CHAPTER VIII.—DUELS.

The Duel ground at Weehawken—Duels between Aaron Burr and John B. Church—George I. Eacker and Price—George I. Eacker and Philip Hamilton—John Langstaff and Oliver Waldron—Augustus Smith and Archibald M. Cock—De Witt Clinton and John Swartwout—Richard Riker and Robert Swartwout—Aaron Burr and Alexander Hamilton—Isaac Gouverneur and William H. Maxwell—Benjamin Price and Major Green—Stephen Price and Captain Wilson—Commodore Perry and Captain Heath—William G. Graham and Mr. Barton—Henry Aitken and Thomas Sherman.

PERHAPS the most interesting spot in the County of Hudson, around which, in spite of its horrors, fancy loves to linger, is the DUEL GROUND at Weehawken. Before the iconoclastic hand of enterprise had touched it, the whole region round about was charming beyond description. Just south of the bloody ground was the wild ravine adown which leaped and laughed the Awiehaken.[1] Immediately above was King's Point, or "Highwood," boldly looking down upon the Hudson. From this height still opens as fair, as varied, as beautiful a scene as mortal could wish to behold. The haze-crowned city, the bright, broad, tranquil river; the long reach of waters down to the Narrows and beyond; the vessels at anchor, or flitting around the harbor; misty, blue Staten Island—the Hamels Hooftden of the Dutch—swelling up from the lower bay; the opposite shore lined with a forest of masts, while over and beyond the restless city, sparkles and widens the East River. This beautiful but fatal spot, in the early part of the century, strangers coming to New York were sure to visit. It is now partly destroyed by the construction of the Fort Lee Railroad. Its location was two and a half miles above Hoboken. The rocks here rise almost perpendicularly

[1] This creek took its rise in the swampy ground near Guttenbergh, flowed southwardly to Union Hill, thence down to the Hudson. At an early day Nicholas Bayard had a mill on this stream. *Winfield's Land Titles*, 87.

to one hundred and fifty feet above the river. Under these heights, about twenty feet above the water, on a grassy shelf about six feet wide, and eleven paces long, reached by an almost inaccessible flight of steps, was the dark and bloody ground. The old cedar which sheltered the plateau when Hamilton fought was there until about four years ago. The sandstone boulder against which he fell was about the same time removed to the top of the hill, where it now lies. The ground was singularly secluded from inquisitive neighbors and meddlesome officials. With no path leading to it along the river or from the heights, its only approach was by boat. About one-third of a mile below stood a little tavern, where occasionally the combatants would breakfast on their way to the ground. In the early part of this century Captain Deas owned the property, and resided on the hill immediately over the fatal spot. He was a peace man. Whenever he scented a duel, he would hurry to the ground, rush in between the parties, and by his *suaviter in modo* or *fortiter in re*, heal their wounded honor and establish peace.

An account of some of these duels in their order will be interesting to the general reader, who, it cannot be doubted, will regret that the challenged party had not the courage to say of the challenger, what Cæsar said of Anthony:

> "Let the old ruffian know
> I have many other ways to die."

Aaron Burr and John B. Church.

Colonel Burr fought his first duel on the 2d of September, 1799. There was a bit of scandal afloat throughout the State of New York that, for legislative services rendered, the Holland Company had canceled a bond held against Burr for $20,000. Mr. Church,[1] who was a brother-in-law of General Hamilton, and sympathized with that eminent man in his dislike of Burr, spoke at a private table in New York, with much freedom of the

[1] Church lived in Robinson street, N. Y. The funeral of Hamilton was from his house.

existing rumor, and apparent belief in the truth of the charge. This was reported to the victim of the slander.

Condemn the practice of dueling as we may, there are offences against personal reputation for which society has not furnished a remedy. The good name, dearly earned and prized above rubies, may be lost without deserving by the foul breath of the backbiter and slanderer; and where is the remedy? It is not necessary that he render himself open to an action at law; a shrug of the shoulder is sufficient to start on its career the lie that shall bowl down a dozen reputations. Contradict it, do you say? Why, the strongest proof of the total depravity of the human race is found in the fact that nine-tenths—is it put too high?—of the community would believe a lie rather than the truth. Let the slander go, say you; it cannot hurt a solid reputation. Why, the brighest steel may be tarnished with a breath. Upon this subject, one can readily believe that an intelligent man might soon argue himself into a belief that dueling, under certain circumstances, would not be such a bad thing after all. Certainly *one* effectual method of silencing slanderous tongues would be to subject the head in which it rudely wags to the damaging effects of a well-aimed minié.

For this slander Burr sought about the only redress which such a vile crime affords—*he challenged the slanderer*. The challenge was accepted; Mr. Hammond acting as the second of Mr. Church, and Judge Burke of South Carolina as the second of Colonel Burr. The parties, attended by their seconds and a surgeon, met on the duel ground at Weehawken on Monday evening about sunset. Mr. Parton says that connected with this duel was an incident which furnished the town-gossip with a joke and a by-word for many a day. Before leaving home Colonel Burr had been particular to explain to his second that the balls were cast too small for his pistols, and that chamois leather, cut to the proper size, must be greased and put around them to make them fit. Leather and grease were put in the case with the pistols. After the principals had been placed at ten paces apart, Burr noticed his second vainly endeavoring to drive in the ramrod with a stone, and at once suspected

that the grease had been forgotten. A moment after, the pistol was handed to him. With that singular coolness which he was wont to exhibit at critical moments, he drew the ramrod, felt the ball, and told the judge it was not home.

"I know it," replied the second, wiping the perspiration from his face. "I forgot to grease the leather; but you see, your man is ready; don't keep him waiting. Just take a crack as it is, and I'll grease the next."

At the word, shots were exchanged, without any other effect than that the ball from Mr. Church's pistol passed through Burr's coat. The pistols were about being reloaded for a second shot, when Mr. Church made an apology which was acceptable to Burr's second, whereupon the principals shook hands, and returned to the city.[1]

Eacker and Price—Eacker and Hamilton.

