

and not proposed as a specimen of art. Mr. Dearborn is entitled to the thanks of the public, for presenting it with so much valuable information on a subject of general interest. His work, as it required no inconsiderable labour, does him the greater credit, as he has compiled it in the intervals of the occupations of a laborious office, and has thus devoted to the public and to a well earned reputation, the time which most men, and that without reproach, bestow on ordinary amusement and relaxation.

ART. X.—*Memoirs of the life and campaigns of the Hon. Nathaniel Greene, Major General in the army of the United States, and commander of the southern department in the war of the revolution. By Charles Caldwell, M. D. Professor of Natural History in the University of Pennsylvania.* Philadelphia, published by Robert Desilver, 1819.

A LIFE of General Greene has long been wanting ; no work, we apprehend, could more excite the interest of the public, or meet with a readier sale among all classes of the community. We had been pleasing ourselves for some time with the hope that it was about to be furnished by a gentleman of South Carolina, every way fitted to the undertaking. Fearing, however, that there may have been some mistake in regard to this, we are quite sure that the curiosity of our readers will be excited, in respect to the work before us. Dr. Caldwell is a gentleman who does not appear before the literary public without experience. He before this has edited, we understand, many works relating to his own profession, and thereby no doubt acquired a good proficiency in the art of doing up a book off hand.

It is not very common, we know, to pay much regard to the preface of a book, it having long been considered like the compliments of the day, pretty much a thing of course, a sort of entering bow to the public, and in no wise binding upon the author. But the preface to the work before us differs so much from the generality of these productions, is so full of just remark, so modest, states so correctly what the reader is to look for in the work, and will assist us so much in explaining many things which come after, that we cannot well avoid

noticing it. The author's leading objects in composing this Memoir of Gen. Greene were, he says, 'to pay a just, though long neglected tribute to one of the most distinguished benefactors of our country, to aid in the defence of the American character against the imputations which assail it from abroad, and to show, that in the greatness and glory of our own countrymen, we may find ample scope for that admiration which has hitherto been too much engrossed by foreign splendour.' In pursuance of these extensive and interesting objects, and particularly, we presume of that which relates to the defence of the American character, Dr. Caldwell commences his preface with a very learned and, as it strikes us, convincing argument, to prove, that of all republics, ancient and modern, that of the United States is the only one, to which the proverbial charge of ingratitude can with justice be applied. After enumerating those of every age, and satisfactorily proving the inapplicability of this imputation to them, he thus proceeds. 'To proclaim the faults of our own country, is painful and mortifying, but whether we speak, or write, or act, truth should be our object; and it cannot be denied, that to the people and government of the United States, the vices of injustice and ingratitude to public benefactors are more deeply imputable, than to those of any other nation.' He observes with great discrimination, that he 'perceives no cause to believe' that it is the form of government itself, which is ungrateful, but rather the individuals who live under it, a sentiment in which, however novel and startling it may at first appear, we have little doubt that most persons who reflect deeply, will fully coincide with our author.

'This *deep blemish*,' he thinks, arises from some defect in the moral constitution of the individual, and is to be attributed in this country to our want of a genuine spirit of patriotism.

'To inquire,' he says, 'into all the causes of this neglect is not our intention. The exemption of our country from war, and the general felicity of our situation, rendering us less dependent on the benefactions of great men, constitute one of them; but the most operative and fruitful of them is, our want of a *genuine spirit of patriotism*.'—'Did we love our country to the extent we profess to do, we *would* love and cherish every thing that might minister to its greatness and glory. But the richest source of a nation's glory consists in the illustrious natives of its soil. While we continue to neglect these in vain *will* we boast of our national

spirit and national pride.' Our attention is too much drawn off, it is added, by 'the heroes of Europe who fulminate at the head of powerful armies.'

It may seem to many a matter of some little difficulty to reconcile these rather severe strictures upon the American people, with that defence of the American character, which the author proposed as one of his leading objects in undertaking this work, but our readers will be pleased to observe that this proposed defence was to be against imputations from *abroad*, only, which is evidently a very different thing. Had Dr. Caldwell fallen in with such remarks as these, in some foreign journal, some Edinburgh or Quarterly Review, or Scotch Magazine, he would no doubt have taken the matter up with becoming heat, and fully proved the scandal. But a man, as every body knows, has a perfect right to call himself by all the names he can lay his tongue to, and it is no slander; but this affords no excuse for others. Of the truth of the charge, severe as it is, we take it no intelligent person can doubt. It is now upwards of thirty years since the termination of the revolutionary war, so long ago, that many of the more advanced persons engaged in it are dead; though not so many, indeed, as was thought before the late pension law, which has had an excellent effect upon old soldiers, and brought them to wonderfully. Since then the country has gone on to prosper, commerce and agriculture have been most successfully pursued, many new states brought into the Union, canals have been dug, roads laid out, banks created, the fisheries attended to, and yet no person has written a life of General Greene. As Dr. Caldwell sensibly observes, 'so marked has been our indifference, and so unrelenting our neglect, that they are a reproach to the nation.' To be sure, there have been several histories of the country, and of the events of the war, in which General Greene has been handsomely mentioned;—yet, as our author observes, 'that they have done him justice will not be maintained by any one, that has looked into the transactions of his life.' The truth of this remark will fully appear upon the perusal of this life, in which all that could be gathered of General Greene has been faithfully collected and eloquently set forth, as the author, with a pleasing diffidence, thus informs the reader:

