

in Congress; but in the following August, during the alarm occasioned by the entry of the British fleet, under Admiral Howe, within the capes of Virginia, he was appointed Commander-in-chief of the Virginia State forces; and soon after, in response to an appeal from Congress, he raised a troop of cavalry with which he repaired to Philadelphia. In June, 1781, he was chosen GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF VIRGINIA, a position to which he was recommended by Thomas Jefferson, then retiring from office. He participated in the siege of Yorktown, Virginia, Oct., 1781, as Commander of the Virginia Militia, with the rank of MAJOR-GENERAL IN THE AMERICAN ARMY. His force, about 3,000 strong, was raised and equipped at his own expense, and constituted the second, or reserve line, and performed fatigue duty during the siege. As it was thought that Lord Cornwallis, Commander of the British Army, occupied his house (the present Nelson House) as headquarters, he ordered it to be bombarded, saying to Gen'l Lafayette: "Spare no particle of my property so long as it affords comfort or shelter to the enemies of my country." His services, and, as a matter of policy, those also of the Militia whom he had collected, were highly commended in the General Orders of Gen. George Washington, the American Commander-in-chief, 20th Oct., 1781, being the day after the surrender of Lord Cornwallis with the British Army. His statue was one of the six selected to be placed around the Washington Monument, at Richmond, Virginia. The other five were Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry, Andrew Lewis, John Marshall and George Mason. For a picture of the Washington Monument at Richmond Virginia, see Frontispiece.

Gov. Nelson built the Offley House, in Hanover County, Virginia, during the Revolution, in order to send his family there to a place of safety. For a description of this wretched little place see mention of Chatellux's account of it in Bishop Meade, Vol. I, *op. cit.*, p. 211. Here it was that the Governor's son Robert (afterwards of Malvern Hill) used to sing the hymn:

"Send comfort down from thy right hand
To cheer us in this barren land," etc.

The old Offley House is probably gone, but the pond—the Offley pond—that well-known source of chills and fever for the whole neighborhood, yet stands.

Gov. Nelson had left to him by his father, President Nelson, landed property, including the present Nelson House, at Yorktown, Virginia, and £40,000 in hard cash. As one Virginia shilling was equal to 16 $\frac{2}{3}$ cents of United States coin, and twenty shillings made a pound, the value of the latter was about three dollars and thirty-three and a third cents. Forty thousand pounds would therefore be equal to a little more than one hundred and thirty-three thousand dollars of present United States coin—which was a great deal of money for those days.