at the time closely engaged on the study of medicine.

Sarah and Rebecca both died young and unmarried.

Philip Thomas was born in Chestertown, Kent County, Maryland, June 11th, 1747. He was married on the 18th February, 1773, to Miss Jane Contee Hanson, by Rev.

Doctor McKenon of the Episcopal Church, at Fredericktown, Maryland. Philip Thomas studied medicine under Dr. Van Dyke, of Philadelphia, and practiced in Frederick County. He was a very prominent representative man of his times. He was Chairman of the Committee of Safety during the Revolutionary war; was also one of the Electors of General Washington to the first Presidency, and likewise the first President of the Medical Society of Maryland—besides filling numerous other positions of trust. He died the 25th day of April, 1815, aged 67, and is buried at Frederick, (for copy of epitaph, see page). His wife, Mrs. Jane Contee Thomas, died 17th day of June, 1781, aged 34 years.

Mrs. Philip Thomas' family on the paternal side (Hanson), although originally English, immigrated from Sweden. About the year 1592 one of the Hansons, whilst taking a tour through Sweden, married a Swedish lady, who was closely connected in friendship, at least, with the Royal Family. She died after giving birth to a son, in 1594. Her family assumed the care of the infant, who in consequence grew up in familiar intimacy with Gustavus Adolphus. He entered the army, and was duly commissioned a Colonel, being specially retained near the Royal Person in action. In the meantime his father died. In 1626 Gustavus Adolphus contemplated sending a colony to America, but his designs were never accomplished, as the German wars presently engaged all the attention and energies of the King of Sweden.

Gustavus Adolphus was slain in battle at Lutzen 16th November, 1632, and by his side fell Colonel Hanson, leaving four sons, namely: Andrew, Randel, (or Randolph), William and *John* Hanson, who were taken under the immediate protection of the Royal Family.

In 1642 Queen Christina placed them in the special care of Lieutenant-Colonel John Printz, Governor of New Sweden, with whom they came to the Delaware, where a colony was formed, occupying the present State of Delaware.

The Swedish colony was invaded and broken up by one of the Dutch Governors of the New Netherland Colony. After the fall of the Colonial Government several of the Swedes took refuge and settled in the neighboring colony of Lord Baltimore. This in the year 1653.

Among the refugees were the four Hansons. Andrew settled in Kent County, and died in 1655, leaving a widow and four small children.

Randolph Hanson settled in St. Mary's County, but afterwards removed to Charles, where he died. His will is dated September 28th, 1696, and is preserved, and in the custody of the Register of Wills for Anne Arundel County. He left one child—a girl.

William Hanson finally settled in Kent County. He died in 1684, leaving a widow, but no children.

John Hanson settled in Charles County, and died in 1713, or thereabouts. His will, likewise preserved, is dated 12th December, 1713. He had seven children—Robert, John, *Samuel*, Benjamin, Mary, Ann and Sarah.

Samuel Hanson's will is dated 1740. He had the following children: Walter, *John*, *Samuel*, William (who was Examiner General of Maryland), Elizabeth, Charity, Jane and Chloe.

Samuel was a member of the Legislature of Maryland, and it is related of him that he presented General Washington 800 pounds sterling silver to cover the bare feet of his soldiers with shoes. *Samuel* devised to his sons *Samuel*, *John* and his wife *Elizabeth* certain valuable real estate. He held

several posts of high distinction, including the Commissary, and also the Clerk of Charles County, positions at that period considered highly honorable.

John Hanson, the son of the preceding Samuel, married Jane Contee, daughter of Alexander Contee, and had issue Catharine Contee, Jane Contee, Alexander Contee, Elizabeth, John, Samuel, Peter Contee, and Grace.

Jane Contee Hanson married *Dr. Philip Thomas*. Catharine Contee Hanson married Philip Alexander, who practiced law, and was possessed of that valuable property called Alexander's Island, above Alexandria. They died without issue.

Alexander Contee Hanson, Chancellor of Maryland, married Miss Rebecca Howard, of Annapolis, and had issue two sons and a daughter, namely: Charles Wallace and Alexander Contee.

Charles Wallace Hanson was Associate Judge for the 6th Judicial District of Maryland from 1817 to 1832. He married Miss Rebecca Ridgely, of Hampton. He died December 8th, 1853.

The daughter of the Chancellor married Thomas Peabody Grosvenor, of New York, a distinguished member of the House of Representatives, about 1810-1815. He died in 1815, and his wife in 1817.

Alexander Contee Hanson, (Junior), married Miss Priscilla Dorsey, and had several children, the only one surviving at this present is Charles Grosvenor Hanson, who married Miss Annie M. Worthington, by whom he had several children.

John Hanson, the son of *Samuel*, was a member of the House of Delegates of Maryland for a number of years, and member of Continental Congress 1781-82. He presented his credentials 22d February, 1781, and on the 5th Novem-

ber, following was elected President, which position he filled with distinguished credit to himself and marked satisfaction of Congress, receiving the thanks of Congress for his services November 4th, 1782.

John Hanson, with Daniel Carroll, under instructions from the Legislature of Maryland, signed the Articles of Confederation March 1st, 1781.

General Washington was received by Congress on 28th November, 1781, and was gracefully welcomed by President Hanson in a speech remarkable for dignified modesty, heartiness and terseness. The speech and General Washington's reply, together with sundry letters from the same, will be found in Spark's Life of Washington.

Of the early life of *John* Hanson but little is now remembered, beyond few incidents, which display great decision of character, and moral intrepidity, in a time "which tried men's souls." In the early part of the Revolutionary war some high toned and decided resolutions were proposed in the House of Delegates, of which he was a member, and when the question was put, there was an awful pause, members hesitating to stake their heads and fortunes by any hasty or overt action, then at the critical moment, John Hanson rose, and said: "Mr. President, these resolutions ought to pass, it is high time." With these few words he sat down, and the resolutions were passed amidst much enthusiasm. He died November, 1783, aged 68, at "Oxen Hill," the residence of his nephew, opposite Alexandria, Virginia, whilst paying him a visit. His wife, Jane Contee Hanson, died February 21st, 1812, aged 85 years.

Alexander Contee Hanson, son of *John*, was Assistant Private Secretary to General Washington, from which ill health obliged him to retire after two months service, Alexander Hamilton being Secretary at the time. He was like-

wise one of the first Judges of the General Court of Maryland, under the Constitution of 1776. A visitor of St. John's College, then in its palmy days, was appointed, with Judge Samuel Chase, and perhaps Mr. Pinkney, to compile the laws of Maryland; they refusing the appointment, he compiled "Hanson's Laws," which were used for years, and I believe are still in use. In 1788 he was a delegate to the Convention for the adoption of the Constitution of the United States. He was offered the appointment of District Judge of Maryland by General Washington, but it was refused. (Spark's Life of Washington, vol. x., page 56). In 1789 he was made Chancellor of Maryland, which position he held at the time of his death, which occurred in 1806. In 1789 he was appointed by the Legislature to complete a Testamentary System.

Chancellor Hanson was a writer of great force, and several of the leading questions of his period were most ably handled by him, under the sobriquet of "Aristides," several of which have been carefully preserved by the "Maryland Historical Society," under the name of "Hanson Pamphlets."

Samuel Hanson, son of President Hanson, studied medicine under Dr. Philip Thomas, and served as surgeon of General Washington's Life Guards. He died after serving one campaign.

Peter Contee Hanson, at the age of 18 was Lieutenant in 1st Battalion Maryland Infantry, Major Otho H. Williams commanding. He was mortally wounded whilst bravely fighting at Fort Washington.

H Alexander Contee Hanson, son of the Chancellor, was like his father gifted with a fine intellect, highly cultivated by reading. He was also the recipient of numerous positions of trust and honor, including Senator of the United

States 1816, and member of the Maryland Legislature. 1811-15.

He was the Editor of the *Federal Republican* during the war of 1812-14, and being opposed thereto, he made himself obnoxious to the democracy, who on the 20th of June, 1812, mobbed his office, situated northwest corner of Gay and Second Streets, and destroyed his presses, types, etc. This caused a temporary suspension of the paper; but gathering together some kindred spirits, among them General James M. Lingo, General Harry Lee, Capt. Richard J. Crabb, Dr. P. Warfield, Charles J. Kilgour, Otho Sprigg, Ephraim Gaither, John Howard Payne, and others, he fortified himself in a house belonging to Mr. Wagner, one of the editors, on Charles Street, south of Lombard, and issued his paper simultaneously in Baltimore and Georgetown.

This so infuriated his opponents that they again mobbed him, but the garrison ably defended themselves, killing one and wounding others of the assailants, one or two mortally. General Stricker, commanding the militia, advised them to retire from their position, offering them military protection.

Hanson was opposed to any such action, but he was outvoted by his friends, and they retired, under escort, to the City Jail for protection, but were here inhumanly deserted by General Stricker. After the departure of the military, the mob broke into the Jail, being assisted by others within, and made an attack upon the party placed there for protection. The mob was led by a man named Mumma, to whom most of the Hanson party were known, these he pointed out for the fury of the mob, who beat them, threw them down the stairs, where they lay in a heap for three hours. During all this time the mob continued to torture their mangled bodies; by beating them, sticking pen-knives in their hands and faces, opening their eyes and dropping hot

candle greese in them, and also by applying lighted fagots to their wounds. General Lingen was killed; Hanson after standing all these tests, was left for dead by the Mob, who dispersed to break into the Post Office, where the issue of the Federal Republican was awaiting mailing; he was secretly carried to "Belyvidere," Col. John Eager Howard's house, near the Jail, and so soon as he was able to bear it, he was carried under an escort of his friends to Frederick. (For full particulars of the Mob, see "Chronicles of Baltimore," by Scharf.)

Presentments were found against many individuals of each party, but all were acquitted and discharged. These mobs and outrages contributed not a little to the political revolution, which within three months, gave the Federalists a large majority in the Maryland Assembly, by whom Alex. Contee Hanson was chosen a member of Congress. He continued the publication of his paper in Georgetown for some time after the mob. Alexander Contee Hanson had a duel with Captain Charles Gordon, U. S. N., whom he wounded.

Mrs. Philip Thomas' family, (on the maternal side Contee,) were originally from Rochelle, France, but being Protestants, emigrated to England during the reign of Louis XIVth. Adolphe de Contee was High Sheriff of London and Middlesex in 1643. The motto under his "Arms" in Guild Hall London, is "Pour Dieu et mon Roi." In the French Heraldic work, called "La Franco Genealogique," the name is written "De Contee of Rochelle," and has the title of Viscount attached. It also appears there are three other families of Contie and Conte in France, all evidently having the same origin, Marquis of Graviers, Count de Noirant of Normandy, and the Baron de Conte of Orange; they all have the same arms.

The first Contees of whom we have ancestral record, are

Peter Contee and Catharine his wife, who lived in Barnstable, Devonshire, England.

Their son *Alexander*, whom it appears by the Parish Records, was baptized "ye 22d day of April, 1693," accompanied by his Uncle, John Contee, emigrated to America and settled in Prince George's County, Maryland, of which county *Alexander* was Clerk, a position of prominence at that period.

He married Miss Jane ———, and had issue, John, Peter, Thomas, Alexander, *Jane*, Katherine and Grace. In his will, dated 1739, he bequeaths a very extensive real and personal estate, also mourning rings of a guinea's value to Daniel Dulany, Edward Jennings, eminent lawyers of the Provincial bar, and also to Philip Key, ancestor of Francis Scott Key, author of the "Star Spangled Banner," with the inscription: "Remember A Contee." In his will he mentions some silver, which at this writing, is possessed in beautiful preservation by Dr. John Hanson Thomas, and consists of a small tea pot, cream jug, a sugar box with a spoon and stand, and small waiter, they bear the full coat of arms, and have the Tower of London stamp upon them, indicating the date of manufacture, 1620. A large punch bowl, part of the same service, is now in possession of Charles S. Contee of Prince George County. The testator desires in his will to be buried according to the services of the "English Church," and gives a guinea apiece to the Rectors of St. Paul's Church, Prince George County, and Port Tobacco Church, Charles County, to preach a funeral Sermon on "Ye Folly and Danger of ye death-bed repentance."

The will of the Honorable Colonel John Contee, brother of Peter Contee of Barnstable, and one of the first immigrants, is dated 1706 or 1709; the only positions he held, as far as I am aware, were Colonel of the Militia, and member of the Council of State. His will throws so much light up-

on society of that period that especial reference is made thereto. (See page .)

He bequeaths lands in Maryland to his brother Peter, and also to his mother, Mrs. Grace Contee, and gives 20,000 lbs. of Tobacco, in casks, then a part of the currency of the Province, for the use of the Ministry, also mourning rings to his friends.

Jane Contee, the daughter of *Alexander*, married *John Hanson*; Jane Contee Hanson, their daughter, married *Dr. Philip Thomas*, and had issue besides those who died in infancy, Catherine, Rebecca Bellicum, and *John Hanson Thomas*; Catharine Hanson Thomas married *Dr. Ashton Alexander*, and had issue Ashton, George and Elizabeth; George married Miss Levering; Rebecca Bellicum married Judge Alexander Contee Magruder, and had issue, Rebecca Thomas Magruder, who married Major Scott, U. S. A.; Jane, who married Mr. Byias, John Hanson Thomas Magruder, State Librarian, Annapolis, and Philip Magruder.

John Hanson Thomas married Miss Mary Isham Colston, daughter of Rawleigh Colston, of Honeywood, Berkeley County, Virginia, on October 5th, 1809.

Mrs. Thomas' family, (on the Paternal side Colston,) were English, the first immigrant was William, brother of Edward Colston of Bristol, England, the great Philanthropist; they were descended by a long line of Ancestry, from Robert de Colston of Colston Hall, in the County of Lincoln, living at the time of the *Conquest*, many of whose descendants were Knights. Rowland de Colston of Colston, married the daughter of Sir Thomas Winterburen, Knight, and had issue two sons: Thomas of Colston and James, from the latter through a descent of nine generations this branch of the family, that of Preston Mercer descended.