'That we have ourselves succeeded in doing justice to his memory we do not venture to believe. On this point, however, we will
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be permitted to lay claim to the humble merit of honest intention and sedulous endeavour. We have spared neither trouble nor cost, having written very many letters, visited many distant individuals, and travelled more than a thousand miles, to procure information, and all that was made accessible to us we have faithfully used. To Mr. Christopher Greene of Rhode Island, brother to the General, with whom we had an interview, we are indebted for several interesting facts. Under this head we shall only add, that we hope we shall not be accused of vanity for believing, or arrogance for asserting, that there are few persons living who can attentively peruse this volume, without knowing much more of General Greene on closing, than they did on opening it.'

In speaking of the sources whence his facts have been derived our author afterwards says,

'All our facts of primary importance, touching the life and character of Greene, rest on the authority of written testimony.'

We ought to observe here, that the author must have used the word *written* in this place, as synonymous with *printed*, as will be evident to every one after a perusal of the book. And indeed we should hardly have thought it worth while to notice so trifling a mistake, and one so easily discoverable by the reader, were it not that Dr. Caldwell is rather apt to use words somewhat too loosely, as may be observed in the frequent occurrence of *will* for *shall*, *would* for *should*, and others of like kind, which we are sorry to find has given some persons an ill opinion of his disposition; whereas we are fully of the mind, that it arises altogether from his not being well instructed in the precise difference between the tenses, and from that disregard to mere words, which is common to all men of genius. Of the uncommonly elevated style, in which this book is written, and the generous enthusiasm which runs through the author's remarks, too much cannot be said. We are not sure that this will not lay the foundation of a new style in biography. There has been, we know, a prevalent opinion, that it is the duty of biographers to present to their readers a statement of facts merely, a dry outline of the life, a collection of particulars and anecdotes, illustrative of the character, and then to leave it to every one to form from this his own estimate of the individual. Dr. Caldwell, however, with a boldness and originality, quite noticeable, has laid aside this dull and mistaken mode, and ventured upon a plan

hitherto untried in this species of writing. He has not put it upon the slow apprehensions of his readers to puzzle out, as they could, the character of General Greene, a process which would give them a great deal of useless trouble and expose them to waste much thought. Avoiding all that detail, which writers of biography are apt to fall into, he comes at once to grand results, and from them lays down the General's character, with such clearness and decision, such colouring and finish, as to leave nobody at a loss about it. To those persons, who, adhering to the old mode, may be inclined to find fault with our author in this respect, we recommend an attentive perusal of Dr. Caldwell's reasoning on this subject, and we believe that their objections will be overcome.

‘If, in speaking of the characters and exploits of Greene and his officers, we should be thought to have occasionally substituted the language of panegyric for that of real and dispassionate biography, it is because the nature of the subject demanded it. Splendid actions and exalted qualities cannot be presented in humble expressions. As well might we attempt to depict the rainbow in faded colours. Nor have we yet learnt the art of disguising our feelings when excited by objects that fire the imagination, or when treating of topics which appeal to the heart.’

We have said thus much of the preface of this work, and made so many extracts from it, because we thought it but fair, however much we may think of the merits of this book, to let our readers have an opportunity of judging for themselves, how well the author has fulfilled his promises to the public.

The volume is in size an octavo, containing, besides the preface, and a short appendix, not far from four hundred and fifty pages. It has a beautiful margin, and a type so large, and the lines so far apart, that persons the most advanced in years may read it with great convenience. Of these four hundred and fifty pages, twenty are devoted to an introduction, in which are displayed a view of the causes which tended to bind the colonies to the mother country, and to dishearten the leaders of the revolution,—the effects of the revolution upon this country,—and its probable influence on the condition of man, and the merit and glory of those concerned in it. We shall not stop to make the remarks we could wish, on this comprehensive essay, but content ourselves with recommending it to the careful perusal and study of those who make it a

point to read every thing which is written on these important topics.

The first chapter, which consists of seventeen pages, and comprehends the principal part of what is new in relation to General Greene, gives his birth, parentage, &c. He was the second son of Nathaniel Greene, an anchor-smith, and was born in the year 1741, in the town of Warwick, in the then province of Rhode-Island.

‘As far as is known,’ says Dr Caldwell, ‘his childhood passed without any peculiar or unequivocal indications of future greatness. But this is a point of little moment; the size of the oak it is destined to produce, can rarely [qu. ever?] be foretold from an examination of the acorn. Nor is it often that any well defined marks of genius in the child afford a premonition of the eminence of the man.’