George I. Eacker was born at Palatine, in the State of New York. At the time of the following event he was twenty-seven years of age, a promising member of the New York Bar, and in politics a sympathizer with Colonel Burr. Price, a friend of Mr. Hamilton, is supposed to have been a son of Stephen Price, lessee of the Park Theatre. Philip Hamilton was the eldest son of Alexander Hamilton, and in the twentieth year of his age. On the 4th of July, 1801, Eacker had pronounced an oration in the city of New York, which was commended by nearly everybody, and would have been by all, only for the party spirit, which at that time was very bitter, and blinded one to every virtue in an opponent. On Friday evening, November 20, 1801, Mr. Eacker, in company with Miss Livingston and others, occupied a box in the Park Theatre. In an adjoining box were young Price and Hamilton. They made some ironical remarks about Eacker's Fourth of July oration, which seemed to be intended for the ear of the young lady. Eacker looked around,

[1] *Parton's Life of Burr*, 240. *Centinel of Freedom, Sept.* 10, 1799.

and saw Price and Hamilton laughing. The following account of what happened between this time and the meeting at Weehawken was written by Mr. Lawrence, a young gentleman who went to the theatre with Mr. Eacker, and accompanied him through every stage of the controversy:

"He took no further notice of their conduct, but joined immediately in conversation with his party, and made use of every means to prevent its being observed by them that he was the subject of ridicule to the gentlemen behind. Immediately preceding the pantomime, the box being full, Messrs. Hamilton and Price, leaving the opposite side of the house, again intruded into the box occupied by Mr. Eacker and his party. At the moment of entrance, they commenced a loud conversation, replete with the most sarcastic remarks upon Mr. Eacker. Their manner was more indecent, if possible, than their conversation. Mr. Eacker himself, thus pointedly the object of contempt and ridicule, and his name being mentioned aloud, could no longer sustain the painful sensation resulting from his situation. He determined to leave the box, and remonstrate with Mr. Hamilton privately, in the lobby. As he stepped into the lobby with his back toward Messrs. Hamilton and Price, covered with agitation and shame to be thus treated, he exclaimed, 'It is too abominable to be publicly insulted by a set of rascals!' 'Who do you call damned rascals?' was the immediate inquiry, repeated again and again. Mr. Eacker felt anxious to avoid a brawl in a theatre, and observed to the gentleman that he lived at No. 50 Wall street, where he was always to be found. 'Your place of residence has nothing to do with it,' was the reply. Upon this, some persons observing an intention, as they supposed, to assault Mr. Eacker, and desirous to prevent a disturbance in the theatre, stepped before the gentlemen, and with difficulty prevented their approaching Mr. Eacker. Mr. Eacker then requested them to make less noise, and proposed retiring to some private place. On the way to the tavern, Messrs. Price and Hamilton peremptorily insisted upon Mr. Eacker's particularizing the person to whom he had applied the appellation of *rascal*. Mr. Eacker

demanded of them, '*whether they came into the box on purpose to insult him.*' '*That is nothing to the purpose,*' was the reply. '*We insist upon your particularizing the person you meant to distinguish by the appellation of* rascal.' '*Did you mean to insult me?*' again repeated Mr. Eacker. 'We insist upon a direct answer,' was reiterated. 'Well then, you are both rascals.' Upon leaving the house, Messrs. Price and Hamilton conducted themselves in such a manner as would inevitably, if continued, have drawn the attention of persons in the street. Mr. Eacker said, 'Gentlemen, you had better make less noise; I shall expect to hear from you.' 'That you shall,' was the immediate reply. Mr. Eacker returned to the theatre, and had not been there long before he received a message from Mr. Price, requesting him, in very laconic terms, to appoint his time and place of meeting."—*Am. Citizen & Adv. No.* 529, *vol. ii.*

Mr. Hamilton, on the same Friday night, called on Mr. David S. Jones, who consulted John B. Church, the uncle of young Hamilton. They framed a message to Mr. Eacker, requiring an explanation of the offensive expressions he had used to Hamilton. This was delivered to Eacker about half-past eleven o'clock on Friday night, in the presence of Mr. Lawrence. No explanation was given, but Mr. Eacker said that after the affair with Price was over, he would receive any communication from Hamilton.

On Sunday, November 22, 1801, at twelve o'clock, noon, Eacker and Price, accompanied by their seconds, Mr. Lawrence and James Lynch, met at Weehawken. They exchanged three shots, without effect, when the seconds interposed. The parties, however, wished another shot, and agreed that after that they would shake hands. The fourth shot was had without effect, and a reconciliation ensued, Price remarking that *Eacker was such a damned lath of a fellow that he might shoot all day to no purpose!*

As soon as young Hamilton ascertained that the affair with Price was over, between one and two o'clock on Sunday afternoon, he renewed his communication to Mr. Eacker. On Monday, November 23, 1801, about three o'clock in the afternoon,

the parties, accompanied by their seconds, Mr. Cooper, the actor, in behalf of Eacker, and David S. Jones in behalf of Hamilton, met at Weehawken. After the word had been given, a pause of a minute, perhaps more, ensued, before Mr. Eacker discharged his pistol. He had determined to wait for Hamilton's fire, and Hamilton, it is said, reserved his fire, in obedience to the commands of his father. Eacker then leveled his pistol with more accuracy, and at the same instant Hamilton did the same. Eacker fired first, but almost simultaneously with Hamilton. The latter's fire, it is said, was unintentional, and in the air. The ball from Eacker's pistol entered Hamilton's right side, just above the hip, passed through his body, and lodged in his left arm. He was immediately taken over to the city, where he died the next morning at five o'clock.

Eacker died of consumption in 1804, and was buried in St. Paul's churchyard, near Vesey street.

Langstaff and Waldron.—Smith and Cock.

These duels were fought on the 25th of December, 1801, at Weehawken, though the papers of that day speak of Powles Hook. This place and Hoboken were spoken of indiscriminately in the Eacker and Hamilton duel, when we know that it was fought at the regular dueling ground. From the *Daily Advertiser* of Monday, Dec. 28, 1801, the following is taken:

"In consequence of a difference arising between Mr. John Langstaff and Mr. Oliver Waldron, Jun., of this city, they met on Friday afternoon at Powles Hook, accompanied by their seconds, when, after exchanging two shots, the matter was amicably settled; but the seconds, Mr. Augustus Smith and Mr. Archibald M. Cock, having some dispute on account of the ground, they exchanged shots, when the latter received a slight wound in the face." These parties were mere striplings, not over twenty years of age.

On the same day the following leading questions were put to the young duelists in the *Spectator*:

"1st. What was the cause that gave rise to so serious a mode of settling a difference? Is this the new and fashionable way of honor; or why could it not have been settled without exchanging shots?

"2d. What was the difference between the seconds respecting the ground; and did the eager and fighting appetites of the principals insist on fighting without having the ground settled?

"3d. Did you not fight at 7 o'clock in the evening—and was not the night so dark you could not see each other at ten yards' distance?

A. W."

From the above it will be noticed that the information respecting the immediate facts and circumstances of the duels were meagre even at the time. It is the same, to a greater or less extent, with all the duels of which an account will be given The reason is that they were in violation of a positive law, although sanctioned and demanded by society. Though under this demand the law was dead, yet it had sufficient terrors to induce the covering up of facts connected with this mode of healing wounded honor.

Clinton and Swartwout.

John Swartwout was a political friend of Colonel Burr, and De Witt Clinton of General Hamilton. Around these last two names seemed to cluster all the political likes and dislikes of that day. In a moment of forgetfulness Mr. Clinton had used certain language concerning Mr. Swartwout, which called forth the following letter:

"New York, 25*th July*, 1802.

"Sir: I am informed that you have lately, in a conversation held at Mr. Ezekiel Robins's, taken very unwarrantable liberties with my character, permitting yourself to use expressions relative to me too gross to be repeated. From your character and standing in society, I presume you will not hesitate to recognize or disavow these charges, and if true, to make me a prompt and suitable reparation.