Edward and *William* were sons of William Colston of

Bristol, who was largely engaged in the Spanish and Levantine trade, to which his son Edward fell heir, and by it amassed an enormous fortune, which he employed in relieving the afflicted. He founded several Hospitals, Alms Houses, Charity Schools, etc., all of which I had Photographed, through the kindness of the Post Master at Bristol.

His statue in marble is deposited in All Saints' Church, Bristol, where a sermon is annually preached, accompanied by the sound of muffled bells.

William migrated to America, and was Clerk of Rapahannock County, Virginia; he had a son named *William* and some daughters; *William* had two sons: *William* and *Charles*; *Charles* married Miss Susan Traverse, and had issue *Traverse* and Susanna, who married Mr. Eustice, and died without issue. *Traverse* married for his first wife Miss Alice Corbin Griffin, daughter of Colonel Thomas Griffin, of Richmond County, Virginia, by whom he had issue Charles and Elizabeth Griffin Colston; Charles married Miss Ann Fauntleroy; Elizabeth married Colonel Wm. Peachy of Richmond County, Virginia.

Traverse Colston married for his second wife Susanna Opie, then the widow of a Mr. Kenner, and had the following issue: *Traverse*, who died under age, *William*, *Rawleigh*, and Samuel, who was a Captain during the Revolutionary War, and died unmarried; *William* inter-married with Miss Lucy Carter, daughter of Colonel Landon Carter, of Sabine Hall, in the County of Richmond, and had issue *William*, *Traverse*, *Elizabeth* and *Susanna*.

Rawleigh Colston married Miss Elizabeth Marshall, daughter of Colonel Thomas Marshall of Fauquier County, Virginia, afterwards of Kentucky.

The family of *Mrs. Mary Isham Thomas*, (on the Maternal side Marshall,) were from Wales; they settled in West-

moreland County, Virginia; the first of whom we have ancestral record is *John* Marshall, who married Miss Markham; they had issue nine children of whom *Thomas* was the oldest; he married Miss Mary Keith, daughter of a Clergyman, who migrated from Scotland and intermarried with Miss Randolph of James River.

Thomas Marshall and Mary, his wife, had fifteen children, John, Thomas, James, William, Charles, Alexander, Lewis, *Elizabeth*, Anna Maria, Judith, Lucy, Susan, Charlotte, Jane and Nancy, all of whom married.

John Marshall was the oldest, he was educated at home, under the directions of his father, who was a planter and a surveyor.

From his infancy John Marshall was destined for the Bar, but the contest between the Mother Country and her Colonies drew him from his studies, and in September 1775 he entered the Continental Service as a subaltern; he continued in the army until 1781, when being without a command he resigned his commission. In 1782 he was elected to the Virginia Legislature, and in the fall of the year was chosen a member of the Executive Council of State, which he resigned in 1784 and practiced law, at which he continued declining any other public office than a seat in the Legislature, until the year 1797, when he was associated with General Pinkney and Mr. Gerry in a mission to France. In 1798 he returned to the United States, and in the Spring of 1799 he was elected a member of Congress, a candidate for which, much against his inclination, he was induced to become at the request of General Washington. At the close of the first session he was nominated, first to the Department of War, and afterwards to that of State, which last office he accepted and occupied until 1801, when he was made Chief Justice of the United States by President John Adams,

which position he held at the time of his death. As regards Chief Justice Marshall's legal decisions and purity of character, I say nothing, for they will be ever remembered by the people of this country.

I have frequently heard my father narrate little anecdotes of the Chief, at whose house he repeatedly staid when in Richmond. Showing his childlike modesty and simplicity, he frequently recalls the time the Chief and himself would pitch quoits together, in which the former took great pleasure. He would take off his coat, and would be just as particular in measuring the score, as if weighing evidence in the most important legal case.

Chief Justice Marshall married on 3rd January, 1783, Miss Mary Willis Ambler, the second daughter of Jacquilin Ambler, then Treasurer of Virginia, who was the third son of Mr. Richard Ambler, who migrated from England, and settled in Yorktown, Virginia.

Elizabeth, daughter of Col. Thomas Marshall, intermarried with *Rawleigh* Colston, of "Honeywood," and had issue Edward, Susan, *Mary Isham*, Thomas Marshall, Rawleigh Traverse, Lucy Ann, and John James Marshall.

Edward married for his first wife Miss Jane Marshall; his second, Miss Jane Brockenborough, and had issue by her—Elizabeth, Jane, Mary, Rawleigh, William, Lucy, Judith and Edward.

Susan Colston married B. Watkins Leigh, and had issue William, who married Miss Mary White Colston, and Mary Susan, who married Conway Robinson. Lucy Ann and John died single. Thomas Marshall Colston married Miss Elizabeth Fisher, and had issue Rawleigh, Nancy and Elizabeth.

Rawleigh Traverse Colston, son of Rawleigh, married Mrs. Kellerman, the widow of the Duke Valmey, one of

Napoleon's Marshals, but had no children—although one was claimed by Mrs. Colton as the issue of their marriage. He was named Rawleigh Edward, and was for several years an inmate of Edward Colston's house at Honeywood. His supposed mother on her death-bed made known to her husband the fraud she had practiced on him—Rawleigh Edward Colston, as he was named, being some one else's child, and and not hers. He became a State cadet at the Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, by the influence of Edward Colston, and was a General in the Confederate States service. In 1873 he attached himself to the Egyptian service with other American officers.

Mary Isham Colston married *John Hanson Thomas*, October 5, 1809, and had issue Philip Hanson, born September 10th, 1810, died November 11th, 1821; Rawleigh Colston, born 12th August, 1812, died June 16th, 1826; Charles Edward, born 23d September, 1813, being the only child who reached manhood. His name was subsequently changed by an Act of the Legislature to that of his father, *John Hanson Thomas*.

John Hanson Thomas, the son of Philip, was a most talented man, and a most eloquent speaker. On one occasion he was opposed to Mr. Pinkney in a political contest or debate, which took place at a meeting by appointment. Of course every one flocked to hear the great Pinkney, and he spoke first, and was followed by John Hanson Thomas, who so completely discomfited Mr. Pinkney, that he left the meeting, although challenged to stand and make his defence. He eagerly sought his horse, and failed to keep the remaining appointments.

John Hanson Thomas held several positions of trust and honor, among them Chairman of the Committee of Defence 1812-14. Was a member of the State Legislature. He was

the person selected by the Federalists of Maryland, who were in the ascendancy, to be elected to the United States Senate, but dying before the time, Alexander Contee Hanson, his cousin, was elected. He died May 2d, 1815, being exactly one week after the death of his father, from whom he contracted the same disease, whilst faithfully attending him during his sickness. They are both buried in Frederick. (For epitaph, see page .)

John Hanson Thomas, son of John Hanson Thomas, was born in Frederick, Maryland, and raised in Virginia. He came to Baltimore 23d September, 1834, his 21st birthday, and entered Dr. Alexander's office, where he remained a few months and attended lectures that winter, and was appointed one of the resident students of the Baltimore Infirmary, graduating in March, 1836, but practiced medicine but a short time.

He was married by the Rev. Dr. Maguire on the 15th November, 1837, to Miss Annie Campbell Gordon, daughter of Bazil, and Anna Campbell Gordon, of Falmouth, Virginia, and had issue Basil Gordon, born April 14, 1839; John Hanson, September 21, 1841; Raleigh Colston, October 8, 1844; Douglas Hamilton, January 1, 1847; Nannie Gordon, May 20, 1849; Mary Randolph, October 10, 1851, and John Marshall, December 5, 1853.

Dr. John Hanson Thomas has been identified with the interests of the City of Baltimore since his removal thereto. He was a member of the City Council, State Legislature, and President of the Farmers' and Merchants' Bank for 34 years, besides filling other positions of trust and honor, including directorship in Insurance Companies, and President of the Academy of Music.

During the war 1861-64, when a member of the Legislature, he with ten others were arrested on 12th September,

1861, and confined in various United States Forts for six months.

John Hanson Thomas, Junior, married Miss Mary Howard Beirne, daughter of Hon. George P. Beirne, of Huntsville, Alabama. His wife died October 7, 1867, leaving a son—Howard Beirne Thomas, born 26th September, 1867.

Raleigh Colston Thomas married Miss Mary McDonald, daughter of William McDonald of "Guilford," Baltimore County, November 25, 1868, and has issue Mary McDonald, born January 30, 1872; Raleigh Colston, born 5th August, 1875.

Douglas Hamilton Thomas was married by the Rev. Drs. Milo Mahan and Dudley, January 25th, 1870, to Miss Alice Lee, daughter of Dr. John and Catharine C. Whitridge, of Baltimore, and has issue Douglas Hamilton, born 5th March, 1872.

Mary Randolph married John N. Carroll, of the "Caves," Baltimore County, April 21st, 1870, and has issue John Nicholas, born 4th March, 1871, and Charles, born July 17th, 1872.

Mrs. John Hanson Thomas' family, (on the Paternal side Gordon,) were from Scotland.

The first of whom we have Ancestral Record is *Samuel* Gordon, who was born in 1656. He married Margaret McKinnell, they lived at "Stockerton," in the Parish of Kirkcudbright, Scotland; he was the first of the name on Stockerton farm, where he died 15th of April, 1732, aged 76. His circumstances were comfortable as a respectable farmer, but nothing is positively known as to his parentage, only, that in some way he was related to the families of Lord Kenmuir, and the Gordons of Greenlaw, and was visited by both families, especially by Sir Alexander and Lady Gordon of Greenlaw.

John Gordon, son of Samuel, married Miss Grace Newall; he died August 23d, 1738, aged 56 years.

Samuel Gordon, the first of Lochdougan, son of John, married Miss Nicholas Brown, daughter of John Brown of Craigen Callie, and Margaret McClamrock of Craigen Bay, and was the last person baptized by Rev. James Renwick, who was beheaded at the Cross of Edinburgh. Mrs. Nicholas Brown Gordon was from the Carsluth family, her grandfather and Uncle were ministers in the Parish of Kirkina-brook.

Samuel Gordon and his wife Nicholas Brown Gordon of "Lochdougan," had a large family, many of whom were born at "Stockerton," before their removal to "Lochdougan." One daughter married Mr. Herron of Kegton, and died, leaving one son John; the other daughter married John Bell of Gribdae, and died June 3d, 1826, at the age of 77. Samuel Gordon died February 22d, 1799, and his wife November 18th, 1795, aged 71 years. Their oldest son, John, married Miss Brown, and at his father's death inherited the two "Lochdougans."

Three younger sons: Samuel, *Bazil* and Alexander, migrated to Virginia, where they engaged in mercantile business. Alexander afterward returned to Scotland, and died in the year 1819.

Samuel Gordon married Miss Susannah Knox.

Bazil Gordon married her sister, Miss *Annie Campbell Knox*, and had issue: Douglas Hamilton, Bazil Brown, *Annie Campbell*, Susan, and others, who died young.

The family of Mrs. *John Hanson Thomas*, (on the Maternal side Knox,) were from Scotland; the first of whom that came to this country, were *William Knox*, (Gentleman) Robert and John; their mother's name was Janet Somerville; father's name not remembered. Annie Knox, sister of the

Immigrants, married Mr. Campbell and lived and died in Scotland.

John Knox lived a batchelor at "Orchard Fields," Stafford County, Virginia, where he was murdered by his slaves, whom he had promised to set free by his will, some 150 in number, and which not being made at the time of his death, they were inherited by his brother William.

Robert Knox settled in Maryland, where he married and had issue, but all traces of them are lost.

The Knoxes owned large landed property in Virginia, consisting of, "Windsor Lodge," Culpepper County, "Berry Hill," Stafford County, "Orchard Fields," Stafford County, "Bellmont," same County, (where most of the old members of the family are buried,) "Smiths Mount," and "Vancluse," in Westmoreland County.

William Knox, of "Windsor Lodge," in 1766, married Miss Susannah, only daughter of Thomas Fitzhugh, Sr., (Gentleman) of "Boscobel," Stafford County; her mother's name was Sarah Stuart, of King George County, a descendant of the Royal Stuarts. It is a rather remarkable fact that the Knoxes of Virginia, who were of the same Clan as John Knox, the Reformer, should become allied by marriage, and mingle their blood with the Mary Stuart, whom he so bitterly detested.

William and Susannah Knox had issue: Dr. Thomas Fitzhugh, Susannah Fitzhugh, Agnes, *Annie Campbell*, Jessie, Sarah Stuart, Caroline, William A., and John Somerville Knox.

Dr. Thomas Fitzhugh Knox married Miss Mary Reiley, daughter of James Reiley of Winchester, by Miss McBryde of Delaware; they had issue: Henry Knox, Ann Somerville, Thomas Fitzhugh, William Henry and James McBryde.

Susannah Knox married Samuel Gordon of "Kenmuir,"

and died 10th July, 1869, aged 94: they had issue: William Knox, Samuel, Alexander, John, Bazil and Wellington, Mary, wife of Dr. John H. Wallace of Fredericksburg, Agnes, wife of C. Hughes Armstead of Baltimore, and Susan, widow of Mr. Ryan of Baltimore.

Agnes Knox married Samuel Gordon, nephew of Samuel and Bazil Gordon: they lived at the old family place, "Lochdougan," for some time, but afterwards settled near Falmouth, Virginia: they had issue: John, Samuel, William, Bazil and Marian, who married Edmund Taylor of Caroline County, Virginia: Bazil was a very celebrated Engineer and built the High Bridge, near Farmville, Virginia. He was afterwards killed in St. Louis, Mo., by two deserters from the United States fort; their object being money, large sums of which he had been collecting for several weeks, and which he had sent away the night before his murder: the murderers were afterwards hanged.

Annie Campbell Knox married *Bazil Gordon*, of Falmouth, Virginia, and had issue as already stated.

Jessie Knox married William Edward Voss, and lived in Rappahannock County, Virginia: they had issue: William, Robert, Benjamin Franklin, and Susan, who married Mr. Richard Norris, of Baltimore.

Sarah Stuart Knox and Caroline both died unmarried.