We were not a little disconcerted here, under the apprehension, from the tenor of the foregoing remarks, that our author had unadvisedly carried the new system of biographical writing so far, as to omit all those entertaining little anecdotes of early greatness, which from time immemorial have appeared in all biographies, and indeed constitute the principal interest of such books to people with rising families. We were relieved, however, from our embarrassment by the next sentence, in which our author goes on to say, that several of the General’s contemporaries have a perfect recollection, ‘that young Greene had neither the appearance nor manners of a common boy, nor was he so considered by his elder and more discerning acquaintance;’ and proceeds with a relation of his uncommon precocity, at the expense of some pages. We can only account for this singular contradiction and change of purpose, by supposing that Dr. Caldwell, after closing the preceding sentence, coming to reflect more seriously upon what might be the consequences of departing so much from the approved custom, in this particular, and of showing so little regard to the taste of the public, subjoined these last pages in some haste, as a thing that did not come within his original plan, and forgot, in so doing, to correct the sentiment that went before. And yet it puzzles us a good deal in this explanation, that within these few pages are to be found, we apprehend, the greatest proportion of these new and important facts, for the promulgation of which this book was expressly

written, and of which so much is said by Dr. Caldwell in his preface.

As one of the most remarkable among many other distinguishing traits, Dr. Caldwell makes particular mention of young Greene's uncommon swiftness, in which respect he seems to have been a second Achilles, and on this subject thus very happily expresses himself.

‘For swiftness of foot, in particular, he was without a rival. Yet he neither usurped the foremost place with an air of haughtiness and conscious superiority, nor struggled to maintain it, as a prerogative which he held in high estimation. It was instinctively surrendered to him by the justice of his companions, who recognized in him a right to it, which they could not dispute, and it remained in his possession as a matter of course, because without a voluntary relinquishment, on his part, none of his equals could wrest it from him.’

This we conceive to be one of those passages which Dr. Caldwell had his eye upon when he said in his preface ‘splendid actions and exalted qualities cannot be represented in humble expressions.’ Few passages precisely similar can be found, as far as we are aware, in the most celebrated productions. The subject, to be sure, is in itself calculated to excite the imagination and draw forth the powers of the writer, yet how few biographers would have painted it in such lively colours, and given it such a reality. Who is there that cannot distinctly see Greene, from this description, cutting through the streets of Warwick, while his brother and companions, at his heels, are striving in vain to wrest the palm of swiftness of foot from him? How indicative was this of his future greatness as a warrior! Homer never tires of the epithet which expresses this quality, in the description of his hero; Frederick the Great was wont to boast that he once scampered from the field of battle; and to the successful cultivation of this noble quality in early life on the part of General Greene, is to be attributed, without doubt, under divine providence, that masterly retreat of his across the Dan, when pursued by Lord Cornwallis.

We take the liberty of calling the very particular attention of our readers to another highly interesting fact relative to the early life and education of General Greene, deeming it, with the exception of that just mentioned, the only

one entirely new, and on many accounts by far the most important of those narrated by Dr. Caldwell. There is indeed good reason to think that it must be the very one he rode a thousand miles after. It is no other than this, that General Greene, at quite an early age, possessed himself of a correct and practical knowledge of men and affairs, and qualified himself for the duties of a quarter master general, by working at the blacksmith's business. This remarkable fact is thus stated by the author.

'In obedience therefore to the wishes of his father, he early embarked in his own line of business, and in the regular pursuit of it, consumed the principal portion of his time. Even this, in the round of events, proved tributary to his future distinction and fame, and to his high and varied *utilities* in military life. By giving him full strength of muscle and hardihood of person, with a correct and practical knowledge of men and affairs, it qualified him the better for the toils of a camp, and the important trust of quarter master general, in the able discharge of the duties of which, during the most disheartening period of the war, he added, so immeasurably to his own renown, and served so essentially the interests of his country.'

How Dr. Caldwell as a philosopher, a man of letters, a physician and philanthropist, could let this matter pass by without more comment, we find it difficult to conceive; for taking into view the little time and money that the youth of this country have to spare for the purposes of education, and more especially the dyspeptical turn, which our climate seems unhappily to be taking, it would seem to us one of the happiest events in our history to fall upon so cheap and healthful a mode of acquiring a species of information so important to every one, and to which so much time, money, and foreign travel are often devoted in vain. And unless this be one of the secrets of the trade, we are free to say, that Dr. Caldwell can hardly stand excused for not fully explaining to his readers, how Greene contrived to hammer it out, from a pursuit apparently so disconnected from the knowledge of men and affairs.