"I have made my friend Col. Smith acquainted with my feelings and expectations on this subject; at my particular request he does me the honor to present this. He will receive your answer, and act accordingly.

"I have the honor to be, Sir, yours, &c.,

"JOHN SWARTWOUT.

"The Hon. De Witt Clinton, Esq."

Colonel Smith delivered this letter on the morning of the 26th. Mr. Clinton asked what the expressions were to which objection was taken. Colonel Smith replied, *Liar, Scoundrel and Villain.* Mr. Clinton said he recollected having applied the first two to Mr. Swartwout, explained how he came to use them, but refused any apology. The following is his letter:

"NEW YORK, *July* 26, 1802.

"SIR: Having understood that you have, on various occasions and in relation to the controversy respecting Mr. Burr, represented me as being governed by unworthy motives, I have, without hesitation, affixed to such suggestions such epithets as I thought they merited.

"With regard to the conversation that took place at Mr. Robins's, it was predicated upon a full conviction that this system of conduct had been adopted by you. As you have not thought proper to detail, in your letter, the expressions attributed to me, but have referred me to Col. Smith for them, he will in the same way inform you of those which my recollection recognizes.

"I have only to add that any further arrangements you may think proper to make will be attended to by me, with all the promptitude which a regard to the circumstances of the case may require.

"I am, sir, your most obedient servant,

"DE WITT CLINTON.

"John Swartwout, Esq."

On the same (Monday) night Mr. Clinton sent for Richard Riker, who called the next morning and consented to act as Mr. Clinton's friend. Mr. Riker called upon Colonel Smith on Wed-

nesday morning at ten o'clock. They agreed that the "business might be amicably adjusted." Mr. Riker wrote out the following *projet:*

"If Mr. Swartwout will declare that he has not represented Mr. Clinton, in relation to the controversy respecting Mr. Burr, as being governed by unworthy motives, Mr. Clinton will declare that he used the epithets with respect to Mr. Swartwout, *only* in consequence of this supposed imputation, which being disavowed by Mr. Swartwout, he (Mr. Clinton) readily withdraws the epithets complained of, and as a gentleman apologizes for the use of them. These mutual declarations to be made in the presence of Col. Smith and Mr. Riker, and a written statement, signed by Col. Smith and Mr. Riker, to be exchanged."

This proposition was submitted to Mr. Swartwout, and by him rejected, and the following was declared to be the only apology acceptable. It was sent to Mr. Clinton for his signature:

"Having, in the course of a conversation, made use of expressions reflecting on John Swartwout, Esq., I do fully and freely withdraw those expressions as intemperate and unfounded, and request Mr. Swartwout to accept this apology from me for having used them."

Mr. Clinton peremptorily refused to sign anything of this kind, and nothing remained but to settle preliminaries for a meeting of the parties. At one o'clock on Wednesday, July 28, 1802, Colonel Smith and Mr. Riker met at Mr. Little's, on the 29th selected the place of meeting, and on the 30th agreed upon the following

"ARRANGEMENT.

"1. To leave this Island from different points in two boats precisely at 5 o'clock on Saturday P. M., and to proceed to the place proposed. The party first arriving will wait the landing of the other: each boat shall be rowed by four confidential persons *only*, who shall remain in their respective boats until called for. These persons are not to be armed in any manner whatever. There will be but seven persons in each boat, viz., the Principal,

his Second, one Surgeon, and four Oarsmen. The Surgeons may attend in silence on the ground.

"2d. The distance between the parties to be ten yards, measured by the seconds, and the positions shall be distinctly marked.

"3d. The seconds shall determine by lot the choice of position.

"4th. The pistols are not to exceed eleven inches in the barrel. They are to be smooth bores, and to be loaded by the seconds in each other's presence, showing a smooth ball.

"5th. The gentlemen will stand with their backs to each other at their respective stations, and in this position shall each receive a pistol, and the seconds having determined by lot who gives the word, he to whom the lot falls shall take his position in the centre, retired from the line of fire, and shall distinctly say: 'Attention, gentlemen—*To the right face*'—upon which they shall face to the right and fire with promptitude; if one fires before the other, the opposite second shall say, 'One, two, three, fire,' and he shall fire.

"6th. The left hand shall not be brought in support of the right arm, nor be placed on the right breast or side.

"7th. If either should be wounded before he has fired, and means to fire, he shall, if he can stand *unsupported*, be entitled to his shot, and not otherwise. If either has fired, is wounded and means to proceed, he shall receive no assistance; his second will only exchange the pistol. If he falls forward the second will repost him.

"8th. At the exchange of pistols correct positions are to be resumed, and the words given as in Article 5.

"9th. A snap or flash to be considered a fire. The pistol must not be recovered.

"10th. Neither party to quit his station without the order or consent of the two seconds.

"R. RIKER,
"W. S. SMITH.

"New York, July 30, 1802."

With such positive and strict rules and regulations did the parties solemnly proceed in their innocent way of adjudicating the difference "'Twixt tweedledum and tweedledee."

At the time agreed upon the parties, accompanied by Doctors John H. Douglass and Isaac Ledyard, left for the Jersey shore. There the seconds tossed up for position and who should give the word. Both were won by Colonel Smith. There is some difference between the seconds as to what occurred after this, and therefore both of their statements are given. Mr. Riker says:

"The parties having their positions, Col. Smith gave the words distinctly, as he did preceding each succeeding fire. They fired without effect. Mr. Clinton then requested me to ask Mr. Swartwout—which I did through Col. Smith—whether he was satisfied, declaring at the same time that he bore him no resentment, and would be willing to meet him on terms of their original friendship. Mr. Swartwout declared he was not satisfied. The pistols were again loaded and delivered to the gentlemen. They turned at the word and fired, as before, without effect. The same declarations were made by Mr. Clinton, and the same question put, the answer being as before. The pistols were a third time loaded, and upon the words, '*Attention, gentlemen*,' being pronounced by Col. Smith, I observed Mr. Swartwout turning, and he was nearly round before Col. Smith had pronounced the words, '*to the right face*,' upon which I said, '*stop*.' He paused a moment, and fired a little before Mr. Clinton. I remonstrated against it immediately after, and requested Col. Smith to inform Mr. Swartwout that it *must not be repeated*. I observed that Mr. Clinton had been shot through the coat, and then said to Mr. Swartwout through Col. Smith, and by request of Mr. Clinton as before, 'Mr. Clinton has no enmity to Mr. Swartwout; he is sorry that this disagreement has happened, and is willing to bury all in oblivion; that he was shooting at a man whom he did not wish to injure.' On asking whether he was satisfied, the answer was no, nor would he be until the apology was made which had been demanded A certificate was then presented to Mr. C. by Col. S. Mr. C. read it, handed it back, saying he would sooner fire all night than ask his pardon. The parties again took their stations, with noticeable coolness. The word was given, the gentlemen fired with more deliberation than usual, Mr. C. rather after Mr. S. His ball took effect, upon which Mr. S. immediately