William A. Knox married Miss Sarah Alexander, and had issue: Agnes Gordon, William, Henry, Mary Eliza, Jessie, Bolivar, and Annie Bell Knox. Agnes Gordon married Mr. James T. Soutter: who by right of birth was heir of the Marquisate and Earldom of Annandale, of Scotland, who, although frequently pressed by lawyers from Temple Bar, to apply for his rights, steadfastly refused.

John Somerville Knox married Miss Elizabeth Selden, and had issue: Churchill, Annie, John, Janet, and Robert.

Douglas Hamilton Gordon, son of Bazil and Annie Campbell Gordon, married Miss Mary Ellen Clarke, daughter of Colin Clarke, of Gloucester, Virginia; had issue: Ellen D. Gordon.

His second wife was Miss Ann Eliza, daughter of J. Hampden Pleasants of Richmond; have issue, now living: Bazil, Douglas H., Mary, Annie Campbell, and Rose Stanly Gordon.

Bazil Brown Gordon married Miss Elizabeth Bolling Skipwith, daughter of Henry Skipwith, April 24th, 1840; had issue: Bazil F., born February 10th, 1841, and Henry Skipwith, born October 25th, 1844. Bazil B. Gordon died October 9th, 1846, and his son Bazil F., March 9th, 1866.

Henry Skipwith Gordon married Miss Mary T. Wheeler, of Washington; and had issue: Bazil, born October 5th, 1866, and Henry Skipwith, born August 25th, 1868. Henry Skipwith Gordon was married January 9th, 1866.

The following account of the Thomas family, was written by Dr. Philip Thomas, in a Family Bible, which is in the possession of Mr. L. Levering, of St. Louis:

Dr. Phillip Thomas and Miss Jane Contee Hanson were married February 18th, 1773, at Fredericktown, Maryland, by the Rev. Mr. Daniel McKennon, of the Protestant Episcopal Church; they being members of that Church, and so were the parents of each. They had the following children: a female child, born August, 1773, four months premature; James Thomas, born August, 1774, two months premature; was baptized, and died three hours after his birth; Catharine Hanson Thomas, born October 15th, 1775, eleven o'clock at night; Rebecca Bellicum Thomas, born February

8th, 1777; John Hanson Thomas, born May 16th, 1779; a male child, still born January, 1780, five months premature.

Mrs. Jane Contee Thomas, born in February 1747, in Charles County, Maryland, departed this life the 17th June, 1781, aged 34 years, 5 months.

Dr. Philip Thomas, born near Chestertown, Kent County, on 11th June, 1747; his father, James, and his mother, Elizabeth Thomas, (her maiden name Bellicum,) were natives. His father was born in Kent County, Maryland, and his mother in Cecil or New Castle County. His grand-father was an Englishman named Thomas, born in Wales or West England; he and his brother, the latter of whom had no children, were among the first settlers in Kent County; they came over in the reign of Queen Ann, and were both possessed of landed property. One of them said to be a Whig, the other a Tory, but lived in fraternal affection and friendship, and the property of him, (a Colonel of militia,) who died without children, descended by his will, to two of his nephews, brothers of Philip Thomas' father.

Philip Thomas' grand-father, Bellicum, was from Holland; one of the first settlers on the Delaware, and must have been wealthy, leaving a number of children, all of whom possessed landed property in County of New Castle, then in the Pennsylvania Government. Philip Thomas' mother and one of her brothers, Christopher Bellicum, held landed property in Kent County, Maryland.

Philip Thomas' grand-father, Thomas, whose name was James, (his brother's name Samuel,) was twice married; his first wife, an English lady, came in with him, his second wife, grandmother of Philip Thomas, was named Hacket, a respectable family of English descent.

Mrs. Jane Contee Thomas' grandsires on the father's and mother's side, were Englishmen, possessed valuable real

property, and were among the first settlers in Prince George and Charles Counties, Maryland. Her father, John Hanson, was a member of the provincial and State legislatures, more than twenty-five years, and was a member of Congress three years, the last of which he was President, 1782.

The name of Mrs. Thomas' grand-father on the mother's side, was Alexander Contee, although an Englishman himself; his ancestry were from France, (they being Protestants,) went over in the life of Lewis 14th.

The whole of Philip Thomas' and Jane Contee Thomas' families, as far as he or she had any information, were Protestant Episcopalians, and so they continue, trusting there is no other religious profession better calculated in practice to insure happiness here and hereafter, ever yet given to man.

Philip Thomas had a brother and two sisters (and three half-brothers whose name was Farrell,) his mother having been twice married; his full brothers and sisters all died single. His brother, whose education was equal to any young man's in that part of the country, (who, after reading the Latin and Greek classics, learned the Hebrew language, and studied mathematics,) died at the age of 19 years, being closely engaged in the study of Physic one year. His genius and manners were such as to give his family and very numerous friends the most flattering hopes of his succeeding in his laudable pursuits, to their utmost wishes. His name was William. His memory the more revered, from the great similitude of genius, morals and manners, which appear in his nephew, John Hanson Thomas, to the great comfort and delight of the father of the latter. The uncommon distress suffered by his father, who was possessed of an uncommon strong mind, at the loss of his son, upon whose education he had bestowed great care, at a heavy expense, it was supposed, shortened his own life, which happened not long afterwards.

The two sisters named, were Sarah and Rebecca, beloved and amiable, both dying in the bloom of life, unmarried.

Mrs. Thomas had some brothers and sisters most of whom died very young. She had a sister named Catherine Contee, who married Philip Alexander, of Virginia, who practiced law, and possessed that valuable property called Alexander's Island, above Alexandria. Mrs. Alexander died without issue.

Mrs. Thomas' eldest brother, Alexander Contee Hanson, studied law, after serving in the army, as one of General Washington's Secretaries, from which ill health obliged him to retire. He served as one of the Judges of the General Court of Maryland, and afterwards as Chancellor, which office he held at the time of his decease. Her second brother, Dr. Samuel Hanson, who studied under Philip Thomas, died after serving one campaign as Surgeon of General Washington's Guards, and was at the battle of Monmouth. Her third and youngest brother, Peter Contee Hanson, at the age of 19, served as 1st Lieutenant in Captain Thos. Beall's Company, in Rawlin's Battalion of Riflemen; General Otho H. Williams, then Major, which distinguished itself so gloriously, though unfortunately, at Fort Washington, where Lieutenant Hanson, bravely fighting, was shot through the lungs, and after languishing in a cold out-house, a prisoner, expired a few days afterwards.

Mr. John Farrell, half-brother to Dr. Philip Thomas, died at Fredericktown, on Wednesday, 18th November, 2 o'clock, P. M., 1812, age about 81 years, having lost his wife and five children, all he had. He had lived with Philip Thomas the last twenty-five years of his life.

I commenced the practice of Physic and Surgery, in Fredericktown, on 1st August, 1769; after studying four years under Dr. Thomas Vandyke, whose talent and virtues were

of sterling worth, and whose instruction and knowledge, with kindness to me, are remembered with grateful respect.

I also attended the professional lectures, and the hospital, and a bettering house in Philadelphia, under Professors Bond, Shippen and Morgan, from whom I obtained certificates too flattering approbatory, to induce me to stay the next season, long enough to obtain a formal deploma, as the small patrimony left me by my father required economy. At the same time while attending the medical, I attended Dr. Smith's Lectures on Natural and Experimental Philosophy, and matriculated in the College.

Signed, PHILIP THOMAS.

Christmas Day, 1812.

The following account of the Colston family and its branches was written by Rawleigh Colston, of Honeywood, in the Family Bible, which is now in the possession of his son, Rawleigh Traverse Colston of Virginia :

As my children may desire to receive some information respecting their ancestors since their emigration to Virginia, I will here give them such as I received when I was a young man, about the year 1768 or 69:—

I resided in the County of Richmond, near an aged relation, the lady of Colonel John Smith; her maiden name was Colston. She informed me, that the first of that name and family who emigrated to this Country, was William, who had been bred to the profession of the law, and was the Clerk of Rappahannock County—which I believe comprehended the Counties now called Essex and Middlesex, on the south side of the river, and those of Richmond, Lancaster, and Northumberland on the north side.

I have seen some of the record books of his office, which impressed me with an opinion, that he was well versed in his profession. This gentleman, Mrs. Smith informed me, was the brother of Edward Colston, of the City of Bristol, in Old England, who devoted a large fortune to charities, such as building and endowing Alms-Houses, Hospitals, and Charity-Schools; two of which for the maintenance and education of forty youths of both sexes, were established in Bristol, the place of his nativity.

The scholars of this Institution are always dressed in blue clothes, from whence it took the name, "Blue Coat School," or "Hospital." They wear a silver medal, engraved with his Arms. (One of which is in the possession of Douglas H. Thomas, who obtained it in Bristol, through the kindness of his sister; who was there in 1873, and had the pleasure of viewing the various charities mentioned.)

I have seen in this Country several highly respectable gentlemen who were indebted for their maintenance and education, to this Institution; which has, no doubt, contributed to the happiness of thousands, who have been snatched from poverty, ignorance and vice. He was born 1636, I think in the month of November, died on his birthday in 1721. His remains are deposited in "All Saints Church," in Bristol, where a sermon is annually preached in honor of his memory, accompanied by the solemn sound of muffled bells. Mention is made of him in a work entitled, "A Tour through England," and in the "Biographical Dictionary."

Mrs. Smith showed me a Copper plate picture of this gentleman, elegantly framed, to which was annexed his character, and his various charities, printed in letters of gold—to show the respect in which he was held in his native city.

To return to William Colston, the first immigrant, and Clerk of Rappahannock. Mrs. Smith informed me, he had

a son named William, and, as well as I can recollect, some daughters. This last named William, had two sons, William and Charles; and, I believe, some daughters. William was the father of Mrs. Smith, and Charles was my grand-father. Charles intermarried with Mrs. Susan Traverse, daughter of Samuel Traverse, (or William,) and Winefred his wife, who, I believe, emigrated from England. The issue of this marriage was: Traverse, my father, and Susanna, who married a gentleman by the name of Eustice, and died without issue.

Traverse, my father, married for his first wife, Miss Alice Corbin Griffin, the daughter of Colonel Thomas Griffin, of Richmond County, by whom he had issue: Charles, and Elizabeth Griffin. Charles intermarried with Miss Ann Fauntleroy, the daughter of Griffin Fauntleroy, of Cherry Point, in Northumberland County, by whom he had issue: Judith Susan, and Alice Griffin.

Judith married William Grayham, by whom she had a son named Charles, who died under age, and four daughters: Nancy, Fannie, Alice and Sally.

Alice Griffin Colston married Richard Beall, by whom she had several children; one of whom married Mr. Peyton of London.

Elizabeth Griffin Colston, sister of Charles, and my half-sister, intermarried with Colonel William Peachy of Richmond County, by whom she had issue: Susanna, the wife of Mr. John Nicholson, Merchant of Baltimore, by whom she had several children; William Traverse, the father of Elizabeth Griffin, now living in my family; Susan, William and Thomas, living with Mrs. Nicholson.

Traverse, my father, married a second wife, whose maiden name was Susanna Opie, then the widow of a Mr. Kenner, and the mother of Colonel Rodham Kenner, of Kennerly, Northumberland County, and one of the best of men. By this lady my father had the following children:

Traverse, who died under age; William, Rawleigh, and Samuel, who was a Captain in the Revolutionary War, and died unmarried; Willian intermarried with Miss Lucy Carter, the daughter of Colonel Landon Carter, of Sabine Hall, in the County of Richmond; by whom he had issue: William Traverse, who had several children, and now resides in the County of Frederick; Elizabeth, who married a Dr. Hall, now living in the town of Falmouth; and Susanna, who married Mr. Turner.

Rawleigh Colston intermarried with Miss Elizabeth Marshall, the daughter of Colonel Thomas Marshall, who resided in Fauquier County, but removed to Kentucky. By her he had the following children: Edward, named after Edward Colston, of Bristol, whose memory I highly respect for his many charitable works; Mary Isham, the wife of John Hanson Thomas, of Fredericktown, Maryland; Susanna, Thomas Marshall, Rawleigh Traverse, Lucy Ann, and John James Marshall Colston.

The family of Colston, (on the Maternal side,) written by the same as above.

The first emigrants from England were Samuel *or* William Traverse, and Winefred, his wife, who had issue: William Samuel and Rawleigh; and, I believe, four daughters: Susannah, my grand-mother; one married a Mr. Beall; one married a Mr. Tarpley; and one married Daniel Hornby, of Hornby's Manor, in the County of Richmond, who having no issue or relatives in this Country, bequeathed his estate to William and Rawleigh Colston; but the law of entail being abolished in the Revolution, it descended, in fee, to the family of William.

I believe William Traverse, the son, was Speaker of the House of Burgesses, and settled in Jamestown. There is still a family there of that name, and I suppose his posterity. Samuel and Rawleigh, I believe, died without issue.

I am inclined to think, that William Colston, the first immigrant, was born about the year 1618, and came to this Country about 1640, and was Clerk of Rappahannock about 1645 ; that William, his son, was born about 1665 ; that William and Charles, his sons, about 1688 and 1690 ; Traverse, the son of Charles, about 1712 ; Charles, the son of Traverse, my half-brother, about the year 1736, and myself, on the 10th May, 1749.

My father, I suppose, died about the year 1752. His will, as well as that of his father, I believe, are recorded in the County of Northumberland. I think it probable that my grand-father, Traverse, was born about the year 1665 ; my grand-mother, about the year 1690 ; at what period they emigrated, I know not. I find from the records in the Land Office, that a grant was issued to Samuel Traverse for land in Northumberland County in 1690. I think it probable my grand-father, William *or* Samuel, (I am not certain as to the Christian name,) came to this Country between 1685 and 1690. If this conjecture be correct, the family of Colston has been in this Country about 170 to 172 years ; that of Traverse, from 127 to 132 years.

Signed, RAWLEIGH COLSTON.

Honeywood, March 24th, 1812.