Our author proceeds after this to relate within the compass of between forty and fifty pages, Greene's entrance into the army as a private soldier, his several appointments to the offices of brigadier and major general, and quarter master, and the part he took in the various engagements, and the

duties of his station, until his appointment to the command of the southern army. Although there is nothing new in these last pages, and we apprehend, as we have before remarked, that the cream of this biography, as far as it introduces any new facts illustrative of the character of General Greene, is to be found in the first chapter, still our readers are not to suppose these other portions to be without their interest. On the contrary, the original and conclusive manner, in which the author establishes the military character of Greene, and the other heroes of the revolution, and the high ground on which he places them, in a comparison with the great captains of other nations and times, forms one of the most considerable points in his work. Our author loses no time in detailing particulars. He does not, as most writers would, enumerate the various battles in which the skill and conduct of Greene were conspicuous, and tire out the patience of his readers with uninteresting minutiae, merely to show how he was great, and in what he particularly excelled others. But he demonstrates off hand, within the compass of half a page or so, and in a style of reasoning, which shows his skill as a logician to equal his felicity as a biographer, and his zeal as a patriot, that Greene was infinitely superior to any of the boasted heroes of the old world, even Buonaparte himself. It is difficult to convey to our readers a perfect idea of our author's power in that way. Not to do him injustice therefore, we shall take his own words.

‘The writer of these memoirs pretends to no military experience, nor has he any attainments in the science of war. The positions he has here ventured to advance, he regards as the result of common sense; and without any serious apprehension of being found in the wrong, appeals for their correctness to the judgment of those who are bred to arms, and versed in the practical operations of the field. Strange and extravagant, as to most readers, perhaps, the opinion may appear, he has no hesitation in believing, that General Greene's campaigns, in the southern department, required more of a military talent to conduct them, than did those of the Emperor Napoleon, in which he humbled Italy, Prussia, and Austria. The latter, whose means were in his sword, overwhelmed by the direct operation of superior force; but the former, destitute of force, employed, chiefly the weapon of policy, dextrously wielded by the hand of genius. The conquests of the one were more the result of physical power, heightened and embol-

dened by a confidence of victory ; while the success of the other arose from the unbounded resources of his intellect.'

These are general reflections only, then comes the demonstration as follows.

' We would not be understood, as meaning to run a parallel between General Greene and the Emperor Napoleon ; much less, to disparage the talents of the latter, whom we consider in the main, as the most distinguished captain of the present age—perhaps of any age. But many military characters, of sound judgment, and no inconsiderable experience in war, who have studied both, with deliberate attention, concur in giving a preference on the score of policy to the campaigns of General Greene, over those of the leader, who in the battle of Waterloo had the good fortune to conquer Napoleon. This decision we believe to be correct. Greene, as will presently appear, vanquished Lord Cornwallis, who, in his genius for war, was superior to Lord Wellington.'

The learned reader will observe that this is a compound syllogism, of the kind called *prosyllogismus*, and in respect that all sorts of questions or conclusions may be proved in the same way, whether they be A, E, I, or O, may be said to come under the mood *Barbara*, though we know that this mood is particularly applicable to *simple* syllogisms.

Freeing this argument then from its adventitious terms, and putting it into its proper form for the advantage of those who are not so well versed in logic, it will stand thus :

Greene, it is well known, vanquished Cornwallis ;

Dr. Caldwell says that Cornwallis was superior to Wellington ;

Therefore Greene was a greater general than Wellington.

But Wellington had the good fortune to conquer Napoleon in the battle of Waterloo.

Therefore Greene was manifestly a greater general than Napoleon. Q. E. D.

The standing of General Greene as a military man is thus forever put at rest. That part of his life which, but for this summary course of argument would have been the most important, as more perfectly developing his military character and the resources of his mind, is to be looked for in his southern campaign. From the commencement of this period until the close of the war, he was acting independently, in a situation of the greatest responsibility. The portion of Dr.

Caldwell's book which relates to this period, consisting of three hundred and thirty odd pages out of four hundred and twenty six, is very judiciously (although we must confess rather unexpectedly to us, after what the author had said in his preface of the injustice done to Greene by all who had written on this subject heretofore) extracted from Lee's *Memoirs of the Southern War*. About one hundred pages are regularly quoted, and credit duly given. Of the remainder, Dr. Caldwell, having corrected many expressions, and in some instances altered the arrangement of an entire sentence, did not, we presume, think it would be fair to give it as Lee's, and therefore has said nothing about it. It will be unnecessary of course for us to dwell much upon this part of the work, since most of our readers are probably acquainted with the highly interesting narrative of General Lee. We cannot however refrain from extracting a passage or two from Lee, and the corresponding amended ones from Caldwell, merely to show how ingeniously and elegantly the language of the former has been, in many instances, corrected by the latter, without any alteration whatever in the sense. For instance, Lee says, in speaking of the cruelty shown by Colonel Tarleton, upon the defeat of Colonel Berford, in the settlement of the Waxhaws,

'In the annals of our Indian war, nothing is to be found more shocking; and this bloody day only wanted the war dance and roasting fire to have placed it first in the records of torture and of death in the west.'

As corrected by Dr. Caldwell it stands thus.

'In the blood stained records of the hatchet and the scalping knife, there is nothing to surpass it; add the stake and the fagot, and you complete the climax of human barbarity.'

But it is only when Lee's language is susceptible of such great improvement as in this instance, that Dr. Caldwell finds it worth while to make much change in it, as, to state a passage just under our hand, in the sketch of the character of General Morgan, which, with similar notices of Davie, Marion, Sumpter, De Kalb, and a number of other distinguished partisan officers, is put by Lee, in order to save room, in an appendix and in a smaller type, but for many sufficient reasons, inserted by Dr. Caldwell in the body of his work.