called for another pistol. While the pistols were being reloaded the blood flowed profusely from the wound in Mr. S.'s leg, and he looked pale. His surgeon, Dr. Douglass, went to him, and it is said quietly extracted the ball from the other side of his leg. This was contrary to the 7th article of the code adopted by them, and unbeknown to Mr. Riker. When the parties were again ready, Mr. S.'s looks prompted one of the surgeons to remark, 'Mr. Swartwout requires a surgeon,' whereupon Mr. Riker begged Col. S. to repeat to Mr. S., 'Sir, are you satisfied? Mr. Clinton bears you no resentment. He is sorry for what has passed, and will meet you on the score of original friendship.' Mr. S., standing in his place, replied, 'I am not; it is useless to repeat the question.' Then said Mr. C., 'I beg you all to bear witness, I have no enmity to Mr. Swartwout, and I am compelled to shoot at a man whom I do not wish to hurt; but I will sign no paper —I will not dishonor myself.' The word was then again given, the parties fired, and Mr. C.'s ball again took effect. Mr. S. coolly said he was ready to take another shot. Preparations were being made to load the pistols, when Dr. Ledyard, calling from the bank, said: '*Mr. Clinton, don't fire again; Mr. Swartwout wants our assistance.*' Whereupon Mr. C. stepped toward the bank and asked, 'Will it be right to fire again?' Dr. L. said, 'No, by no means.' Mr. C. then asked Mr. Riker what he ought to do. His second, reflecting a moment, said to Col. S.: 'Mr. Clinton shall not fire again.' Mr. S. was then assisted into the boat, Mr. Riker supporting him on the right side and Dr. Ledyard on the left."

Colonel Smith's statement is as follows:

"The ground being correctly measured and intermediate questions adjusted, the gentlemen took their stations, were each presented with a pistol, and, by order, faced to the right and fired, ineffectually. At the request of Mr. Riker I asked Mr. Swartwout: 'Are you satisfied, sir?' He answered, 'I am not.' The pistols then being exchanged, and their positions resumed by order, the gentlemen faced to the right, and fired a second shot without effect. At the request of Mr. Riker, I again addressed

Mr. Swartwout: 'Are you satisfied, sir?' He answered strongly in the negative. We proceeded, and a third shot was exchanged without injury. At the request of Mr. Riker, I again asked Mr. Swartwout: 'Are you satisfied, sir?' He answered: 'I am not; neither shall I be until that apology is made which I have demanded. Until then we must proceed.' I then presented a paper to Mr. Riker containing the apology demanded for Mr. Clinton's signature, observing that we could not spend our time in conversation; that this paper must be signed or proceed. Mr. Clinton declared he would not sign any paper on that subject; that he had no animosity against Mr. Swartwout; would willingly shake hands, and agree to meet on the score of former friendship.

"Mr. Swartwout insisting on his signature to the apology, and Mr. Clinton declining, they stood at their posts, and fired a fourth shot. Mr. Clinton's ball struck Mr. Swartwout's left leg about five inches below the knee; he stood ready and collected. At the request of Mr. Riker, I again addressed Mr. Swartwout: 'Are you satisfied, sir?' He answered, 'It is useless to repeat the question; my determination is fixed, and I beg we may proceed.' Mr. Clinton repeated that he had no animosity against Mr. Swartwout; was sorry for what had passed; proposed to advance, shake hands, and bury the circumstance in oblivion. During this conversation, Mr. Swartwout's surgeon, kneeling by his side, extracted a ball from the opposite side of his leg.[1] Mr. Swartwout standing erect on his post, and positively declining anything short of an ample apology, they fired the fifth shot, and Mr. Swartwout received the ball in the left leg, about five inches above the ankle; still, however, standing steadily on his post, perfectly composed. At the request of Mr. Riker, I again addressed Mr. Swartwout: 'Are you satisfied, sir?' He forcibly answered, 'I am not, sir; proceed.' Mr. Clinton then quit his station, declined the combat, and declared he would fire no more. Mr. Swartwout expressed himself sur-

[1] While Dr. Douglass was performing this operation, the seconds were at the pistol cases. Colonel Smith turned around and said, "Doctor Douglass, what do you do there, sir? go away, or you will be shot."

prised that Mr. Clinton would neither apologize nor give him the satisfaction required; and addressing me, said, 'What shall I do, my friend?' I answered, 'Mr. Clinton declines making the apology required, refuses taking his position, and positively declares he will fight no more; and his second appearing to acquiesce in the disposition of his principal, there is nothing further left for you *now* but to have your wounds dressed.' The surgeons attended, dressed Mr. Swartwout's wounds, and the gentlemen, in their respective barges, returned to the city."

It was said that after the last shot, and while Mr. Swartwout was sitting on a stone bleeding, Mr. Clinton approached him, offered him his hand, and said, "I am sorry I have hurt you so much." Then turning to Colonel Smith, he said, "I don't want to hurt him, but I wish I had the *principal* here. I will meet him when he pleases." He had reference to Aaron Burr.

Riker and Swartwout.

Richard Riker, at the time Deputy Attorney-General of the State of New York, afterward Recorder of the city, and known as Dickey Riker, and Robert Swartwout, a brother of Samuel, Collector of the Port under General Jackson, fought a duel at Weehawken, on Monday, November 21, 1803. The cause lay in a political quarrel—Riker being a firm adherent of De Witt Clinton, and Swartwout a strong personal and political friend of Colonel Burr. Riker fell at the first fire, from a severe wound in the right leg. The wits who subsequently edited "The Croakers" refer to this combat in the following irreverent lines:

"The Riker, like Bob Acres, stood
Edge-ways upon a field of blood,
The where and wherefore Swartwout knows,
Pulled trigger, as a brave man should,
And shot, God bless them—his own toes."

These two parties were indicted in New York for dueling, November, 1804.

Burr and Hamilton.

At last the two political chieftains of New York are about to meet in mortal combat. Their followers, at intervals for the past five years, had met and fought to settle political and personal differences. Now Weehawken is to witness the last meeting of the rival leaders, and on her rocky shore they part—one

DUEL GROUND.

to his grave, the other to be a fugitive on the earth. The duel was fought on the morning of July 11, 1804. It arose, or rather a pretext for it was found, in what may be called the tattling of one Dr. Charles D. Cooper. For political purposes, he had reported that he "could detail a *still more despicable* opinion which General Hamilton *had expressed* of Mr. Burr." What-

ever this silly remark may have meant, it was the cause of the controversy which followed, and which ended in the untimely death of a truly great man.

As soon as this expression of Cooper was brought to Burr's attention, he, ripe for a quarrel with his great rival, called upon General Hamilton for "a prompt and unqualified acknowledgment or denial of the use of any expression which would warrant the assertion of Dr. Cooper," and selected William P. Van Ness as his friend, to deliver his letter. Hamilton replied on the 20th of June, but it is manifest that he could not be held responsible for Dr. Cooper's inferences. On the 21st, Burr rejoined as follows:

"SIR: Your letter of the 20th instant has been this day received. Having considered it attentively, I regret to find in it nothing of that sincerity and delicacy which you profess to value.