Incidents in the life of Rawleigh Colston, of Honeywood, as related by him :

Supposing it will be agreeable to my children, to be made acquainted with some few particulars of my life, I have thought proper to state as follows:—

I was born on 10th May, 1749, at "Exeter Lodge," the seat of my father, on Yocomico river, in the County of Northumberland, in Virginia. Nature bestowed on me a sound and vigorous constitution, which was strengthened by the active pursuits of my youth. Perhaps few persons ever had a more early recollection of events: I think I can venture to affirm, that I still retain a pretty perfect recollection of certain circumstances which took place before I was two years old, which I ascertain in this way: my father had issue by my mother four sons, in the following order: Traverse, William, Rawleigh and Samuel. From the register of our births, it appears there were about two years between our births. My mother died in child-birth, with Samuel, consequently I was not more than two years old at my mother's death. I well recollect travelling in a carriage with my father and mother, and that she wore stone or paste shoe-buckles. I also recollect my fathers purchasing some Dutch toys for our amusement. He presented William with a coach and horses, and myself with a trumpet and drum. The coach was attached to a cat, which was turned loose in a spacious passage for our amusement, but making its escape, and attempting to pass through the grating of a cellar window, demolished the coach. The drum and trumpet, which I remember stained my lips with yellow and red paint, were now transferred to William. Shortly after this my mother died, and the family was removed from "Exeter Lodge," to "Hornby Manor," on Rappahannock river, an estate which had been bequeathed by our good old Uncle, Daniel Hornby, to William and myself: Samuel not being born at the time of the bequest. After our removal to the estate, I recol-

lect a variety of circumstances not worth relating, but which are strongly impressed on my mind at this moment.

My father died at "Hornby's Manor," I think in 1752 or 53; if so, I was not more than 3 or 4 years old when he died. I perfectly well recollect seeing my father's corpse; that I was in pelly-coats, or what was called a Bangan, made of Scotch tartan plaid. I recollect my father frequently rode me out before him on a pillow, and made the servant who attended me, carry his gun to shoot squirrels and crows, the scalps of which were paid in discharge of taxes, as I have understood. After the death of my father, William and myself were sent to live with Charles Beall, Esquire, one of the guardians appointed by my father, in conjunction with Major Traverse Tarpley.

A Scotch gentleman, by the name of Richardson, was employed as our tutor. He was a most excellent man, and one of the Missionaries of the Scotch Society for propagating the Gospel in America, he distributed a great number of religious books among the poor, and instructed their children on Holy Days. This good man taught me to read and write, and carried me as far as Eutropius in Latin. He made me read the Scriptures, and catechised me through the principal parts. He was very attentive to my moral conduct, and impressed me with a religious sentiment, which I have never forgotten. I am thoroughly convinced, from experience and observation, through a pretty long life, that parents cannot commence too early, with the religious and moral education of their children.

At the age of fourteen I was considered a pretty good Latin Scholar for my age and opportunities. My guardian, Major Traverse Tarpley, now put me an apprentice to his brother, James, who was a member of an extensive business house in the City of Williamsburg, under the firm of Tarp-

ley, Thompson & Co., the principal partners of which resided in Bristol, Old England. Here I remained between two and three years, acquiring but little knowledge in the line of my business.

My principal friends were the students of William and Mary College, most of whom were, at the time, much more celebrated for their vices than their literary acquirements. I frequently fell into the dissipated habits of my companions; I read none, my mind was a blank, and no enquiry was made into my conduct by my guardian.

The concern of Tarpley, Thompson & Co., being dissolved by the death of Tarpley, I now returned to my guardian, residing in Richmond County. He was very indulgent, and I was provided with a good horse, and went and came, when and where I pleased. After pursuing this idle dissipated life for twelve or eighteen months, I became perfectly disgusted with an idle life, and determined to apply myself.

There was a gentleman in the neighborhood, who married a relative of mine. He was a man of sense and I boarded myself with him. After pretty close reading for twelve or fifteen months, I determined upon the study of Law. For this purpose I returned to Williamsburg, and placed myself under the patronage of George Wythe, Esquire, to whom I was introduced and recommended by the Honorable John Tayloe, and Prisby Thornton, the juvenile friends of my father.

I studied with great attention for three years, and having obtained a license, I commenced practice in Richmond and Northumberland Counties, but having to contend with three or four old practitioners, I got but little business—the fees were too small to engage an active mind, so I became disgusted with practice in a short time. An opportunity was afforded me of quitting the practice without reproach—the

Revolution commenced, and the Courts were shut up. With a view to meeting the event, I sold my patrimonial estate, and intended to enter the army, but having sold on credit, considerable portion of my property was lost by depreciation.

The dispute between Great Britain and the Colonies having been fully discussed, the minds of all men were prepared to refer it to the "Ultima ratio regnum." The young men formed themselves into Independent Companies, were well armed, uniformed, and pretty well diciplined, at their own expense. The Immortal Washington was the avowed Patron of the one to which I appertained. It was expected that those young men, who had been most prominent in preparation, would fill the first appointments in the Army.

Being appointed by the Committee of Safety to proceed to Philadelphia, for the purchase of military accoutrements, I was absent the early part of the time, when Officers were named for the six new regiments, and although on the list of candidates for Lieutenant Colonel, my opponents, who were present, obtained a preference. Determined not to remain an idle spectator, I received the appointment of Commercial Agent for the purpose of collecting military stores, from abroad, and for this purpose, settled at Cape Francois, in St. Domingo, and was connected with a house in Curocoa, where I sometimes resided. I returned to my native country in June, 1784, after having acquired an easy fortune. From that period until October, 1785, I resided in the City of Richmond, where I married and returned to the County of Frederick, and became a farmer. In 1801 I removed to the county of Berkeley, and established myself at "Honeywood," on the banks of the Potomac.

Signed, RAWLEIGH COLSTON.

George Lynn Lachlan Davis, Esq., was employed by my father to search out the early history of the Hansons and Contees, from the wills in the custody of the Register of Anne Arundel County, with the following result :

BALTIMORE BAR LIBRARY,

December 27th, 1865.

DR. JOHN HANSON THOMAS, Baltimore.

My dear sir:—At a season distinguished for cordial congratulations, and the most friendly sentiments of regard, when also many of us cherish with more than usual interest everything which relates to the memory of our forefathers, you will allow me to offer you this little memorial of your ancestry, on the side of the early Hansons and Contees, embodying the result of researches many years ago, with some additions made during a recent investigation at Annapolis in regard to another subject.

The provincial history of many families can now be barely traced through the medium only of their early land titles, and most of the succeeding facts relating to the honorable family of Hanson, are derived from the old Rent Rolls of the Land Office, and from the tracts named in the wills, which were once preserved among the records of the Prerogative Court of the Province, but are now kept by the Register of Wills for Anne Arundel County.

I have carefully examined all the wills in the Register's office, over the signature of Hanson, without reference to any particular family, from 1750 up to the year 1634; and it may interest you to know that the earliest ancestor of whom there is any trace, the grand-father of the President of the Continental Congress, bore the honored name of John. In his Will, which is dated the 12th day of December, 1713, (old style) he is styled "a planter" of Charles County. Your

ancestor, Alexander Contee, was one of the witnesses to the paper. It would seem that the Testator of 1713 had seven children: Robert, John, Samuel, Benjamin, Mary, Ann and Sarah. It would also appear that he had provided for most of them before the date of his Will. He also mentions his son-in-law, the Rev. Wm. Maconchie, the husband of Mary, and his grandson, Samuel Hanson.

He bequeaths a large number of feather-beds, an article of luxury at that period. His home plantation is given to his son Robert, who was probably his oldest son. It was either adjacent to "Betty's Delight," or it included that tract. The latter is described in Rent Rolls of Charles County, as beginning "at a bounded oak, standing on the west side of Port Tobacco Creek, near the main road." This plantation, including "Betty's Delight," was devised by his son Robert to Robert, the grandson to John Hanson, testator of 1713; who had also in 1746 a great grandson named Robert. (See Will of John Hanson, 1713, Lib. U. W. B., No. 5, p. 719. Robert Hanson, 1746, Lib. D. D., No. 4, p. 412.)

The Will of Samuel Hanson, whom I take to be the son of the preceding John, and father to the President of the Continental Congress, is dated (see Lib. D. D., No. 1, p. 296,) in the year 1740. In 1734, O. S., (see Lib. T. D., p. 271,) he, or another person of the same name, was the Commissary for Charles County, an officer held at that period in much esteem. In 1739, (see Lib. D. D., No. 1, p. 348,) he was undoubtedly clerk of that County, an officer of the highest consideration.

A mourning ring was bequeathed to him during that year by Alexander Contee, witness to the Will of the preceding John Hanson, and one of your ancestors also, on the side of your great grand-mother Hanson. (See the last named Liber.) One of the witnesses to the Will of Samuel Hanson, was the

Rev. Theophilus Swift. The testator of 1740 names his sons, Walter, probably the oldest, and for whom it seems he had elsewhere provided, John and William, who seems to have been the youngest, his daughters Elizabeth, wife of Benjamin Douglas, Charity, Jane, and Chloe, and his wife Elizabeth. To his son Samuel he gives a "Part of Green's Inheritance," and a "Part of the addition to Hereford" to his son John; "Hereford," and the remaining part of "The Addition," to his wife Elizabeth; a life estate in the home plantation, with the fee simple to his son William: at all events, an estate in remainder. He also gives his wife a life-estate in his water mill. The home estate of this ancestor was called "Littleworth," and was adjacent to one of his other tracts called "Wilkenson's Throne," given also to his wife for the period of her own life; the latter having been re-surveyed (see Rent Rolls of Charles County,) in 1734 for Samuel Hanson and Eleanor Wilkenson.

About the period of Samuel Hanson's death, his son Walter was the Commissary for Charles County; Walter is also mentioned in terms of great respect by Uncle Robert, the testator 1746, who calls him his "nephew Walter Hanson."

John Hanson, the son of the testator, 1740, probably his second son, and at that period, if I may judge from your own family Record, about twenty-five years of age, was undoubtedly the same person as the subsequent President of Continental Congress, and your great grand-father on your grand-mother Thomas' side; but it is not my design to state the degrees of relationship, or sketch the lives of eminent representatives of the family during his generation—and of still later periods—including the Judge of a State Court, a Chancellor of Maryland, a member of the United States Senate, and your own honored father, in my poor judgment, the most gifted of them all.

I have simply attempted to throw some little light upon the history of your earliest ancestors, who were Colonists in the Province of Maryland.

Of the supposed descent on the side of the Contees from a Prince of France, I say nothing whatever, as I am not acquainted with the genealogical Archives of that country. But certain it is, that the early Contees of Maryland were of a highly honorable origin.

The Will of Alexander Contee, the father of your great grand-mother Hanson, is dated in 1739 and proved in 1741. At the period of its date he was the Clerk of Prince George's County. The Will is a very interesting document. (See Lib. D. D., No. 1, p. 347.) It is also remarkable for the beauty of its style, and for the strongly marked individuality of the testator. A very large quantity of silver plate is bequeathed, including a "silver punch bowl." Mention is also made of a vineyard. The testator disposes also of a very extensive real and personal estate, including "negroes," and many pounds sterling; mentions John, Peter, Jane, and several other of his children. Devises to Jane, his daughter, a tract in Baltimore County, called "Buck's Range;" bequeathes mourning rings of one guinea's value, and with the inscription, "Remember A. Contee," to Daniel Dulany, a great lawyer, Edmund Jennings, another eminent lawyer of the Provincial Bar, Philip Key, ancestor of the late Francis Scott Key, and other intimate friends; desires to be buried according to the service of the English Church, and gives a guinea respectively to the Rector of St. Paul's, in Prince George's, and Port Tobacco Parish, in Charles County, with the request of them to preach a funeral sermon on "*Ye folly and Danger of ye Death-bed Repentance.*"

It seems from the Will of the Honorable Colonel John Contee, a member of the Council of State, and who was

closely connected with the family of Governor Seymour, as well as with the Honorable Philip Lynes, that Alexander Contee was the nephew of the Councillor, and the son of Peter Contee, of Barnstable, Devonshire, England. (See will of the Hon. Col. John Contee, and the accompanying deposition in Lib. I. C. W. B., No. 2, 1706 to 1709.) Alexander, your lineal ancestor, was at the date of his uncle's death, about seventeen years of age. The Will of the uncle throws so much light upon the state of Society at that period, and is so interesting in other respects, that I will venture to add the following memoranda: If we compare the fortunes of that period with those of the present, we must infer that he was extremely wealthy. He disposes of vast bodies of land, and many rather small ones; but for nothing is the Will more remarkable than for the tender affection which it breathes for his relations and friends. He devises lands in Maryland to his brother Peter Contee, of Barnstable, the father of Alexander, and to his mother, Mrs. Grace Contee, the grand-mother of Alexander. He gives twenty thousand pounds of tobacco in cask, then a part of the currency of the Province, for the use of the ministry. To his dear and loving Mother, Mrs. Grace Contee, he bequeathes fifty pounds sterling for the purchase of mourning, and mourning rings for his relations and friends in England. And he gives valuable property to his three step-sons, called sons-in-law at that period, but the children of Mrs. Charity Coates, who probably died before his arrival in the Province.

He devises also to Mary, his last wife, several tracts of land in Maryland, and to his dear and loving wife, he gives a large number of negroes, and all that portion of his estate not otherwise disposed of: such as money in England, tobacco shipped in any ship or ships, sent or to be sent, or now in ships, for any person or persons, also debts due to

him in England, Maryland, Virginia and elsewhere, with plate and other household goods ; and also English servants, a term generally applied to redemptioners, while African servants were invariably known under the simple appellation of negroes, there being indeed at that period in our Provincial history, comparatively but little African slavery in Maryland.

On the 3rd of August, 1708, the testator was helped out of the bed by Doct. Jackson, the Hon. Philip Lynes, Mr. John Rogers, and Madam Contee, and about three-quarters of an hour afterwards he cried out, "my heart strings are broke," and died suddenly upon the seat, in the arms of Doct. Jackson, and of his cousin, the Hon. Philip Lynes, who had drawn up the Will but a few days previous. The will had also been approved by the testator, but unfortunately was left without the signature, and upon two occasions it would appear the question of validity was submitted to the Legislature. (See Bacon's laws of Maryland, 1708, ch. 13, and 1725, ch. 21.)