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Lee, after mentioning the circumstance which led to a breach of intimacy between General Gates and Morgan, proceeds,

‘From that moment all intimacy between himself (Morgan) and Gates ceased; and when, a few days afterwards, the latter gave a dinner to the principal officers of the British army, among which of course some of ours were mixed, Morgan was not invited.

‘It so happened that this meritorious officer found it necessary to call upon General Gates, in the evening, on military business. He was introduced into the dining room; and as soon as he spoke with Gates withdrew, unannounced to his guests. The British officers inquired his name, seeing from his uniform that he was a field officer; and upon being informed that it was Colonel Morgan, they arose from the table, overtook him in the yard, and made themselves severally known to him; having, as they ingenuously declared, severely felt him in the field. Thus the slight of Gates recoiled poignantly on himself.’

This passage, we shall see, is but very triflingly corrected by Dr. Caldwell, as indeed is the case with the greater portion of the last three hundred pages.

‘From that moment ceased the intimacy, that had previously subsisted between him (Morgan) and General Gates.

‘A few days afterwards the general gave a dinner to the principal officers of the British, and some of those of the American army. Morgan was not invited.

‘In the course of the evening, that officer found it necessary to call on General Gates on official business. Being introduced into the dining room, he spoke to the general, received his orders, and immediately withdrew, his name unannounced.

‘Perceiving from his dress, that he was of high rank, the British officers inquired his name. Being told that it was Colonel Morgan, commanding the rifle corps, they rose from table, followed him into the yard, and introduced themselves to him, with many complimentary and flattering expressions, declaring that on the day of action they had very severely felt him in the field.’

This we consider a pretty fair specimen of Dr. Caldwell’s manner of turning Lee to account. Some persons may object to this mode of writing biography, but the parts of the book in which this plan is followed, seem to us so much the most entertaining and useful, that so far from complaining of it, we are sometimes tempted to wish that our author had kept to it entirely. We are exceedingly happy to find, that however general may be the want of a spirit of true patriotism

in this country, the author presents in himself at least one honourable example of an individual who is yet alive to it. Dr. Caldwell, we understand, from those better acquainted with him than we are, is laboriously occupied in numerous scientific and literary pursuits, and if we are rightly advised, has lately added to them much, by the acceptance of a very responsible situation in the rising university of a sister state. Notwithstanding all this, actuated by that spirit of true patriotism, the decay of which he has so ably demonstrated, and so eloquently deplores, he has devoted himself to the performance of a work which, taking into account the copious extracts made from Lee, and the ingenious and delicate correction of them, the construction of an unusually able preface, besides a *lengthy* introduction, and the collection of some facts, and lastly the working up of these various materials into a finished biography, must have occupied, we should say, at the very least, from two to three weeks of the author's valuable time; and this too, we presume, without the expectation of any other reward or compensation on his part, than that pure and ennobling one indeed, which every patriot and philanthropist derives from the reflection, that his labours are benefiting his country and mankind.

But nevertheless, Dr. Caldwell must not expect exemption from the common lot of man. As he very justly observes himself, 'exalted merit never fails to become an object of envy, intrigue, and detraction.' We notice already the rising murmurs of many discontented purchasers, especially of such as chanced unfortunately to be previously in possession of Lee. The notes of these last are distinguished by a peculiar intonation, and produce at times very harsh music. The disappointed avarice of these persons hurries them into the most indecent comparisons, and there are not wanting those who have the hardihood to say, that as one of our inland tavern keepers, having established himself upon the capital of a setting hen and her venerable consort, boldly pronounced to the world upon his cloud cap sign, 'refreshments of all sorts for man and best,' when after all, the hungry and unsuspecting traveller has to witness from his window, with various internal emotions, the capture and execution of the feathered veterans; so our author, after announcing in the preface a rich repast of what 'few persons living' ever tasted, ends with dishing up an ill assorted hash of stale and broken meats, from off the table of General Lee.

We understand that other more charitable critics have said that as to the book, it was a good book enough, only the author had erred in the preface, and expressed himself without due correctness. For, say they, had it but been called, 'An abridgment of Lee's Memoirs of the Southern War, for the use of schools;' or 'Brief notices of several of the revolutionary heroes adapted to young persons;' or 'Thoughts on the American Revolution, interspersed with some anecdotes of General Greene;' or 'Hints on the state of the country, during the revolutionary war, with a preface;' or something or other of this kind, nobody could have been much disappointed in it.

Others, we are told, affect to go farther, and to intimate that this is probably a surreptitious work, gotten up by some person jealous of Dr. Caldwell's reputation; and determined to injure him with the public by putting his name to the title page of a work, quite unworthy of him. They will have it, that no man, with a character as an author at stake in the community, could have composed a work of which all that is good is borrowed, and most that is borrowed is taken without credit. They pretend to expect by every mail a public disavowal by Dr. Caldwell of the very ordinary performance thus insidiously ascribed to him, with a denunciation of the terrors of the law against the author of so injurious a fabrication. Should this statement of the case prove to be correct, we shall be among the first to assist in bringing the offender to condign punishment.

