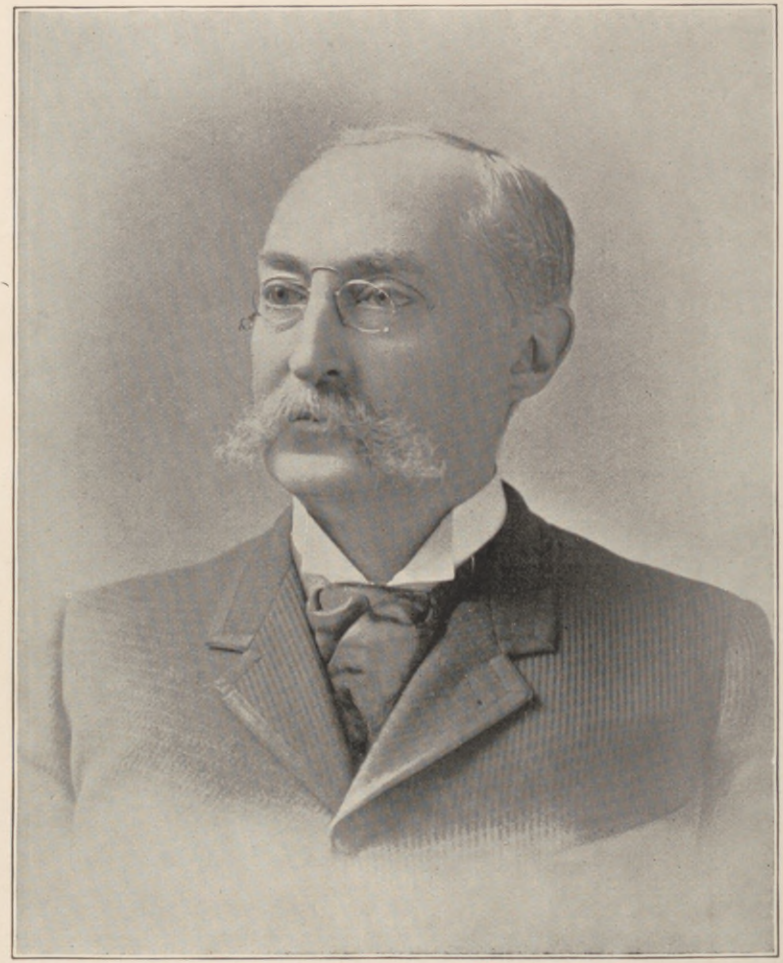

Garrick Mallery

From Photograph made in Sept., 1890.

BRIEF MEMOIRS

OF

COLONEL GARRICK MALLERY,
U. S. A.,

WHO DIED

OCTOBER 24, 1894.

WASHINGTON
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1895

GARRICK MALLERY.

PRESIDENT OF THE PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON, IN 1888.

[Read before the Society, February 16, 1895.]

GARRICK MALLERY was born in Wilkesbarre, Pennsylvania, April 25, 1831. His family was of English origin, he himself being in direct descent from Peter Mallery, who landed at Boston in 1638. Some of his ancestors were military officers in the colonial service, and at a later period others of them served in the Revolutionary War. With the easy indifference of those days as to the matter of spelling, the name was sometimes written Mallery and at other times Mallory. The name of Garrick had no association with the famous actor of that name, but was a very old family prænomen, having been at one time spelled Gayreck.

The father of our late fellow-member was Judge Garrick Mallery, who was born April 17, 1784, and graduated at Yale College in 1808. He was a member of the legislature of Pennsylvania from 1827 to 1830, and was distinguished for the zeal with which he promoted the reform of the prison discipline of the State. In 1831 he was appointed judge of the third judicial district, composed of the counties of Berks, Northampton, and Lehigh. He resigned from the bench in 1836 and removed to Philadelphia, where he practiced in his profession as a lawyer for many years. In the latter part of his career Judge Mallery held the office of master in chancery of the supreme court of Pennsylvania. He died in Philadelphia on the 6th of July, 1866.

Judge Mallery was distinguished as a jurist and was a man of broad views and cultivated mind. His high char-

acter and many accomplishments had a marked influence on the early training of his son Garrick. The mother of the latter, the second wife of the judge, was descended from John Harris, the founder of Harrisburg, the capital of Pennsylvania, and from William Maclay, the first United States Senator from that State. The elevating influences of these historic antecedents were not without their effect upon the generous mind of the young man. The inheritance of family traditions and the "cumulative humanities of some generations," as Dr. Holmes aptly phrased it, may take rank in a lower degree with the lessons of history learned at school.