The will of the Honorable Philip Lynes is recorded in Lib. J. C. W. B., No. 2, 1706 to 1709. In it he says: "I give to Madame Seymour, (Madam Jane Seymour, the daughter I presume of the Governor,) Mrs. Mary Contee, my brother Capt. Thomas Seymour, and my friend William Bladen, each ten pounds sterling to buy rings and mourning." In several parts of the will he calls Mrs. Mary Contee his cousin.

The will of Governor John Seymour is dated 6th August, 1709, and recorded in the same Liber. Judging from tradition, and especially from two anecdotes never yet published, but long since reduced to writing, and now in my possession, he was the most haughty of all the early and late Governors of Maryland. "I give and bequeathe," says he, "unto my dear

cousin, Mrs. Mary Contee, twenty guineas to buy her a ring."

I have also some extracts sent many years ago to me from the Parish Records of Barnstable, from which it appears that Peter Contee, the father of Alexander, was a surgeon, that the mother of Alexander was named Catharine, and that Alexander was baptized "ye 22nd day of April, 1693."

I have no doubt the ancestry of Peter Contee could now be easily traced through the medium of the English Records, as the greatest difficulty in writing out a pedigree usually consists in discovering the connecting links between the old and the new world, and that point has already been attained in the case of the Contees.

The following memorandum I made from an abstract of the Will of Alexander Contee, the Testator of 1739, and the father of Dr. John Hanson Thomas' great grand-mother Hanson.

The testator gives his son John several negroes, a feather-bed, bolsters, pillows, quilts, blankets, sheets, a suit of curtains and valance with head-cloth and testor, &c. Also his silver punch bowl, coroner, and large spoon, &c.

To his son Peter, various negroes, his three silver casters, and eighty pounds sterling, &c.

To his son Thomas, one of his casters, silver hafted knives and forks, and silver spoons.

To his son Alexander, one case of silver hafted knives and forks, and silver spoons, with eighty pound sterling, &c.

To his daughter Catharine, his silver candlesticks and snuffers, &c.

To his son John, all his books of whatever sort soever.

To many of his friends, rings of one guinea's value each, with the inscription, "Remember A. Contee."

To his daughter Grace, his two silver salvers, a feather-bed, &c.

I regret the impossibility, during Christmas week, of binding up this naked manuscript, and must therefore beg you to accept it in its present condition, in the hope, however, that you will allow me, upon future occasion, the privilege of binding it in some neat and substantial manner, but somewhat after the style of the antique.

With the kindest compliments of the season, and my best wishes, at all times, for your happiness,

I beg to remain, my dear Sir, Your friend and Serv't,

GEORGE LYNN LACHLAN DAVIS.

The following obituary notices of Dr. Philip Thomas and John Hanson Thomas appeared in the "*Federal Republican*," May 10th, 1815, on which occasion the paper was issued in mourning. It is supposed the first Obituary was written by Alexander Contee Hanson, Editor.

A more distressing duty could not devolve upon us, than recording the death of *John Hanson Thomas*, who died at Frederick Town, Md., of the prevailing epidemic, on Tuesday, the 2nd of May, in the 36th year of his age.

We are humbled by a sense of our incompetency to do justice to his fair fame and exalted worth. Had the deceased left his equal among his friends behind him, there would have been a master pen to delineate the peculiar qualities of his mind, and describe the various virtues that adorned his public and private character. To this faculty, and a general knowledge of mankind, derived from study, re-

flection, and personal observation, is to be ascribed his happy selection of friends. In making them the repository of his wishes and opinions, he knew how far each was to be trusted. Among the host of admirers and friends which a bright career of usefulness and dazzling success had drawn around him, few, very few, were found to deceive him. It is given to none to know with certainty who may not be impelled by ambition, jealousy or envy to abandon and betray a friend.

Though reserved and austere in his appearance to men generally, among his particular friends his unaffected simplicity, playfulness and pleasantry were delightful, and were the genuine effusion of good humor and generous feelings. Without the slightest tincture of malignity, there was a spice of caustic sarcasm in his criticism, which gave a zest to his familiar conversations so exquisite that opportunities were sought to renew the gratification which few were permitted to enjoy. Indeed, there was a rivalry among his friends to engage and appropriate him exclusively to themselves. Such was the ascendancy he acquired over the minds of his associates, and the fast hold he had taken of their hearts, that his will and opinion expressed their wishes. He ruled through the affections, and when reasons were demanded, he led the judgment captive. None distrusted, while all who knew confided in him. It arose from a perfect knowledge that he was disinterested and unambitious. He was for his country and his friends, never for himself. His heart always in his hand, was so well known that his raillery, though it wounded, never offended. But the social gaiety and evenness of temper, contributed so much to endear his conversation, was not combined with one frivolous or superficial quality. He was gentle in his nature, but the firmness of his mind and the steadiness of his resolutions were not weakened by the mildness of his disposition. In all his prin-

ciples and doctrines, whether political, moral or religious, he was fixed and immovable. In each vicissitude, in every change of circumstance,

“He stood an iron pillar strong
And steadfast as a wall of brass.”

He was brought to his conclusions by sober inquiry and deep reflection, and therefore clove to his resolution with a steadiness and perseverance which opposition could not shake.

The cause and circumstances of the death of so beloved and interesting an individual as Mr. Thomas deserve some notice. The dreadful malady which exacted the last debt of nature so prematurely, was contracted by the unwearied assiduity of his attentions to a dear and most exalted father, who died the week preceding. During his sickness, though constantly tortured with the most excruciating pain, he uttered not one repining word, but expressed an entire resignation in the will of Heaven. He shed not a tear, nor discovered the least agitation or sign of sorrow by his conversation, though surrounded by friends and relatives whose feelings were not to be commanded, and constantly attended by a loving and affectionate wife, agonized with grief and bearing in her womb another pledge of conjugal affection. He once expressed a wish to live another day to arrange his worldly concerns, in which he was gratified, and expired a little before the day closed. He once said, while the chief object of his earthly love was weeping by his side, “Don’t do so; you put me on the rack, and make us both act as if we were ignorant of our duties.” Appearing to be restless, a near relative inquired of him, “if his mind was uneasy.” He replied quickly, “No; I am happy, but what must be the condition of the unhappy? Which course do you mean to take?”

Shortly afterwards he was asked whether he wanted anything. He answered in tones of tenderness, "I want my father." He then said he was *going*, being almost strangled by the mucus, which secreted too fast to be thrown off. The friend who held his hand, burst into tears and said, "You carry with you, Thomas, the hearts and happiness of your friends, and are followed by the tears and regrets of all your acquaintances."

Among his last words there was not given but an expression of his confidence in the promises of God in the most tender and earnest manner. He gave to two of his friends the advice to be expected from true piety and Christian benevolence. He also exhorted a little niece to devote her life to good works and the active promotion of virtue and the well being of her fellow creatures. Indeed, on the day of his death, after he had made his will, and felt also a perfect conviction he had made his peace with his Maker, his conduct and conversation discovered the unmixed goodness of his heart and the real greatness of his mind.

The circumstances attending the death of a great and good man, are so interesting and instructive, that they authorize still more minuteness, if it did not exceed the limits of an obituary notice. We have already been thus particular in recording parts of his conversation, because no death can have made a deeper, more lively, and, we hope, more lasting impression upon those who witnessed it. It was truly a scene of sorrow and affliction, and by drinking of the spirit of the deceased, may those who mourn his loss, improve the awful providence of his sudden removal. For in him was displayed, in his dying moments, that genuine Christian humility which flows from a sense of the love of God, reconciled to man in his beloved Son Jesus, whose wounds for his transgressions, and bruises for his iniquities, purchased his redemption.

We cannot omit to mention that our brother, who has thus died in the lively hope of "an inheritance incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away," but a few short days before he threw off "this mortal coil" to appear before his God in the milk-white robe of immortality, was engaged by the side of a dying father in performing the last sad office of a minister of the Gospel, attending the sick. Delay in the arrival of the minister sent for to administer the sacrament to his father, occasioned uneasiness, lest his intellect should fail him, and it would be too late to partake with him of the Lord's Holy Supper. The son, and victim of filial piety, fell upon his knees by his father's bed-side, and in his own peculiar style of eloquence and religious fervency of zeal, poured out his soul in prayer, wringing the bosoms of all around him, and soothing for a time the bodily anguish of an expiring parent. A sudden flash of paternal love and admiration, for a moment, lighted up the dying countenance by kindling anew the recollection of an offspring's virtues and talents, that promised so much usefulness, but the father sunk into the arms of death, and the son was marked for the same destiny.

A biographer may do public justice to the public character of Mr. Thomas which will not now be attempted. In an age so eventful, his loss to his Country, and particularly to his native State, his friends will in vain attempt to estimate. They will always remember with admiration and gratitude, the able, distinguished, and intrepid part he acted in stemming the torrent of pernicious theory and a false philosophy. A magnanimous and Christian charity would hope that the fear, rancor, and hatred of his political adversaries and faithless friends have gone with him to the tomb. Even party rancor and detraction, ever eager to devour the living, disdains to decry the dead. It was so with our be-

loved Hamilton, and may the same remorse of conscience be felt for the deceased.

“ Redeem'd from earth and pain,
 Oh, when shall we ascend,
 And all in Jesus' presence reign
 With our translated friend.”

[*From Fredericktown Herald.*]

Departed this life on Tuesday last, in the 68th year of his age, Doctor Philip Thomas.

The various worthy and distinguished merits of this venerable and revered character, it cannot be expected, will be portrayed in an obituary notice. He was a native of Kent County, but removed to this place very early in life. Ardentlly attached to liberty and his country, he took a decided and active part in our revolutionary struggle, and was often elected by his fellow-citizens to represent them in the public councils. He was appointed by the great and good Washington to an office under the general government, which he held for a number of years, and shortly after the establishment of the Medical Society of Maryland, he was chosen its President, in which situation he continued until his death. These several trusts he discharged with the most strict fidelity and integrity.

As a physician, no man was more highly and deservedly esteemed for his skill. No man was ever more beloved for his affectionate tenderness and unwearied attention to the sick. As a member of society, those who have been most intimately acquainted with his principles and motives of action, can attest their purity and correctness.

As a man, and in all the relative duties of life, he was

a bright model of excellence, a kind neighbor, a warm steadfast and immovable friend, an indulgent master, a most affectionate parent, and in all his dealings sternly and undeviatingly just. In him the poor had always a friend, the oppressed found a protector, and friendless merit, a patron and defender.

As a christian, his conviction of the truth was the result of careful and candid examination, and was deep and rivetted. Fully persuaded that man was fallen, his nature corrupt, and that but for the salvation purchased for us by the merits and sufferings of a crucified redeemer, and the divine aid graciously afforded to the believing penitent in working out his salvation, his doom must have been eternal misery.

His faith in all the distinguishing doctrines of the gospel was lively and sincere; his hopes were founded on its promises, and his entire trust for salvation and happiness was in the mercy of God through the merits of Christ Jesus.

He was, as his ancestors for ages had been, and as he has often been heard to express his hopes, that his posterity might remain to be members of the Protestant Episcopal Church, warmly attached to its doctrines, its government, its pure and evangelical services. He deeply lamented the many difficulties and disadvantages with which the religious denomination of which he was a member, had to struggle in this nation generally, and more especially in the place of his residence; and after witnessing with joy, and it is fondly hoped with gratitude to the Author of all good, the success of many efforts for its revival, it was the happiness of his declining years to have contributed in no small degree, towards the erection and completion of a convenient and elegant building in which its worship may be performed, and the ordinance of our holy religion administered. But although he gave a decided preference to his own church,

and anxiously wished others to agree with him, yet he never presumed to dictate to any, but desired to live, and did live in peace and charity with all denominations of Christians.

While he was very young he was deprived of his father, and to the more than parental care of a kind and affectionate brother, he was indebted for his education and the means of his future usefulness.

In the pursuit of his studies, and in qualifying himself for the exercise of his profession, he was obliged to exhaust the small patrimony which he received. Without friends, and in very delicate health, he left his native county, and with it the few valuable friends which remained to him, to settle among strangers. Of the kindness with which he was received and treated by many of them, it was his delight always to speak. His professional merit soon procured him an extensive practice, and although his constitution frequently appeared to be entirely broken, and his friends often feared that they would soon be deprived of him, yet, by a life of most rigid temperance and self-denial and care, he was enabled to persevere in the practice of his profession, and at the advanced age of sixty-six, was in the enjoyment of better health, than in early life. It has now pleased Almighty God to take him from us—to remove him from this world of affliction and trouble—to rest from his labors.

But few around him have had more of the blessings and comforts of this life; but few have partaken in a greater degree of its bitterest sufferings; but few have been more grateful for the blessings which a gracious providence has been pleased to confer, or have submitted with a more pious and humble resignation to the severest chastisements. It will be the comfort and delight of his afflicted friends to remember, and it will be their duty to imitate his shining virtues. The

separation, though painful, is but for a time. "In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye," those who followed the remains of the deceased, may, like him, be a lifeless corpse. And the voice of the preacher was a warning from Heaven, even to the most young and healthful, and sounded in their ears the awful words, "*Be ye also ready.*"

The remains of the deceased were, on Thursday evening, conveyed from his late dwelling to the new Episcopal Church, where the services of the Church were performed, and a very eloquent and most appropriate discourse was delivered by the Rev. Mr. Wyatt, of Baltimore. Afterwards the corpse was carried to the burying-ground, belonging to the congregation, attended by an unusually large concourse of friends and citizens.

[*From Fredericktown Herald.*]

In our last paper the melancholy duty devolved upon us of recording the death of the late Dr. Philip Thomas. Death has again levelled his destructive shaft, and made a still wider breach in the circle of our society. It now becomes our mournful duty to notice the death of John Hanson Thomas, Esq., who departed this life on Tuesday, the 2d instant, in the 35th year of his age.