The sum of several ill natured remarks which we have heard on the subject of this work put altogether into plain English amounts to this one simple objection only, viz. that this book, after all, contains little or nothing, and what little it may contain, is made up of extracts. Now we would just take leave to ask these cavilling gentlemen, whether they really mean that Dr. Caldwell's ingenious and instructive preface amounts to nothing? That his profound and luminous introduction amounts to nothing? That his sound and judicious remarks sprinkled over the whole work besides the two remarkable anecdotes of General Greene before noticed, amount to nothing? If indeed all these things can be said to amount to nothing, why then we shall agree that this is a very poor book, and had better never been written. But as this last is a very nice question, and our minds are by no means settled

upon it, we shall leave it to our readers for their better decision.

To be serious, however, they must not think from any thing we have here said, that we lightly estimate the character of General Greene, or in the least undervalue his services in the revolutionary war. On the contrary, so far as the independence of this country is to be attributed to the military operations of the period in which he acted, we conceive, that he is justly entitled to hold the next place to Washington, in the respect and gratitude of his countrymen.

In 1775, Rhode Island raised three regiments of militia for the service of the states, and placed Greene, then thirty years of age, at their head, with the rank of brigadier general. Little is known of him prior to this, excepting that he sustained the character of an industrious, intelligent, and active man, following the occupation of an anchor-smith, and enjoying the estimation and confidence of his fellow-citizens, as this appointment of itself sufficiently shows. He had been educated in the society of Friends, and continued connected with the sect, until the measures which he proposed and defended in the Legislature of Rhode Island caused his dismission, some short time before this period.

As soon as he had entered upon his command, he repaired with his troops to Cambridge, having no other knowledge of military affairs, than he may be supposed to have acquired by being drilled as a private soldier in a company, which had been formed some seven months before. From this time, until the latter part of the year 1780, he acted under the command of General Washington, and in conjunction with him. During this period, including more than four years, Washington seems to have estimated him very highly, both as a man and a soldier. By his advice, in the year 1778, he was appointed quarter master general, a situation at that time of much importance and responsibility, and requiring great intelligence, activity, and labour. He appears to have discharged the duties of this office for a year, in such a manner, as to add very much to his general reputation, and fully to confirm the high estimation in which Washington had before held him.

In the year 1780, the prospect of a successful termination of the war and of the eventual independence of this country was much more unpromising than at any other period. The

English force in and about New York was well disciplined, well officered, abundantly provided with every necessary, and in high spirits; while the force under General Washington presented the entire reverse of this. It consisted chiefly of men whose terms of service were so various, that it was continually changing, and who were consequently never well acquainted with the duties of a military life nor enured to its hardships and privations. Badly armed, badly clothed, and badly provisioned, receiving, at times, not more than one eighth of their allowances, disheartened with continued ill success, and with the worst apprehensions, and more than all, officered by men, who for the most part were but little better informed in their military duties than themselves, it is not to be wondered at, that they murmured much, and sometimes mutinied.

Affairs at the south were at the same time still more gloomy. The entire states of Georgia and South Carolina had been subdued, and taken possession of by the British; and the American forces in that part of the country almost annihilated by heavy and repeated losses. The royalists, who before had ventured to assist the cause of the mother country only with their wishes or secret services, now openly came out to its aid, enrolled themselves in large bodies under its banners, and overawed and controlled all, who were inclined to take a different part.

General Gates, who had drawn to himself the notice and confidence of the Congress by his conduct in the north, previous to this, and particularly by his capture of Burgoyne, was now called on to transfer his successes to the south; and to arrest, if possible, the further progress of British arms and American despondency in that quarter. His arrival there excited anew the hopes and enthusiasm of the American troops, and they prepared, in better heart, once more to face their opponents.

But this excitement was of short continuance; the reputation of this general and the hopes of his countrymen soon fell together. And by the decisive victory of Lord Cornwallis at Camden, a cause, that before was all but hopeless, seemed now to be rendered desperate.

It was at this juncture, that General Washington was directed by Congress to appoint some person to take the place of the unfortunate Gates. He fixed upon General Greene without any hesitation, as the most suitable officer, in

the American army to be sent upon that service. This prompt appointment is of itself Greene's best testimony for his military life thus far. It was made by a man of all others best able to judge correctly of his merits. And every one who calls to mind the situation of the country at that period, the extreme importance of this command, and the responsibility under which General Washington acted in making it, will forcibly feel that it gave to Greene a military character, which no after events, however unfortunate, ought justly to impair. Happily these after events fully demonstrated the wisdom of the choice, and vindicated at the same time the penetration of Washington and the powers of Greene.

