

DEATH OF LAFAYETTE.

MESSAGE

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING

Information of the death of General Lafayette, &c.

JUNE 21, 1834.

Read, and laid upon the table.

To the Senate and House of Representatives :

The afflicting intelligence of the death of the illustrious Lafayette, has been received by me this morning.

I have issued the General Order, enclosed, to cause appropriate honors to be paid by the army and navy to the memory of one so highly venerated and beloved by my countrymen, and whom Providence has been pleased to remove so unexpectedly from the agitating scenes of life.

ANDREW JACKSON.

WASHINGTON, *June 21, 1834.*

GENERAL ORDER.

Information having been received of the death of General Lafayette, the President considers it due to his own feelings, as well as to the character and services of that lamented man, to announce this event to the army and navy.

Lafayette was a citizen of France, but he was the distinguished friend of the United States. In early life he embarked in that contest which secured freedom and independence to our country. His services and sacrifices constitute a part of our revolutionary history, and his memory will be second only to that of Washington in the hearts of the American people. In his own country, and in ours, he has been the zealous and uniform friend and advocate of rational liberty. Consistent in his principles and conduct, he never, during a long life, committed an act which exposed him to just accusation, or which will expose his memory to reproach. Living at a period of great excitement, and of moral and political revolutions, engaged in many of the important events which fixed the atten-

tion of the world, and called to guide the destinies of France at two of the most momentous eras of her history, his political integrity and personal disinterestedness have never been called in question. Happy in such a life, he has been happy in his death. He has been called from the theatre of action with faculties unimpaired, with a reputation unquestioned, and an object of veneration wherever civilization and the rights of man have extended: and mourning, as we may and must, his departure, let us rejoice that this associate of Washington has gone, as we humbly hope, to rejoin his illustrious commander in the fulness of days and of honor.

He came in his youth to defend our country. He came in the maturity of his age to witness her growth in all the elements of prosperity; and, while witnessing these, he received those testimonials of national gratitude, which proved how strong was his hold upon the affections of the American people.

One melancholy duty remains to be performed. The last major general of the revolutionary army has died. Himself a young and humble participator in the struggles of that period, the President feels himself called on, as well by personal as public considerations, to direct that appropriate honors be paid to the memory of this distinguished patriot and soldier. He, therefore, orders that the same honors be rendered upon this occasion at the different military and naval stations as were observed upon the decease of Washington, the father of his country, and his cotemporary in arms.

In ordering this homage to be paid to the memory of one so eminent in the field, so wise in counsel, so endeared in private life, and so well and favorably known to both hemispheres, the President feels assured that he anticipates the sentiments, not of the army and navy only, but of the whole American people.

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