Born in this town, and educated under the direction of his late most excellent father, his memory will ever be dear to those who have had the best opportunity of marking the progress of his virtues from his infancy, and to them his loss can never be supplied. In him nature seemed to have united the rarest qualities. A strong discriminating mind, improved by an excellent education, and deep reflection, eminently qualified him for the pursuits of political life. The over-weaning influence, however, of pernicious opinions in

this, his native county, for a long time confined him to the walks of private life, and thus perhaps conferred an involuntary favor upon him, by giving him leisure for the improvement of his mind, until that period of life, when maturity of judgment, becoming united to the activity of youth, renders the politician doubly useful. Modest and unassuming in truth, he sought not of choice the paths of ambition, but when the wild career of theory jeopardized the best interests of his country, by the embargo, the earnest solicitations of his friends urged him forward to stem the torrent.

Firm and decisive in his character, the stand he made was manly, nay noble. The fondest anticipations of his friends were surpassed, and his political adversaries cowered beneath his superior talents. The course which he pursued, in the Legislature of this State, is well known, and the State-papers which have proceeded from his pen, are the best documents of the clearness, strength and precision of his mind. The ineffectual efforts which have been made to exclude him from the Legislature of this State, whilst it speaks his worth and the dread entertained of his talents, also prove the influence which eloquence, talents and virtue, gave him over the minds of the people. On him all eyes were fixed: on him the destiny of his party seemed to hang. The influence he acquired in Maryland has never been equalled by so young a man. The confidence of all seemed centred upon him, because all knew him virtuous, and all believed him unambitious. His influence was rapidly extending^d over the State, and such were the qualities of his heart, that few instances occur, of a friend once made, forsaking him. Had the Federal preponderance continued in this State, he would, the next session of the Legislature, most probably have

been placed in the Senate of the United States, a station upon which his brilliant talents would have reflected lustre, but the ruthless hand of death has taken him from us, and where, oh ! where shall we supply his loss ?

Removed from this career of splendid usefulness, however, it is not for public virtues, great as they were, for which we chiefly lament him. He has left a chasm in society which cannot be filled. A tender and affectionate son, he attended his father's death-bed with unwearied assiduity, and when an unfortunate delay prevented the arrival of a clergyman, for whom they had sent, fearing that his father might not preserve his faculties unclouded, dropping upon his knees by his bedside, he poured out his soul in prayer to Heaven over his beloved parent in a strain of eloquence, which far surpassed anything which those present had ever conceived of his highest powers. Here he contracted the same disease, in which there was the most striking coincidence. They were siezed on the same day of the week, the symptoms were the same throughout the whole course of the disease, and at last death put a period to their sufferings on the same day of the week, and within ten minutes of the same hour of the day. The death of his father was a severe blow to him, but religion fortified his mind, and with a consolation only known to the sincerely pious, he would have been resigned because it was the will of God. Accustomed to reflect deeply upon every subject, it was impossible that one so important as religion should have escaped him. His opinions on this subject were deeply rooted, and amounted not to what is usually called a deep sense of religion, and consists generally in nothing more than a respect for the opinions of mankind, or a belief in Christianity, founded upon authority of a superficial enquiry, but, having read much, and reflected more, we can with truth say, his was a deep-

rooted, heart-felt sentiment of piety. Educated by his father in the Protestant Episcopal Church, nothing tempted him from his attention to public worship, or his devotion to his God. These feelings diffused themselves throughout his conduct and tempered all his actions. Hence flowed charity for all whom he believed honestly to differ from him in every opinion, indignation at vice, and an ardent zeal in the discharge of his duties. As a husband and a father, the delicate tenderness of his affection, and his quick perception of the wishes and inclinations of those he most loved, rendered him dear, oh, inexpressibly dear, to his family. The mildness of his manners and disposition, united as it was with firmness and decision, nay, intrepidity of character, endeared him to most who knew him. The warmth of his affections drew from his friends unbounded confidence and real love, while such was his intuitive knowledge of men that seldom was he deceived into a misplaced confidence. Rare, indeed, is it to find so much modesty and diffidence united with so much talent as he possessed; but in familiar intercourse of his friends, when the course of conversation *compelled* him to speak of himself, and to give any credit whatever to himself, often have we seen the blush of modesty suffuse his cheek, and hurrying over the subject, betray in manhood the modesty of youth. Upon his well-balanced soul the love of praise excited only to duty, and preserved him in the paths of virtue, whilst the court and compliments universally paid him, could never excite vanity to his unassuming mind. Sprightliness and delicate wit pre-eminently distinguished his conversation with his more intimate friends, but his unassuming manners and character always retreated from particular observation, and to the superficial observer, who marked not the rapid changes of his expressive countenance, or the vivid flashes of his eye, he always made the

impression of a man either over-rated, of whose mind ranged not beyond the sphere of politics, whilst those who knew him, always considered the reputation he possessed far below his real worth. It was in the last moments of his life, however—in the last trying scene—when mortality is about to pay its last debt to immortality; when man, about to resign all his earthly prospects, depends only upon that treasure which he had laid up in Heaven; that his afflicted friends find consolation, nay, cause of triumph.

His sufferings, from the very commencement of his illness until a few hours before his death, were indeed great; but borne with uncommon fortitude, and in full reliance upon the mercy of his God, purchased by the blood of our Saviour, he was devoutly resigned to the will of Providence. At different times he spoke of his worldly affairs, and gave the necessary directions concerning them with the composure of a man, “joyful to live, yet not afraid to die.”

Soon after he became sensible of his illness, he expressed an earnest wish to receive the blessed sacrament of the Lord's Supper, of which he had often before partaken, and for that purpose desired a clergyman of the Protestant Episcopal Church should be sent for. When the opportunity was afforded to him, and to his friends around him, he evidenced great joy and thankfulness, and his conversation at the time, though much interrupted by the severity of his sufferings, was full of instruction and comfort. He was frequent and most fervent in prayer, and his dying moments evinced the efficacy of that faith which in his early youth he is known to have embraced, and which at no period of his life was shaken.

The loss of such a man and at such an eventful time may well be expected to produce a general grief. In the midst of our afflictions, however, we must not forget that this sad

event was the dispensation of Him whose goodness and wisdom and mercy, infinite as his power, and to whose will it is our duty to resign our own.

The Father of all mercies has taken him from us; let us bow with reverential submission to his will. The days of our deceased friend have been numbered, and he is gone to receive the reward of his good deeds. Let us sorrow, but not as one without hope. It is the joy and delight of the pious Christian to remember that those separations, painful as they may be, are but for a short time; that the severest afflictions with which a righteous God is pleased to visit, will, if used rightly, conduce to our everlasting salvation, and that when it shall please our heavenly Father, to remove us from this world of sin and suffering, we may again enjoy the blessed society of our deceased friends, without those weaknesses and fears and sorrows which in this life disturb our greatest pleasure.

On Thursday morning his remains were conveyed to the burying-ground of the Protestant Episcopal Church of this place.

Dr. Philip Thomas and his son John Hanson Thomas are buried in the New Episcopal Burying Grounds at Frederick, Maryland. The following epitaphs appear on their tombs:

SOUTH SIDE.

Sacred to the memory of Dr. Philip Thomas, who died the 23th April, 1815, aged 67.

EAST SIDE.

Tenderly affectionate as a Husband and Father, sincere and ardent as a friend, a devoted patriot of '76. Great and

humane as a physician, just and honorable in all his transactions—such was the character of the lamented deceased.

NORTH SIDE.

For more than forty-five years he was laborious and zealous in his profession.

WEST SIDE.

A Father and friend to the sick; his humanity knew not the distinction between rich and poor. He lived in communion with the P. E. Church, of which he was a zealous supporter, and relied for salvation upon the merits of Jesus Christ.

EAST SIDE.

Here lie the mortal remains of John Hanson Thomas, who died on the 2nd of May, 1815, in the 35th year of his age, of a disease contracted from an anxious attendance at the death-bed of his father, who died only six days before him, pouring forth blessings with his latest breath on his beloved son.

NORTH SIDE.

Sincere, ardent and constant in all his affections, which embraced every relation of life, of the mildest manners and purest morals. Generous, just, firm and diligent in the exercise of virtue, he fulfilled all the duties incumbent on man in a private station.

WEST SIDE.

He also bore a conspicuous part in public affairs, carrying to the public service a vigorous and cultivated mind, a

steady, yet temperate zeal, industry guided by prudence and great energy of character and conduct, supported by integrity, chastened by modesty and softened by charity.

SOUTH SIDE.

In life and in death firm in Christian faith, he rested his hopes of eternal life on the merits of the Redeemer and the mercy of God.

This frail monument of her husbands virtues, and of her own devoted love, is placed by his bereaved widow Mary Isham Thomas.

The following is a certificate of membership of the Gild of Glasgow in favor of John Hanson; upon the back is a tree with a fish inverted, with the motto: "Let Glasgow flourish." It is executed upon parchment—

At Glasgow the first day of April Seventeen hundred and fourty Eight years. The which Day In Presence of the Right Honourable John Murdoch Esqr. Lord Provost of the said City George Murdoch. Colin Dunlop and James Clark Baillies thereof John Brown Dean of Gild, and sundry of the Gild Council of said City Mr. John Hanson merch. in Maryland Virginia Is admitted and Received Burgess and Gild Brother of the said City and the whole Liberties Privileges and Immunities belonging to an Burgess and Gild Brother thereof are granted to Him in most ample Form Who gives his Oath of Fidelity as Use is Extracted furth of the Gild Books of the said City By

Jno. McGilchrist Dpt. Clk.

The following is from a letter of Chief Justice Marshall upon the loss of his wife:

December 25th, 1832.

This day of joy and festivity to the whole Christian world is, to my sad heart, the anniversary of the keenest affliction which humanity can sustain. While all around is gladness, my mind dwells on the silent tomb, and cherishes the remembrance of the beloved object it contains.

On the 25th of December, 1831, it was the will of Heaven to take to itself the companion who had sweetened the choicest part of my life, had rendered to it a pleasure, had partaken of all my feelings, and was enthroned in the inmost recess of my heart. Never can I cease to feel the loss and to deplore it. Grief for her is too sacred ever to be profaned on this day which shall be, during my existence, devoted to her memory.

On the 3rd of January, 1783, I was united by the holiest bonds to the woman I adored. From the hour of our union to that of our separation, I never ceased to thank Heaven for this its best gift. Not a moment passed in which I did not consider her a blessing from which the chief happiness of my life was derived. This never dying sentiment, originating in love, was cherished by a long and close observation of as amiable and estimable qualities as ever adorned the female bosom.

To a person which, in youth, was very attractive in manners, uncommonly pleasing, she added a fine understanding, and the sweetest temper which can accompany a just and modest sense of what was due to herself.

I saw her first the winter she attained the age of fourteen, and was greatly pleased with her. Girls then came into company much earlier than at present. As my attention, though without any avowed purpose, nor so open or direct as to alarm, soon became ardent and assiduous, her heart received an impression which could never be effaced. Hav-

ing felt no prior attachment, she became, at sixteen, a most devoted wife. All my faults, and they were many, could never weaken this sentiment. It formed a part of her existence.

Her judgment was so sound and so safe, that I have often relied upon it in situations of some perplexity. I do not recollect ever to have regretted the adoption of her opinion. I have sometimes regretted its rejection. From native timidity, she was opposed to everything adventurous; yet few females possessed more firmness. That timidity so influenced her manners that I could rarely prevail on her to display in company the talents I knew her to possess. They were reserved for her husband and her select friends. Though serious as well as quiet in her deportment, she possessed a good deal of chaste, delicate and playful wit, and, if she permitted herself to indulge this talent, told her little story with grace, and could mimic very successfully the peculiarities of the person who was its subject. She had a fine taste for belle-lettre reading, which was judiciously applied in the selection of pieces she admired. This quality, by improving her talents for conversation, contributed not inconsiderably to make her a most desirable and agreeable companion. It beguiled many of those winter evenings, during which her protracted ill health and her feeble nervous system, confined us entirely to each other. I can never cease to look back on them without deep interest and regret. Time has not diminished, and will not diminish this interest or this regret.

In all the relations of life, she was a model which those to whom it was given, cannot imitate too closely. As the wife, the mother, the mistress of a family, and the friend, her life furnished an example to those who could observe it intimately, which will not be forgotten.

She felt deeply the distress of others, and indulged the feeling liberally on objects she believed to be meritorious. She was educated with a profound reverence for religion, which she preserved to her last moment. This sentiment among her earliest and deepest impressions, gave a color to her whole life. Hers was the religion taught by the Saviour of man : cheerful, mild, benevolent, serious, humane, intent on self-improvement, and on the improvement of those who looked to her for precept or example. She was a firm believer in the faith inculcated by the Church in which she was bred, but her soft and gentle temper was incapable of adopting the gloomy and austere dogmas which some of its professors have sought to engraft on it.

I have lost her, and with her I have lost the solace of my life ; yet she remains still the companion of my retired hours—still occupies my inmost bosom.

When alone and unemployed, my mind unceasingly recurs to her. More than a thousand times since the 25th of December, 1831, have I repeated to myself the beautiful lines written by General Burgoyne, under a similar affliction, substituting Mary for Anna :

Encompassed in an angel's frame
 An angel's virtues lay ;
 Too soon did Heaven assert its claim,
 And take its own away.
 My Mary's worth, my Mary's charms,
 Can nevermore return.
 What now shall fill these widowed arms ?
 Ah me ; my Mary's urn ;
 Ah me ; ah me ; my Mary's urn.

Letter from Daniel Webster to John Hanson Thomas :

WASHINGTON, December 31st, 1814.

Dear Sir:—

I know you will pardon the liberty I take in addressing you, when I tell you my purpose is to congratulate you on the overthrow of the plan of Conscription, which has been brought forward in Congress. Feeling as if we had received in this event, a renewal of the lease of our liberties, and a prolongation of the old partnership of the United States, I wish to thank all those whose labors have contributed to these desirable ends, and among them I count the Federalists in your Legislature, and yourself particularly as the mover of their measures.