"Political opposition can never absolve gentlemen from the necessity of a rigid adherence to the laws of honor and the rules of decorum. I neither claim such privilege nor indulge it in others.

"The common sense of mankind affixes to the epithet adopted by Dr. Cooper the idea of dishonor. It has been publicly applied to me under the sanction of your name. The question is not whether he has understood the meaning of the word, or has used it according to syntax, and with grammatical accuracy; but whether you have authorized this application, either directly or by uttering expressions or opinions derogatory to my honor. The time 'when' is in your own knowledge, but no way material to me, as the calumny has now first been disclosed, so as to become the subject of my notice, and as the effect is present and palpable.

"Your letter has furnished me with new reasons for requiring a definite reply."

Mr. Van Ness delivered this letter. Hamilton told him that he considered it *rude and offensive*, and unless it were recalled, the only answer which it was possible for him to make was that

Mr. Burr must take such steps as he might think proper. Nevertheless, he replied in writing as follows:

"SIR: Your first letter, in a style peremptory, made a demand, in my opinion, unprecedented and unwarrantable. My answer, pointing out the embarrassment, gave you an opportunity to take a less exceptionable course. You have not chosen to do it; but by your last letter received this day, containing expressions *indecorous* and improper, you have increased the difficulties to explanation intrinsically incident to the nature of your application.

"If by a 'definite reply' you mean the direct avowal or disavowal required in your first letter, I have no other answer to give than that which has already been given. If you mean anything different, admitting of greater latitude, it is requisite you should explain."

This letter was delivered to his friend, Judge Nathaniel Pendleton, who had been Aid-de-Camp of General Greene, on the 22d of June, but by reason of certain conversations between him and Mr. Van Ness it was not delivered until the 25th. Before the delivery of this letter Mr. Van Ness had addressed a note to General Hamilton asking him "when and where it would be most convenient to receive a communication." It will be seen, therefore, that Colonel Burr had resolved on extreme measures before General Hamilton's second note was delivered to him.

Pending the negotiations previous to the delivery of the letter of the 22d, Judge Pendleton submitted to Mr. Van Ness the following paper, which shows how far General Hamilton was willing to concede:

"General Hamilton says he cannot imagine to what Dr. Cooper may have alluded, unless it were to a conversation at Mr. Taylor's, in Albany, last winter (at which he and General Hamilton were present). General Hamilton cannot recollect distinctly the particulars of that conversation, so as to undertake to repeat them, without running the risk of varying or omitting what might be deemed important circumstances. The expressions are entirely forgotten, and the specific ideas imperfectly remembered; but to

the best of his recollection it consisted of comments on the political principles and views of Colonel Burr, and the results that might be expected from them in the event of his election as Governor, without reference to any particular instance of past conduct or to private character."

After the delivery of Hamilton's second letter, Judge Pendleton submitted another paper, dictated by the same kindly spirit:

"In answer to a letter properly adapted to obtain from General Hamilton a declaration whether he had charged Colonel Burr with any particular instance of dishonorable conduct, or had impeached his private character, either in the conversation alluded to by Dr. Cooper, or in any other particular instance to be specified, he would be able to answer consistently with his honor and the truth in substance, that the conversation to which Dr. Cooper alluded turned wholly on political topics, and did not attribute to Colonel Burr any instance of dishonorable conduct, nor relate to his private character; and in relation to any other language or conversation of General Hamilton which Colonel Burr will specify, a prompt and frank avowal or denial will be given."

These propositions being unacceptable to Colonel Burr, a correspondence between the seconds followed. Finally the formal challenge was given by Burr and accepted by Hamilton. The parties prepared for the meeting, which was to be on the 11th of July. Hamilton executed his will, and signed cogent reasons why he should not fight a duel. His own good judgment, his keen sense of moral right, his obligations to his family, his duty to his country and to the requirements of the law, all united to convince him that he had no right to jeopard his life to the demands of a false sentiment. But louder than all these the public voice called upon him to meet his foe in mortal combat, and he, who had faced death on the battle field, had not the courage to refuse. Burr, on the night of the 10th, wrote several letters—one to his Theodosia, the pride of his heart—and then lay down and slept till morning. Better for him had that sleep been his last—better for him had that morning never dawned. At daybreak a few of his friends gathered around him. Shortly afterward they pro-

ceeded from Burr's house, No. 30 Partition, now Fulton street, to the shore, where Burr, Van Ness, Matthew L. Davis and another (probably Swartwout) embarked, and were rowed over to Weehawken.[1] They arrived on the ground about half-past six o'clock, for it had been previously agreed that he should arrive first. Burr and Van Ness, with coats off, were leisurely removing the underbrush from the ground, "so as to make a fair opening," when Hamilton and his second, accompanied by Dr. Hosack, who had been mutually agreed upon as the surgeon, arrived a few minutes before seven o'clock. The principals and their seconds exchanged salutations, and the seconds proceeded with the usual preparations. They measured the distance, ten full paces, then cast lots for the choice of position and to decide who should give the word. The lot in both cases fell to General Hamilton's second, who chose the upper end of the ledge for his principal. The pistols were then loaded in each other's presence and the principals placed, Hamilton looking over the river toward the city, and Burr toward the heights under which they stood. Judge Pendleton gave Hamilton his pistol, and asked:

"Will you have the hair-spring set?"

"*Not this time*," was the quiet reply.

Judge Pendleton then explained to the parties the rules which were to govern them in firing, which were as follows:

"The parties being placed at their stations, the second who gives the word shall ask them whether they are ready; being answered in the affirmative, he shall say *Present;* after this the parties shall present and fire *when they please*. If one fires before the other, the opposite second shall say, 'One, two, three, fire,' and he shall then fire or lose his fire."

He then asked if they were prepared. Being answered in the affirmative, he gave the word *Present*, as had been agreed on, and both parties presented and fired in succession. The intervening time is not expressed, as the seconds do not precisely agree on that point. The fire of Colonel Burr took effect, and

[1] Wilson was one of the rowers.