At the time of entering upon the duties of this station, Greene had little reason to flatter himself with the expectation of being more successful than his predecessor. His own army amounted to but about two thousand men, and they principally militia; whilst that of his opponent, in consequence of late reinforcements from New York, exceeded eleven thousand. The whole of that part of the country too was exceedingly disaffected to the American cause, so much so that Greene is represented to have been in danger of his life, as he went on to take his command. The royalists of North Carolina were resorting in great numbers to Cornwallis, and the skirmishes between them and such of the inhabitants as remained in the American interest were particularly severe and vindictive.

But although Greene well understood the difficulties of his situation, and was led from a view of them to judge much less severely of the mistakes and misfortunes of General Gates, than others did, he was by no means disheartened, but prepared to combat them, with that energy and decision which were the prominent characteristics of his mind. The theatre of action was now laid by the British in North Carolina, and they were making great exertions to bring that state like South Carolina and Georgia into subjection. Greene was unable to withstand them, but in his memorable retreat across the Dan, he more fully displayed his military talents, more fully possessed himself of the confidence of his soldiers, and more effectually raised the drooping spirits of the country, than he could have done by the most successful engagement. This retreat was made under every possible disadvantage. It was in the winter season, his troops were without provision

or clothing, marching twenty and thirty miles a day barefooted, and through a country filled with royalists, who were doing every thing to mislead and retard him, and to assist his enemy. Pressed on the very heels by an army, that was hungry for him, an army that was perfectly equipped and amply provisioned, and commanded by a distinguished officer, who well knew the importance of overtaking him, one misstep and he would inevitably have been lost, and with him the cause of the South. He was indeed much indebted on this, and all other occasions, to the brave officers who surrounded him, to Lee, Howard, Marion, Sumpter, Williams, Davie, and many others. In no part of America, and at no period of the war, were undaunted bravery, daring enterprise, and an entire devotion to the cause of independence, better displayed, than at this trying juncture, by these heroes of the South.

No sooner had Cornwallis thus driven our army from North Carolina and returned as far as Hillsborough, there to establish himself for the purpose of calling in the inhabitants of the state to their former allegiance, than Greene was again unexpectedly at his side. In vain he pursued, in vain he retreated, wherever he went, Greene was at hand, to oppose his progress and baffle his plans. This was the way in which Cornwallis was finally overcome, this was the way in which the English were at length driven from the South, and from America.

This is not the occasion to go through with the detail of the manœuvres and actions, which took place in the South, and which terminated so successfully for us. The single one, at which we have thus slightly hinted, as fully develops Greene's military character, as the whole of them could do. He showed himself in all, to be a man of a sound judgment, of great discretion, of unrelaxing nerve and courage, always prepared to take advantage of any fortunate event, and to lessen as much as possible the bad effects of every untoward one. He was possessed of a firmness and hardness of character that eminently fitted him for the situation he was called on to fill, as they were themselves called out and developed by the events of the period in which he lived. Had the revolution taken place fifty years before, or fifty years after, Greene would have been, no doubt, a useful citizen and a good anchor-smith; but happening as it did, he became a distinguished patriot and able commander. He was formed by the times, and therefore well suited to them.

But all this is very much below the degree pointed out on Dr. Caldwell's thermometer ; his quicksilver, when brought in contact with General Greene, runs up at once to the boiling point. He is not content with Greene's being acknowledged the second best officer in the American army, which we think praise enough for any man, but will have him to be the first that ever commanded elsewhere ; and on this point he runs on in a loose, inflated style of writing, which is bad enough on any subject, but on such an one as this, altogether misplaced and absurd. This, to be sure, he calls a noble enthusiasm—a true spirit of patriotism—a proper sensibility to the merits of our great men ; but we call it *rodomontade*. He says,

‘ The truth is, that, Frederick and Napoleon excepted—and we are not confident that even they ought to be excepted—we believe General Greene to have been superior, in all the higher qualities of command, to any general officer that has appeared in Europe for many centuries.’

Unfortunately for our country, whenever a book chances to be squeezed out among us, once in two or three years, the writer, as it is so rare a thing, thinks he is bound to make the vindication of the American character one of his topics, let the others be what they may, and, therefore, with a graceful diffidence, proclaims aloud to all nations,—Sirs, we feel it our duty to state, that we are, without any exception, the greatest people that ever did or ever can exist ; nothing is too hard for us ; we are perfectly acquainted with all arts and sciences, from the raising of turnips to the finding of new stars ; and this we give you our word for.

Upon which the English, on behalf of the poor remnant of this globe, turn short around upon us and say,—Gentlemen, with unfeigned grief and reluctance we take it upon us to declare, that you are but dullards and blockheads, that you know but little, and are not likely to know more, and this you may rely upon, coming as it does from us, who are candid judges of these matters.

Now if we may be permitted to put in a word upon this subject, we should strongly advise to the driving of a turnpike (an amusement much affected in these parts) right through the centre of the valley, that divides these two prominent and opposite opinions, and propose the keeping upon that. We

shall thereby probably meet with less jolting, and be likely to come sooner to the point we are making for.