Whatever had been, or could have been said in Congress in opposition to their divers plans of compulsory service, was not likely to produce the necessary effect. It was public opinion that destroyed the measure. The Bill had been passed in the House of Representatives and sent back to the Senate with amendments, to which the Senate objected, and returned the Bill to the House. The House would not depart from their amendments, and sent the Bill again to the Senate. The thing was thus thrown about from House to House, by votes to insist, and votes to adhere, till, finally, being before the Senate on Wednesday, Mr. King moved its postponement beyond the fourth of March, which was carried by a majority of one vote.

It is understood that there had been for several days a determination of the Party not to pass the Bill, and that the only difficulty was to agree which House should strangle a brat which both had taken so much pains to nurse. You may rely upon it, here is an end of all conscription for the present. Some hot heads may be inclined to bring forward new projects of a similar sort, but a majority will not venture upon them.

All that has been learned of public opinion from one end of the country to the other, has been warm and decided against these measures. It is time that party attachment had stifled this sentiment in some degree and in some places, but really and truly there seems to have been but one opinion among the people. The proceedings of your House of Delegates were calculated to produce as much effect as any thing from without does. It was easy to accuse New England of a disposition towards schism and disunion, and to ascribe her opposition to measures to that temper. Your situation made it impossible to impute your votes to such designs.

We are at present busy with the Bank. It will probably pass very much in the shape in which Mr. Dallas originally recommended it. This is not quite certain, but is probable. Our friend Hanson is expected from Baltimore to-morrow.

I am, sir, with great respect, your obedient servant,

DAN'L WEBSTER.

Letter from Mrs. D. P. Madison, franked by President James Madison, to Mrs. John Hanson Thomas:

Long after its date, dear Mrs. Thomas, I had the pleasure to receive your charming note, containing an emblem of constancy, which I have carefully put away with other valuables. I must tell you, however, that this magic flower was not necessary to remind us of one whom we so truly admire and whose visit, with her son, to Montpelier, is a bright gleam in our retrospections.

I regret that Mrs. Grymes did not send it before she left our neighborhood, or inform me she had met you in Baltimore, in order that I might have made inquiries after you, your estimable mother and your sister, and have learnt from

her whether you had left that place, or where I should address you. Being now at a loss, I shall commit this to our friend, Doct. Dunglison.

My dear Husband is better, after several spells of illness during the winter and spring. He is not yet well enough to ride out, but my hopes of his recovery revive, even with this small amendment in the state of his health.

Will you accept from him, and from me, our united and affectionate salutations?

May 1st, 1835.

D. P. MADISON.

Letter from Governor Levin Winder to John Hanson Thomas, Chairman of Committee of Defence.

IN COUNCIL, January 3d, 1813.

SIR :—We had the honor to receive your letter of the 20th of December, requesting “a communication of any views which may have occurred to the Executive, applicable to the objects before the Committee,” of which you are Chairman.

We have already observed to the Legislature that this State, with the limited resources which it possesses, is unequal to any extensive system of defence. At the last session of the General Assembly, it was found necessary to authorize the Treasurer to borrow a considerable sum of money. The greater part of this is now expended, and further sums can only be had by taxation or loan. With respect to the former mode of raising money, the taxes recently laid by the General Government will at this date be found peculiarly burthensome and oppressive, and when all trade is destroyed, and, as necessary consequences, the products of their labour are reduced in price, and the necessities of life enormously high, it would seem almost impossible for the people of Maryland to bear any additional burthens.

The money wanted for the defence of the State, we apprehend, therefore can be obtained only by loan. It is difficult to determine to what extent we can calculate upon this resource. A great part of that already negotiated is payable in a short time, and to preserve the credit of the State it is essential that some judicious system should be adopted, and ample funds pledged to secure the punctual payment of the interest, as well as the discharge of the principal, when due.

Immediately after the Resolve of the Legislature, authorizing the borrowing of \$450,000 was passed, the Treasurer was directed to inquire of the several Banks of Baltimore, and the Farmer's Bank of Maryland, upon what terms and to what amount they could loan the State. The whole amount offered was only \$425,000, of which the State borrowed \$300,000. A greater sum might be probably obtained at this time from these institutions, and from private individuals.

Adequate protection can be afforded only by the General Government, and when immense sums are to be drawn from the pockets of our own Citizens, a hope may be indulged that a portion of it at least will be employed in the defence of our shores.

It will be for the wisdom of the General Assembly to decide in what manner the claim of the State to protection from the General Government shall be made. We must be permitted to remark, that to give to our citizens any assurances of the ability of the State, without the aid of the National authority, to afford them adequate protection, would be to practice a cruel deception upon them.

The State itself, so far as it may be compelled to engage in its own defence, must rely principally upon the Militia, and, therefore, every attention should be paid to the laws for its government. In addition to this, we must suggest

the propriety, if found necessary, of authorizing a small number of troops to be raised at the expense, and for the defence of the State. The advantage of having disciplined soldiers to co-operate with the Militia, when embodied, must be obvious. The expense, too, of that description of force would be much less than that incurred by calling out the same number of Militia.

We have already recommended the encouragement of mounted volunteers. As there are in the State more corps of cavalry than can be employed, it would be proper to authorize the Executive to accept of their tender of service as mounted Infantry.

It will be necessary also to procure a sufficient number of tents, and other articles necessary for the accomodation of the Militia when in service. The State at present is miserably supplied in these articles, and from the want of them during the past season those of our fellow-citizens who have been upon tours of duty, have suffered greatly.

We have the honour to be your obedient servant,

LEV. WINDER.

To John Hanson Thomas, Esq., Chairman of the Committee on the defenceless and unprotected situation in which the State has been left by the General Government, &c., &c.

Letter from Alexander Contee Hanson to John Hanson Thomas, relative to the re-publication of the "*Federal Republican*" in Baltimore:

ROCKVILLE, MD., July 14, (1812.)

My dear Friend:—

* * * * *

My plans are at length arranged, and will be ready for execution on Monday week, but must be kept profoundly

secret. On Monday week the *Federal Republican* re-appears at Baltimore and Georgetown at the same time. A brave and trusty friend, of Baltimore, now with me, is to fortify a three-story brick house, surrounded with a brick wall, fifteen feet high, and it is to be garrisoned by a party from Montgomery, to be joined by twenty chosen fellows in Baltimore. We will live there a week, all things being prepared for our support, and comfortable entertainment, during which we will put the civil authority and the Washington Society upon their legs again, or we will win laurels from the mob. We all went out to Anderson's last evening, and finally settled our plans of operations. He at once said he was already pledged to go with me, and "was not only willing, but anxious." Lingan also declared himself ready, the evening before last. Now this is to beg of you to convey information to Colonel Lynn, to whom I am solemnly pledged to give notice in time for him to join us; Rockville is to be the rallying point, and we all assemble Saturday evening in time to set out Sunday morning. Glory will crown our enterprise, and if we only kill as many of the mob, as they destroyed type, we shall certainly leave the Federalists of Baltimore in the majority. As soon as we arrive in Baltimore, and get into our Castle, a note will be dispatched to the Mayor, informing him of our arrival, of the street and number from which the paper will be issued, and of my determination to defend the house at every extremity. It will be the proudest moment of my life, when I take possession of the house, and each man has his place assigned him. When I see you, all our plans will be unfolded, meantime apprize Lynn and be close. I have pledged myself to the Baltimore party, to be up on the day appointed, if only ten men join me. The standard being once erected in Baltimore, there will be no difficulty in getting men, they will flock to it, when they see

us able and determined to defend ourselves. The main point will be, to keep out of our garrison, men who will come there to preach moderation, and damp our ardor. As I shall take care of the house and shall place it under the direction of Langan, the discipline and formality of a garrison shall be observed.

I am impatient for the hour to arrive; what a triumph we shall gain over the Democrats; what an example we shall set the Federalists; what will Madison and his minions think when they hear that Hanson is issuing his paper from a fortified and regularly garrisoned house? My bosom is a very furnace.

Yours ever faithfully and affectionately,

A. C. HANSON.

Letter from John Hanson Thomas, to his wife, relative to to the mob and massacre in Baltimore, July 28th, 1812.

Thursday Evening, (July 30th, 1812.)

* * * * *

I have fearful tidings to communicate from Baltimore—yesterday was a day of dreadful intelligence to us. In the morning we heard, and the account was confirmed by two of the party who arrived at Frederick, that Alexander Hanson and his friends, to the number of twenty-two, after having repelled and killed several of the mob, who made an attack on the house on Monday, when the paper was issued, were induced by the treachery of the civil authorities and the weak advise of General Lee, contrary to Hanson's solemn exhortation and prophetic resolution to surrender themselves prisoners; and were marched to the Jail under the most solemn assurances of the Mayor and General Stricker;

that they should be protected, and that in violation of this sacred pledge, they were left without a guard, and all brutally sacrificed, with the exception of only five, who escaped.

In the evening my sister and Mary Hanson came in the stage and brought intelligence, that several of those whom the mob believed they had murdered, notwithstanding the most brutal, savage cruelty, exercised on their bodies, were still alive; that the poor, noble, gallant Hanson, was among the number who might live, and that Dr. Alexander was bringing him up in a hack. At sunset a party of us left town and came to Dr. Warfield's. At 3 o'clock in the morning we found three of our friends, who had been brought up here, in the most horrid condition, and that Hanson was fifteen miles below, at Judge Ridgely's.

We had found Mrs. Hanson at the Poplar Springs, in a state of wretched uncertainty, but while we were with her a messenger arrived from Judge Ridgely's, with news from her husband, desiring her to meet him at Dr. Warfield's to-day. We pushed on, collected a military party at Dr. Warfield's, and proceeded this morning to Judge Ridgely's, from whence we brought poor Hanson and a mangled friend up to the Doctor's, about an hour ago, where we met his family and four other associates lying here in the most horrible and shocking condition, but they are in the most benevolent quarters, and I pray to God may survive.

I have not time for particulars, and had intended to go to Frederick to-night, and go on to Honeywood tomorrow, apprehending that intelligence might reach you, which might occasion alarm, but being in a perfectly safe and comfortable place, and not having slept any last night, my friends insist upon it that I ought to take rest, and one of them has undertaken to send this letter to-night, for the boys to carry up to-morrow. I have consented reluctantly to stay, though

I believe if you could direct me, you would insist upon my not venturing out to-night, to endure further fatigue.

General Lingan has died of his wounds—he was most inhumanly butchered. This moment a letter from Baltimore states that General Lee, who was supposed desperate, may possibly survive; all of them were brutally, most brutally mangled, in a manner that would not be thought credible in this Country, and which, when I come to relate to you the particulars, as I hope to do in a few days, you will agree with me, perhaps, that it is worse even, than anything you have read of the revolutionary hell-hounds of France. Had Hanson not been overruled by poor Lee, he would have brought off his whole party completely safe and triumphant; even as it was, when the mob broke into the cell of the prison, such of his friends as escaped, were indebted to his presence of mind and intrepidity in knocking out the light in the mob's hands, and mixing among them. After the ruffians had supposed Hanson entirely dead, they tried the most shocking cruelty upon him to see if he would move; but here again his wondrous extraordinary fortitude and self-possession, in the midst of excruciating torment, saved him, for he neither supplicated, looked, breathed or moved. His escape, and the escape of others, if under the mercy of God it proves to be an escape from death, is miraculous.

I enclose you the paper which was issued on Monday, when in the morning near two hundred new subscribers from the neighboring counties, and a list from Massachusetts of five hundred, I am told, were sent to the office. I am told, I say, for the poor fellow can hardly speak himself.

In this situation, and the wretchedness of his poor wife, I confess I should not know how to leave them this evening. Charles Hanson is here, and the house is crowded with friends. This dreadful account will probably prevent

our Court from sitting long. Frank Key was here to-day, and has gone on in quest of more certain information of Daniel Murray, who is one of the suffering victims.

* * * Yours affectionately,

J. HANSON THOMAS.

The following letter was written by John Hanson, Chairman of the Committee of Safety, Frederick County, and presented to John Hancock, the President of Continental Congress, by Thos. Johnson, one of the Delegates from the State of Maryland.

FREDERICK TOWN, Frederick Co., Md.,

November 24th, 1775.

Sir :—I am directed by the Committee of Public Safety, of this county, to transmit to you copies of the examinations of Allen Cameron, John Smith, and John Connelly, and a letter to one John Gibson, of Fort Dunmore, from Connelly, and Lord Dunmore's speech to "White Eyes" (of the Delaware tribe of Indians,) and proposals by Connelly and General Gage, of Boston, for the raising of an army for the destruction of the Liberties of the Colonies. Any order relative to the prisoners will be strictly observed. The Committee and inhabitants of this county being determined to pursue every measure which the Congress may recommend to them, and necessary for the preservation of these colonies at this time of imminent danger.

I am, sir, with great respect,

JOHN HANSON,

TO THE CONGRESS.

Chairman.

From John Hanson to Dr. Philip Thomas.

PHILADELPHIA, February 28th, 1781.

Dear Doctor:

I congratulate you on the important blow given by Count D'Estaing to the British fleet of the Western Islands—an account of which you have in the inclosed paper—the same intelligence comes by a vessel just arrived here from Havana, and I believe the truth of it may be depended upon. Our affairs to the Southward brighten fast; it is to be hoped a good account will be shortly given of Master Cornwallis, if General Green can avoid coming to a general action for a few days. I think Cornwallis' army must be destroyed. The English ships are blocked up at Portsmouth by a sixty-four and two French frigates. A detachment from the main army of about fifteen hundred men are on the march, commanded by the Marquis de Lafayette, destined for Portsmouth; their route by way of the head of Elk, and from thence by water. It is to be hoped that the State of Maryland will give all the assistance they can in this enterprise; they have some armed vessels at Baltimore and Annapolis, and men surely may be had. This expedition has endeavored to be kept secret, but I believe to no purpose; however, you will be cautious to whom you mention it. I would not choose it should be known you have it from me.