General Hamilton almost instantly fell, his pistol going off involuntarily. Colonel Burr then advanced toward Hamilton with a manner and gesture which to Judge Pendleton seemed to be expressive of regret,[1] but, without speaking, turned about and withdrew, being urged from the field by his friend, shielded, as it is stated, by an umbrella, with a view to prevent his being recognized by the surgeon and bargemen, who were then approaching. Colonel Burr entered his barge and returned to the city *to breakfast!*

When Hamilton fell his second immediately sprang forward and lifted him to a sitting posture. The ball had struck the second or third false rib, and fractured it about in the middle; it then passed through the liver and diaphragm and lodged in the first or second lumbar vertebra. Dr. Hosack says: "His countenance of death I shall never forget. He had at that instant just strength to say, 'This is a mortal wound, doctor,' when he sank away and became to all appearance lifeless. His pulses were not to be felt, his respiration was entirely suspended, and upon laying my hand upon his heart and perceiving no motion there, I considered him as irrevocably gone. I, however, observed to Mr. Pendleton that the only chance for his reviving was immediately to get him upon the water. We therefore lifted him up and carried him out of the wood to the margin of the bank, where the bargemen aided us in conveying him into the boat, which immediately put off." Before they reached the opposite shore he revived. He survived until the next day about two

[1] Burr was considered a good shot, and he is said to have remarked on the afternoon of the same day, by way of apology for firing a little below the breast, that had it not been for smoke or a rising momentary mist, or something of that nature, which intercepted his vision, he should have lodged the ball exactly in the centre of Hamilton's heart. *N. Y. Spectator, July* 28, 1824.

When in England, in 1808, he gave Jeremy Bentham an account of the duel, and said *he was sure of being able to kill him;* and "So," records Bentham, "*I thought it little better than a murder.*" *Sabine on Dueling*, 212. Such was the view held by the grand jury of Bergen county. That body indicted him in November, 1804, for murder. On November 20, 1807, this indictment was quashed by the Supreme Court, on motion of Colonel Ogden. *Centinel of Freedom, Nov.* 24, 1807.

o'clock in the afternoon, when he died, in the forty-eighth year of his age.

Immediately after the duel a question arose as to Hamilton's firing—whether it was intentional or not. The next day Judge Pendleton and a friend went over to the ground to see if they could discover some traces of the course of the ball from Hamilton's pistol. They ascertained that the ball passed through the limb of a cedar tree[1] at an elevation of about twelve and a half feet from the ground, between thirteen and fourteen feet from where Hamilton stood, and about four feet wide of the direct line between him and Colonel Burr on the right side.

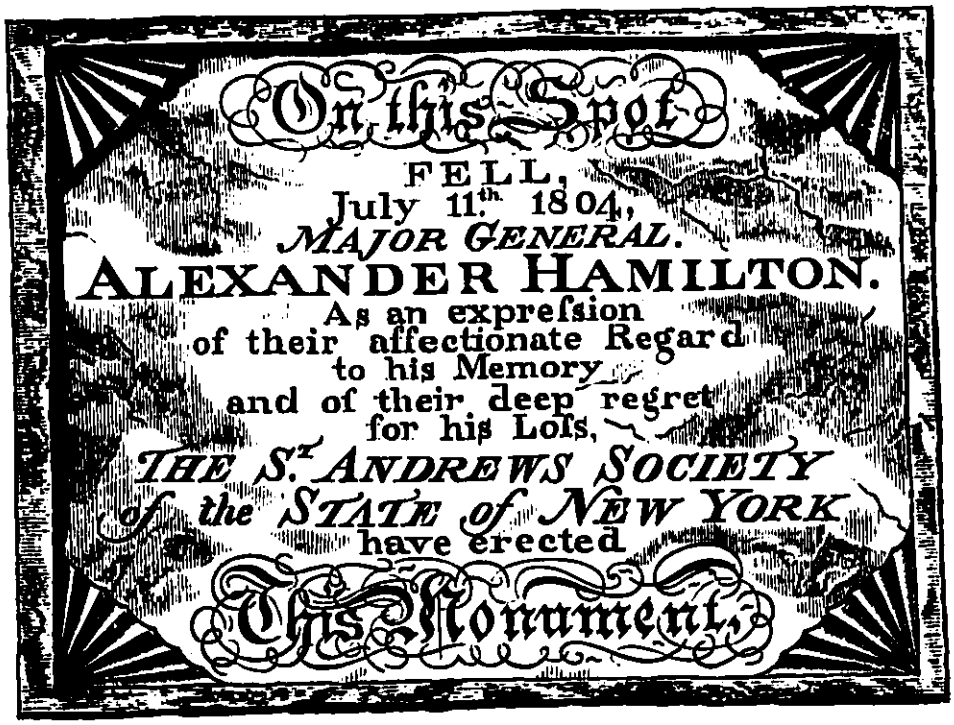
A few months after the duel the St. Andrew's Society, of which Hamilton was president, erected a monument to his memory on the ground where he fell. It was surrounded with an iron railing, and while it stood was visited by thousands every summer.

It was intentionally destroyed about the year 1820. The monument seemed to arouse in the people of New York a spirit of emulation. A writer in *The Columbian*, on July 13, 1815, who signed himself "HOBOKEN," wrote of the existence of Hamilton's monument, and said, "It is a subject of complaint to the citizens in the vicinity, and a standing absurdity and outrage on the morals, manners and feelings of society. By the pernicious effect of a conspicuous example, the young and chivalrous are invited to combat and feel a degree of vain glory in measuring ground on the spot where that great man fell from all his glory and usefulness, and furnished a bloody beacon to posterity, which should be at least shrouded from the light of day. Nowadays the boats arrive from your island in broad daylight, the combatants take their stand on each side of the ominous monument, and before the inhabitants can reach the spot the mischief is done, and the *unfortunate* survivors hurried off, too soon to be arrested by the gathering neighborhood. Such is the sensation, I understand, excited by the use of this modern

[1] This tree was destroyed when the New York and Fort Lee Railroad was constructed.

Aceldama, that it is not to be expected the pillar will long retain its station, it being considered as a baleful nuisance, not a vestige of which should be suffered to remain on the earth. But for the eminent cause of its origin, I should be almost as willing to have a gallows near my house."

With such a feeling growing in the community, it could not be expected that the monument would long survive. Stansbury, who visited the place August 20, 1821,[1] says, "The monument



FAC-SIMILE OF THE TABLET IN HAMILTON'S MONUMENT.

that was erected here to the memory of General Hamilton is now taken to pieces by the proprietor of the soil and conveyed to his house, under pretence of its having been too much resorted to for purposes of dueling." From this language it is inferable that the removal was then comparatively recent. Captain James Deas was the owner of the property at the time, and was the person who removed the monument. By some means the slab

[1] *Pedestrian Tour*, 14.

which bore the inscription was taken from Captain Deas's possession. About the year 1833 Mr. Hugh Maxwell, President of the St. Andrew's Society, learned that it had been seen in a junk shop in New York. He traced it up, redeemed it from its ignoble position and presented it to the late James G. King, who about that time had become the owner of the property on which the monument had been erected. The tablet still remains in possession of his family at Highwood. It is thirty-four inches in length by twenty-six and a half inches in width and two and a half inches in thickness.

Gouverneur and Maxwell.

On Monday, July 10, 1815, the New York papers announced the death, "after a short illness," of Isaac Gouverneur, the second son of Nicholas Gouverneur. This death, following a "short illness," was caused by a duel between him and William H. Maxwell on Saturday, the 8th of July, about seven o'clock in the evening. It was fought with pistols, "near the monument of Hamilton, a beacon which should dissuade and deter, like the pillar of salt, from folly and madness, rather than allure, like an *ignis fatuus*, to rashness, error and destruction." George Watts and Doctor Worthington were the seconds in the duel.