We see no good reason for following Dr. Caldwell to France, and Italy, and Prussia, and Austria, or any where else to gauge the merits of our officers ; they fought well in America, and that is enough for us. We are sufficiently content with good homespun excellence, of American manufacture, and we wish that all our friends may wear it. There is a plenty of it, we believe, in every department, military, civil, and literary, at least for home consumption ; and there is no need of our continually laying restrictions on that abroad, in order to raise its value. The market of the world will never be glutted, be this article brought from whence it may ; let us but be careful to send in our proportion of it, and we doubt not it will always command its fair price. There are no two persons just alike in the world, nor any two events ; and it seems to us, that General Greene can with as little propriety be compared to Napoleon or Frederick, as to the Dey of Algiers. All that part of his life, that can be made interesting to general readers, and indeed we may say to any one, excepting his immediate friends, is so connected and interwoven with the events of the war, that his character can only be faithfully delineated, by a minute detail of those events, and by making the reader his constant companion and tent-fellow. This could hardly be done, excepting by some one, whose own military duties during the revolution produced a daily intercourse between him and Greene, and thus afforded an opportunity of observing with attention the workings of his mind, and his general deportment, under the very trying circumstances in which he was placed. It will also be apparent that any other biography of him less particular than this, must necessarily be included in every just account of the war, especially of that part of it which relates to the southern states. It was the original intention of General Lee, as we are informed in the first chapter of his *Memoirs*, to connect the biography of Greene with his narrative of the southern war, and we doubt not he would have performed it with great fidelity ; but fearing that longer delay would prevent his accomplishing either, he concluded to commence with the latter only.

We make these remarks, in order to show, that an interesting and useful biography of General Greene, and one that would do ample justice to his character and to the country

which he defended, is not so light a matter that it may be suddenly patched up, by any one, with scraps collected here and there from other writers. And we think they account in some measure too, for that supposed want of gratitude and true patriotism, with which Dr. Caldwell so hastily charges our countrymen, on the score of neglect in producing such a biography. On the other hand, we should feel great regret if they seemed at all to be offered as discouragements to the gentleman, to whom we alluded in the beginning of this article, as intending to undertake a life of Greene. From his well-known character and abilities, we should expect just such a work on this subject as is wanted, and as we should delight to see. And we sincerely hope that he will not be deterred from undertaking it, from the apprehension that the field is pre-occupied ; for we take it to be the chief excellence of Dr. Caldwell's book, that it does not, in the least, preclude the necessity of another ; nor will be apt to interfere at all with its circulation.

But should other occupations, or a want of sufficient materials, prevent that gentleman from satisfying our wishes, we still apprehend, that notwithstanding 'our marked indifference,' our 'unrelenting neglect,' and the work now before us, General Greene's character will not essentially suffer.

The heroes and statesmen who achieved the independence of this country, are not to be forgotten, although no monuments should be erected on their graves, nor histories be devoted to the celebration of their actions. There is no want of clearer records and more durable monuments. This extensive continent, this vast and rising empire, is a magnificent and an eternal monument to their names. Every splendid city that is raised upon its surface is a new inscription to commemorate their deeds, every flourishing village and cultivated field a fresh memento of their worth.

They are not to be forgotten, so long as the active mind of man shall be gratified and improved by searching out the causes and the reasons of important revolutions, by observing the growth and decay of states, the advancement of civilization, the fluctuations of opinion, and all that can make him acquainted with the best interests of his species. They are not to be forgotten, so long as the fruits of their labours shall be enjoyed by their posterity ; so long as our free institutions and happy government are continued to us, the immortal tes-

timonies of their disinterestedness: so long as reason and morality and religion hold their control over us. They are not to be forgotten so long as the records of the world shall impartially narrate the most memorable events of every age, and do justice to the evil and good of every country.

ART. XI.—*Sermons by the late Rev. J. S. Buckminster; with a memoir of his life and character.* 8vo. pp. 430, Boston, John Eliot, 1814.

It is commonly stated as one of the causes why there is produced in our country so little which deserves attention on the score of merely literary merit, that the talent of the country is mostly turned into the channels of the active professions. This implies that there is talent existing; and if it be just, as we believe, we may fairly expect to find compositions of professional men on subjects or occasions of a professional nature, of a high order of excellence. In the course of two of the professions and of public life, duties occur, which cannot be successfully discharged without literary discipline; and the very motive, which withdraws a man from the pursuit of literature as a business, urges him to bring his speech in the church, the senate, the popular assembly, or at the bar, as near as possible to the ideal standard of their several kinds of composition. We think the experiment confirms the theory; and that the best literary specimens we have to show are the speeches of our barristers and statesmen, the lectures of our academical men, and the sermons of our divines. We have no better apology for having omitted, heretofore, to notice a work, which stands pre-eminent in the first rank of them, than that it was published before our labours began, and has uniformly, where it has been known, been held in a just estimation. We notice it now, not to dissent in any respect from the sentence, which the public has so emphatically pronounced, but because that sentence ought to be recorded. If what we say is just, it is no credit to our discrimination; we but repeat the general voice.

The difficulty of a preacher's task, we apprehend, is imperfectly appreciated. It is understood that the subjects which he must treat have no recommendation of novelty; but on