The extravagant price of goods here, especially white broad cloth, made me hesitate for some time whether you would be willing to have them on such terms or not, but as there is no possibility of their being cheaper, and considering the necessity you may conceive yourself under, of having the cloth, I have sent it with the other articles for Jane, an account of which you have below:

2½ yards superfine white broad-cloth,	@ \$1200,	\$3000
½ yard blue kersamers,	- - - - -	300

1	double thick twist,	-	-	-	-	-	56
2¼	yards blue durants, @ \$110,	-	-	-	-	-	247½
1½	“ gauze scotch, @ 60,	-	-	-	-	-	90
1	yard silk gauze,	-	-	-	-	-	120
1	hat, -	-	-	-	-	-	1200
							<hr/> \$5013½

By 30 new dollars @ 75, \$2250.

Yours truly,

JOHN HANSON.

From John Hanson to Dr. Philip Thomas.

PHILADELPHIA, October 2nd, 1780.

Dear Doctor :

* * * * *

The following is an extract of General Gates' letter to General Washington, dated 3rd inst. :

“I had the honor the day before yesterday, to receive your Excellency's letter of date the 8th August, from Orange Town. It gives me infinite satisfaction to find you had baffled Sir Henry Clinton's designs, and was to all appearances in so prosperous a condition. Heaven grant you the greatest honor and success. If I can yet render good service to the United States, it will be necessary it should be seen, that I have the support of Congress and your Excellency ; otherwise some men may think they please my superiors by blaming me, and thus recommend themselves to favor. But you, sir, will be too generous to lend your ear to such men, if such there be, and will show your greatness of soul rather by protecting than slighting the unfortunate. If on the contrary, I am not supported, and countenance is given

to every one who will speak disrespectfully of me, it will be better for Congress to remove me at once from a command, where I shall be unable to render them any good service; this, sir, I submit to your candor and honor, and shall cheerfully await the decision of my superior. With the warmest wishes for your prosperity, and the sincerest sentiments of esteem and regard, I am, &c."

How is the mighty fallen, and the proud humbled; who could have expected such humiliating language from the man who aspired to be placed at the head of our army, and to the man, too, whom he had endeavored to supplant?

The enclosed letters will inform you of the most horrid plot that ever was conceived by the heart of man, and had it succeeded, would have been a most fatal stroke to the liberties of America. The fort at West Point was not only to have been delivered up to the enemy, but our worthy General was also to have been put into their hands. The General that day came to Arnold's quarters, which was at Robinson's house, on the opposite side of the river from the Fort, where he intended to have stayed that night. A number of men who were prepared for the purpose were to have surrounded the house in the night, and carried him off, but thank God, all has been prevented by apprehending the villain Andre, who I hope will shortly be executed.

Though we were led to believe that the great preparations for a large embarkation of troops at New York, was intended to operate against Rhode Island, or to the Southward, it now appears their object was West Point. The French fleet is not arrived yet, and as the season is so far advanced, it is not probable, I think, they will come at all; indeed, I don't see any great good could be expected from them, unless they were to go to the Southward. I never

was very sanguine in my expectations against New York, and it is now too late to attempt the taking of that place.

Yours affectionately,

JOHN HANSON.

From John Hanson to Dr. Philip Thomas.

PHILADELPHIA, October 10th, 1780.

Dear Doctor :

* * * * *

Andre was hanged on Monday last. He made no discoveries. He was asked at the gallows if he had anything to say. His answer was, that he was not afraid to die ; that he was prepared for it, but was concerned at the manner ; he would much rather have been shot ; desired that it might be taken notice that his behavior at his execution was such as became a gentleman and a soldier. He was dressed in a new suit of regimentals with his sword by his side. His friend Smith, it is said, will share the same fate in a few days. Old Franks, of this city, is taken upon suspicion of treasonable practices and imprisoned. His son, one of Arnold's aids, it is said, is gone off.

On the 5th inst., the Commander-in-Chief, by a resolve of Congress, is directed to order a court of inquiry on the conduct of General Gates, and to appoint an officer to take command of the Southern army until such inquiry be made. Some honorable notice will be taken of the Baron de Kalb, who fell so gloriously in the cause of America ; and the thanks of Congress will be returned to Generals Smallwood and Gist, and to the officers and men under their command, for their conduct and bravery in the late action near Camden.

All expectations of the arrival of the French fleet are at an end. Ternay, by erecting fortifications on different parts of Rhode Island, has secured his fleet and the army against any attempts of the enemy : this being the case, and Clinton having failed in his designs against West Point, it is more than probable his next object will be to the southward : the climate is favorable for a winter campaign, and a considerable number of men may be spared from New York without hazarding that place, as no attempt can be made by us on that place with any prospect of success. while the enemy is so far superior at sea.

Please tell Toney to get his horses fat, or I shall be much displeased when I return.

Yours,

JOHN HANSON.

From John Jay (formerly Chief Justice of United States.) to Dr. Philip Thomas.

BEDFORD, WEST CHESTER CO.,

State of New York, 2nd Sept., 1807.

Sir.:—I have received from Mr. Coleman, your letter of the 24th of July, enclosing an oration delivered by your son, at the request of the Washington Society, on the anniversary of our Independence; it should have been answered immediately, but sickness constrained me to postpone writing.

Accept my acknowledgements for the marks of esteem and respect with which you honor me, and for the pleasure with which I have read the oration : it exhibits indications of genius and eloquence, which naturally afford cordial satisfaction to an affectionate parent, and I congratulate you on the prospect of your having similar and repeated gratifications.

With the best wishes that this prospect may be realized, and that you and your son may be blessed with many years and opportunities to promote and enjoy each others happiness, I have the honor to be,

Sir, your most obedient servant,

JOHN JAY.

Obituary of Mrs. Elizabeth Colston. Died at Honeywood, in the County of Berkeley, Va., on Friday the 24th inst., Mrs. Elizabeth Colston, relict of Rawleigh Colston, Esq., in the 86th year of her age. This lady was the eldest sister of the late Chief Justice Marshall, whom she strongly resembled in many respects, particularly in the directness and perfect simplicity of her character. Of uncommon clear and vigorous mind, she used every faculty, not to magnify herself, but humbly to direct her to the proper discharge of every social and moral virtue. As a wife, parent, mistress, relation, neighbor and friend, she attracted the love and esteem of all who approached her. More especially was her Christian character marked and decisive, seeming to strengthen as her physical powers decayed. From the middle of the preceding month, she had been confined to her bed, and suffered much pain. Throughout the whole she was perfectly resigned to the will of God; yet constantly praying, if it were His will, she might be permitted to depart and go hence. It was natural that her devoted family should pray for her recovery, but this she requested them not to do, as her strongest desire was to be with her Lord, in whom she trusted. She retained her self-possession to the last, and although she seldom spoke voluntarily, yet always when addressed, returned direct and appropriate answers. Her surrounding friends, therefore, had from her-

self the comfortable assurance that all her thoughts and all her hopes were placed on Jesus. She was evidently engaged to within a quarter of an hour of her dissolution, in prayer, and passed without a groan or struggle from time into eternity, leaving to those who witnessed it, a beautiful example of the peaceful death of the righteous.

The following is taken from the family Bible of Dr. John Hanson Thomas :

John Hanson, born 1715, died 1783, aged 68.

Mrs. Jane Contee Hanson, died 21st February, 1812, in the 85th year of her age, being 84 in the September preceding.

Catharine Contee Hanson, born 16th November, 1744.

Jane Contee Hanson, born 23rd February, 1747, died 17th June, 1781.

Alexander Contee Hanson, born 22nd October, 1749, died 1806.

Elizabeth Hanson, born 9th December, 1751, died 12th October, 1753.

John Hanson, born 18th March, 1753, died 6th March, 1760.

Samuel Hanson, born 25th August, 1756, died 29th June, 1781.

Peter Contee Hanson, born 9th December, 1758, killed at Fort Washington, November, 1776.

Grace Hanson, born 19th September, 1762, died 10th August, 1763.

[The above was written by John Hanson, with the exception of the first two.]

John Hanson Thomas, born 16th May, 1779, and Mary Isham Colston, born 23rd January, 1789; married by the

And Dec. 1844

Rev. Mr. Belmain, Thursday, 5th October, 1809, and had issue :

Philip Hanson Thomas, born 10th September, 1810.

Rawleigh Colston Thomas, born 12th August, 1812.

Charles Edward Thomas, born 23rd September, 1813.

[The above was written by John Hanson Thomas.]

John Hanson Thomas, Junior, born 13th May, 1815, died July 29th, aged 2 months, 16 days.

John Hanson Thomas, Senior, died May 2nd, 1815, aged 35 years, 11 months, 16 days.

Philip Hanson Thomas, died November 11th, 1821, aged 11 years, 2 months and 1 day.

Rawleigh Colston Thomas, died June 16th, 1826, aged 13 years, 10 months and 4 days.

[The above was written by Mrs. M. J. Thomas.]

John Hanson Thomas, whose name was changed from Charles Edward, born 23rd September, 1813; and Annie Campbell Gordon, the daughter of Basil Gordon, Esq., of Falmouth, Virginia, born 29th October, 1819; married by Rev. Mr. Maguire, on Wednesday, 15th November, 1837, at Falmouth, and have issue :

Basil Gordon, born Sunday, April 14th, 1839.

John Hanson, born Tuesday, September, 21st 1841.

A girl, born October 18th, 1843.

Raleigh Colston, born October 8th, 1844.

Douglas Hamilton, born January 1st, 1847.

Annie Gordon, born May 20th, 1849.

Mary Randolph, born October 10th, 1851.

John Marshall, born Monday, December 5th, 1853.

[The above was written by Dr. John Hanson Thomas.]

Heraldic Description of Coats of Arms.

THOMAS.

ARMS.—Sable, a chevron, ermine. a canton of last.

CREST.—A demi-unicorn, ermine, armed and crined, or, supporting a shield of sable.

MOTTO.—“Virtus invicta gloriosa.”

GORDON.

ARMS.—Azure, three boars' heads, erased, or.

CREST.—A boar's head as in the arms.

MOTTO.—“Forward without fear.”

[*Note.*—Our family have always used the motto: “Animo non astutia,” but from certain information, and from a careful examination of the subject, I am convinced it is wrong, and have therefore taken the liberty of correcting it.—DOUGLAS H. THOMAS.]

KNOX.

ARMS.—Gules, a falcon volant, argent, within an orle, vary, argent.

CREST.—A falcon perched; supporters: two falcons, wings expanded, ducally gorged, chained, beaked, taloned, or.

MOTTO.—“Morco et profitior.”

HANSON.

ARMS.—Azure, a cross battonee (or cross treffles, fr.), or cantoned by four fleur de lis argent.

CREST.—A martlett, proper.

MOTTO.—“Sola virtus invicta.”

CONTEE.

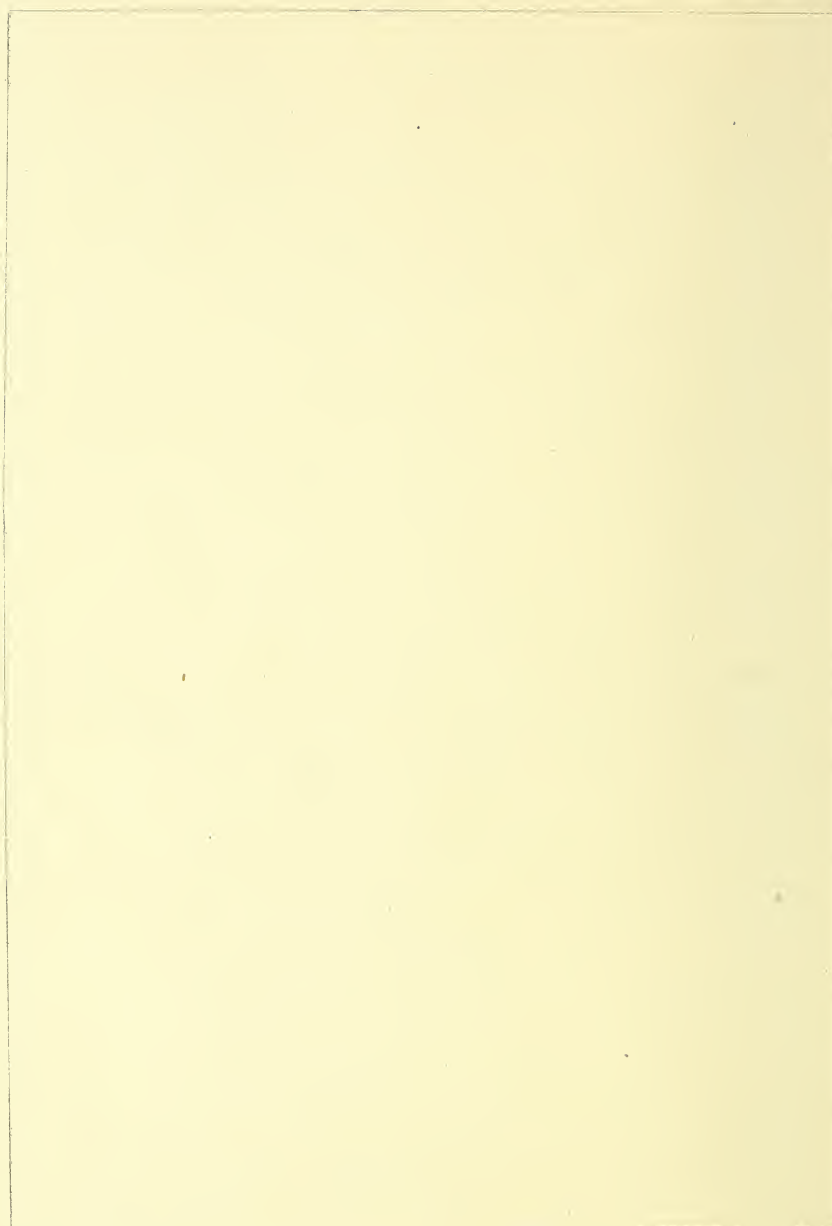
ARMS.—Gules and azure, a chevron, ermine between three wolves passant, or.

COLSTON.

ARMS.—Argent, between two dolphins, haurient respecting each other, an anchor, all proper.

CREST.—A dolphin, embowed, proper.

MOTTO.—“Go and do thou likewise.”















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