Price and Green.

Benjamin Price was a grocer at Rhinebeck, a brother of William M. Price, who lived in Hackensack, and of Stephen Price, of the Park Theatre. Green was a major in the British army, serving in Canada. Price was at the theatre one evening with a beautiful woman, when Green, in an adjoining box, took the liberty of turning around and staring her full in the face. She complained to Price, and, on a repetition of the offence, he turned and seized the nose of the gallant officer full between his finger and thumb and wrung it most effectually. The officer left the

theatre, and soon after a knock was heard at the door of Price's box. He opened it, and there stood the officer, who, with a refreshing simplicity, asked Price what he meant by such behaviour, at the same time remarking that he had not meant to insult the lady by what he had done. "Oh, very well," replied Price, "neither did I mean to insult you by what I did." Upon this they shook hands as sworn brothers. Some time after this Green went to Canada to join his regiment. The facts of the affair, however, had reached Canada before him, and were soon the subject of discussion among his comrades. The officers of his regiment brought it to the notice of his brother officers, one of whom, a Captain Wilson, insisted that Green should be sent to Coventry unless he returned to New York and challenged Price. Green, thus goaded, set to work and practiced for five hours a day until he could hit a dollar at ten paces nine times out of ten. He then came to New York and challenged Price. They fought at Weehawken on Sunday, May 12, 1816. Price was killed at the first fire. The ball crashed into his head and the blood streamed from the wound as he fell. Numerous boats lined the shore, a number of spectators viewed the transaction from the neighboring rocks, and a more horrible sight could not have been imagined. The seconds ran off, and Green took a small boat, crossed the river and boarded a vessel in the bay just about to sail for England. The body of Price was found at Weehawken, with a piece of paper attached to his breast, on which were inscribed the following words: "This is Benjamin Price, boarding in Vesey street, New York; take care of him." The body was taken to the city quietly and buried.

As a sequel to the foregoing duel, Millingen, in his *History of Dueling*, relates the following:

"Some years afterwards, Captain Wilson of the British army, whom we have mentioned above, arrived in this city, from England, on his way to Canada, and put up at the Washington Hotel. One day, at dinner, the conversation turned on the death of Benjamin Price, and the manner thereof. Captain Wilson remarked that he had been mainly instrumental in

bringing about the duel, and detailed the circumstances connected therewith. This statement was carried immediately to Stephen Price, who was lying ill of the gout, at home: his friends say that he henceforth implicitly obeyed the instructions of the physician, obtained thereby a short cessation of the gout, and was enabled to hobble out of doors, his lower extremities swaddled in flannel. His first course was to seek the Washington Hotel, and his first inquiry was, 'Is Captain Wilson within?' 'He is,' said the waiter. 'Show me to his room,' said Stephen, and he was shown accordingly. He hobbled up stairs with great difficulty, cursing at intervals the gout and the captain with equal vehemence. He at last entered the captain's room, his feet cased in moccassins, and his hand grasping a stick. Captain Wilson rose to receive him, when he said, 'Are you Captain Wilson?' 'That is my name,' replied the gallant captain. 'Then, sir, my name is Stephen Price. You see, sir, I can scarcely put one foot before the other; I am afflicted with the gout. My object in coming here is to insult you. Shall I have to knock you down, or will you consider what I have said a sufficient insult, and act accordingly?' 'No, sir,' replied the captain, smiling, 'I shall consider what you have said quite sufficient, and shall act accordingly. You shall hear from me.'

"In due time, there came a message from the Captain to Stephen Price; time, place and weapons were appointed, and early one morning a barge left New York, in which were seated, face to face, Stephen Price and Captain Wilson, and two friends; they all landed at Bedlow's Island, the principals took their positions, and Captain Wilson fell dead at the first shot. The captain was buried in the vault there, and Price and the two seconds returned to New York; but his friends (Wilson's) thought that he had gone suddenly to Canada, and always thought that he had died suddenly, or had been killed on his way to England to join his regiment."

Perry and Heath.

Oliver H. Perry, the hero of Lake Erie, was post-captain in

the navy of the United States, and John Heath was captain of marines. While on duty in the Mediterranean, in 1815, a quarrel arose between them. In the moment of excitement Perry struck Heath. A court-martial followed the difficulty, and both were privately reprimanded by Commodore Chauncey, who commanded the American squadron in that sea. After their return to the United States, Heath sent a challenge to Perry. The communication was received in Rhode Island, where the civil authorities would not permit the duello. Commodore Perry, as early as January, had secured the services of Commodore Decatur as his friend, in anticipation of the challenge. On the 10th of October he went to Washington, to give Captain Heath the satisfaction he demanded. The absence of Commodore Decatur rendered it necessary that he should have another friend for a time, that Captain Heath might be informed of his arrival, and for what purpose he had come. This was done, and the following preliminary arrangements agreed upon between Major Hamilton, on the part of Commodore Perry, and Lieutenant Desha on the part of Captain Heath:

"1st. It is understood that Commodore Perry is to proceed to Philadelphia, or its vicinity, by the route of Baltimore, where he is to remain until the arrival of Captain Heath's friend.

"2d. That Captain Heath is to proceed by the way of Frederick and York to Philadelphia, and to remain in the suburbs until the arrangements are made for a meeting between himself and Commodore Perry—his name not to be on the stage bills.

"3d. Lieutenant Desha and Major Hamilton are to meet at Renshaw's, on Wednesday, after the arrival of the Newcastle boat.

"4th. The meeting between Commodore Perry and Captain Heath is to take place on Saturday morning, or as soon after as practicable.

"*Washington City, Oct.* 12, 1818."

Endorsed on this preliminary arrangement was the following note:

"Captain Perry desires it expressly to be understood, that in

according to Captain Heath the personal satisfaction he has demanded, he has been influenced entirely by a sense of what he considers due from him as an atonement to the violated rules of the service, and not by any consideration of the claims which Captain Heath may have for making such a demand, which he totally denies, as such claims have been forfeited by the measures of a public character which Captain Heath has adopted towards him. If, therefore, the civil authority should produce an impossibility of a meeting at the time and place designated, of which he will take every precaution to prevent, he will consider himself absolutely exonerated from any responsibility to Captain Heath, touching their present cause of difference.

"J. HAMILTON, Jun.

"(*For Captain Perry*).

"APPROVED—

R. M. DESHA."

In consequence of the foregoing, the parties assembled at Philadelphia, and Major Hamilton then transferred the above memorandum to Commodore Decatur, introducing to him at the same time Lieutenant Desha as the friend of Captain Heath, when the following arrangements were made:

"1st. It is understood that Captain Perry and his friend are to proceed to New York, or its vicinity, where he is to remain until the arrival of Captain Heath, or until the period which is named in this paper for their meeting.

"2d. That Captain Heath, with his friend, are to follow and remain at some convenient point on the Jersey shore, near the city of New York, and to give information after their arrival to Captain Perry's friend, where such arrangements will be made as may be deemed necessary.

"3d. The parties to be on the point specified, and the notification required by the 2d article given, prior to the approaching Monday, the 19th.

"The parties accordingly met at Weehawken on Monday, October 19, 1818, at 12 o'clock. Captain Perry received the fire of Captain Heath without returning it, when Commodore Decatur

immediately stepped forward and declared that Commodore Perry had come to the ground with a determination not to return the fire of Captain Heath, in proof of which he read a letter from Commodore Perry to him, which he had written (and which is herewith subjoined), soliciting him to become his friend, and, therefore, he presumed the party aggrieved was satisfied. Captain Heath having expressed his acquiescence in this opinion, and that the injury he had received from Captain Perry was atoned for, the parties returned to the city.

"We do hereby certify the foregoing is a correct statement.

"STEPHEN DECATUR,
"R. M. DESHA."

LETTER OF COMMODORE PERRY.

"WASHINGTON, *January* 18, 1818.

"MY DEAR COMMODORE: You are already acquainted with the unfortunate affair which has taken place between Capt. Heath and myself. Although I consider, from the course he has thought proper to pursue, that I am absolved from all accountability to him, yet, as I did, in a moment of irritation produced by strong provocation, raise my hand against a person honored with a commission, I have determined, upon mature reflection, to give him a meeting should he call on me; declaring, at the same time, that I cannot consent to return his fire, as the meeting, on my part, will be entirely as an atonement for the violated rules of the service. I request, therefore, my dear sir, that you will act as my friend on this occasion.

"Very truly your friend,
"O. H. PERRY.

"Com. Stephen Decatur."

Thus fortunately terminated this unfortunate quarrel between these two worthy officers.

GRAHAM AND BARTON.

William G. Graham was associate editor of the *New York*

Courier and Inquirer, and a native of Catskill. Mr. Barton was a son of the celebrated Dr. Barton, of Philadelphia. The duel was fought at Weehawken on Wednesday, November 28, 1827. It is said that a dispute arose between them while at the card table at a friend's house, in the course of which Graham struck Barton. A challenge was the consequence, Lewis Asbury and W. McLeod acting as seconds, and Doctor R. Pennell as surgeon.

The night before the meeting Mr. Graham wrote the following letter to his associate, Major Noah:

"11 O'CLOCK.

"DEAR SIR: What may be the result of the unhappy *rencontre* which is to take place in the morning between Mr. Barton and myself cannot, of course, be predicted by me. In the supposition that it will be *fatal*, I bid you *farewell*, in the only language that is now left to me. I am perfectly indifferent as to myself, but I trust most earnestly that Mr. Barton (toward whom I have not the faintest enmity of *any kind*) may escape. *I admit that I am in the wrong*—that, by giving him *a blow*, I have forced him into the condition of a challenge; and by not doing what he has he would have blasted his character as a gentleman forever. In common justice I am bound thus to absolve him from all suspicions of unbecoming conduct respecting the challenge. The provocation, though *slight*, was still a provocation which I could not overlook. It is out of the question for me to explain, retract or apologize. I will not hear of any settlement short of some abject and craven submission from him.[1]

"Mr. Barton is a talking man, who dwells very complacently on his own skill as a marksman, on his experience as a duelist, and on his accuracy as a person of *ton*. I pretend to none of these, and therefore must oppose the most inflexible obstinacy. After he is *perfectly satisfied*, I may, perhaps, apologize—that is, in case I am fatally wounded. It is needless for me to say I heartily despise and detest this absurd mode of settling disputes

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[1] It is probable that Mr. Graham intended to say, "He will not hear of any settlement short of some abject and craven submission from *me*."

and *salving* the wounds of honor. But what can a poor devil do except bow to the supremacy of custom?

* * * * * * *

"God bless you.

"W. G. GRAHAM."

Here we see a man of fine genius and noble impulses, who, like the talented Hamilton and the gallant Perry, could coolly stand before the cannon's mouth, yet yielded like a child to the omnipotence of public sentiment. How perverted must be that society which, while it condemns dueling, yet shuns and spurns the man who refuses to *accept* or *send* a challenge when he is insulted. And how weak and ineffectual are laws for the prevention of crime, when those crimes are approved by public sentiment.

On the fatal day Graham arose at four o'clock in the morning, and both parties were on the ground at twenty minutes before six o'clock. The principals took their positions, and at the word exchanged shots without effect. Mr. Graham's second proposed that the parties each advance one step. At the second fire Graham said, "*I am shot*—I am a dead man—Barton, I forgive you," and fell. He was immediately conveyed to the boat in waiting. When laid down, the only words he uttered were, "I am in great pain," and died a few minutes afterward. The ball had entered the right side, about two inches from the *umbilicus*, and passed obliquely through the body, injuring in its passage several important organs, and coming out on the left side about four inches from the spine.

The certificate of the cause of death, which Dr. Pennell gave the next day, is quite unique: "I hereby certify that William Graham, aged 34 years, died on the 28th inst. of vulnus."

AITKEN AND SHERMAN.

On Monday, the 19th of October, 1835, Henry Aitken and Thomas Sherman met on the ground at Weehawken. On the Sunday evening previous they had a difficulty in New York respecting

a female, which resulted in a challenge on the part of Sherman. This was accepted by Aitken, and ten o'clock on the following morning was fixed upon as the hour to decide the matter in difference. Mutual friends endeavored to reconcile the difficulty, but in vain. On Monday morning they crossed the Hoboken ferry and went to the ground. Before the preliminaries were settled, Andrew Boyd, a constable, arrived and arrested them. They were brought before Squire Paradise, in Jersey City, who committed them to the Hackensack jail to await the action of the grand jury.

On Tuesday P. M., May 16, 1837, a duel was fought at this place between a Spaniard from Guatemala and a Frenchman living in New York, in which the former was slightly wounded. Some pecuniary transaction was the subject of dispute.

Without being able to discover the particulars, I have met the general fact that a duel was here fought at quite a late period, and that one of the parties, named Bird, was shot through the heart, sprang up nearly ten feet, and fell dead.

So far as I can learn, the last duel fought on this ground was on Sept. 28, 1845. Without the knowledge of the principals, the seconds loaded the pistols with cork. The performance was solemnly gone through with as if in mockery of the many tragedies which had there been enacted. The heroes of this *affaire d'honneur* are not known, but with their farce the curtain drops upon the stage at Weehawken. But as we read its sad history may we not quote from Dr. Nott's funeral oration over Hamilton: "Ah! ye tragic shores of Hoboken, crimsoned with the richest blood, I tremble at the crimes you record against us, the annual register of murders which you keep and send up to God! Place of inhuman cruelty! beyond the limits of reason, of duty, and of religion, where man assumes a more barbarous nature and ceases to be man. What poignant, lingering sorrows do thy lawless combats occasion to surviving relatives."