Young Mallery received an excellent early education and, when the time came, was prepared by a private tutor for his entrance into his father's *alma mater*, Yale College, where he matriculated in his fifteenth year. His collegiate career was creditable to his abilities and industry, and he obtained more than one prize in languages and mathematics. He graduated in 1850. In 1853 he received the degree of LL. B. from the University of Pennsylvania. In the same year he was admitted to the bar in Philadelphia and commenced the practice of his profession in that city. He devoted some of his leisure time to editorial and literary work, and was steadily advancing in professional standing when the War of the Rebellion broke out in 1861.

Mallery, with the enthusiastic patriotism which characterized him through life, at once entered the volunteer army of the United States, and on the 4th of June was appointed captain in the Seventy-first Pennsylvania infantry. In the battle of Peach Orchard, Virginia, which took place June 30, 1862, Captain Mallery was very severely wounded and, being left on the battle-field unable to move, he was

captured and sent to Libby prison, in Richmond. Upon being exchanged some time later he was sent to his home in Philadelphia, and upon his recovery returned to the field, and in February, 1863, was commissioned as lieutenant-colonel of the Thirteenth Pennsylvania cavalry. Colonel Mallery did excellent service throughout the remainder of the war, not only with his command but in various positions of importance to which he was assigned. He had speedily mastered the intricacies of military law, and his legal training, excellent judgment, and resolute courage were recognized and made serviceable by those in high command. While the military occupation of the State of Virginia yet continued, Colonel Mallery was appointed judge advocate of the first military district. He subsequently acted as secretary of state and adjutant general of Virginia, which latter appointment continued until February 15, 1870. Colonel Mallery was honorably mustered out of the volunteer service in November, 1866, and at the same time accepted a commission in the regular army as captain, with an assignment to the Forty-third infantry. He received the brevet commissions of major, lieutenant-colonel, and colonel (the last in the volunteer service) for "gallant and meritorious services during the war." He was on duty in the office of the Chief Signal Officer of the Army for nearly six years, but his old wounds rendering him unfit for field duty, he was retired at his own request in 1879.

In 1870 Colonel Mallery was married to Miss Helen W. Wyckoff, daughter of the Rev. A. Voorhis Wyckoff, whose ancestors were among the early Dutch settlers of New York. Through her mother this lady was descended from Colonel Richard Townley, who came to this country with Lord Howard, governor of Virginia from 1684 to 1688. Colonel

Townley married Lady Elizabeth Carteret, widow of Sir Philip Carteret, first governor of the province of New Jersey. Mrs. Mallery survives her husband, but there were no children.

At an early period in Colonel Mallery's career he became much interested in the Indian tribes with which he came in contact. His early reading had somewhat led him to the study of ethnology, and it was fortunate for himself and for the rising science of anthropology that he eagerly devoted himself to the researches offered by his surroundings. The ingenious Indian system of communication by signs and gestures attracted his attention, and he began to make a careful notification of them. This naturally led to the parallel investigation of their pictographs on rocks, skins, and bark, and he collected a large quantity of transcriptions of these interesting records. He foresaw that these customs would ultimately be lost and forgotten as the Indians were brought more and more under the control of the authorities and were deprived of their favorite pastimes of warlike enterprise and hunting. Events have already justified his wise foresight. Before Colonel Mallery began his researches it was, perhaps, generally supposed that the rude pictographs of the Indians, some of which were believed to be of pre-Columbian time, were unmeaning and half-childish devices. He was gradually convinced that gesture-speech and the cognate pictographs formed a complete system, involving mythology and history and having an important relation to spoken language.

The Bureau of Ethnology was organized in 1874, and some time after the director, Major J. W. Powell, invited Colonel Mallery to pursue his investigations in connection with that institution. The first result was the publication, in 1880, of a pamphlet of 72 pages, with 33 figures, entitled

"Introduction to the Study of Sign-language among the North American Indians as Illustrating the Gesture-speech of Mankind." This was intended rather as a manual for students, and in the same year followed a quarto volume of 329 pages, "A Collection of Gesture Signs and Signals of the North American Indians, with some comparisons." The latter work was distributed to collaborators only. In 1881 Colonel Mallery's second important contribution was published in the first annual report of the Bureau of Ethnology, namely, "Sign-language among North American Indians Compared with that among other People and Deaf-mutes." This treatise comprised 290 pages and was illustrated with 13 plates, a map, and 285 figures. While intended by its author as a preliminary report only, it at once took high rank, both at home and abroad, as an authoritative exposition upon an almost entirely new subject of anthropology. Mallery's next publication appeared in the Fourth Annual Report of the Bureau of Ethnology, 1886 (1887), under the title, "Pictographs of the North American Indians; a preliminary paper." It consisted of 256 pages, illustrated with 83 plates and 209 figures. This important work, the result of the parallel line of research in which its author had been engaged, met with immediate recognition and praise. Finally, the Tenth Annual Report of the Bureau of Ethnology, published in 1893 (1894), was devoted to Mallery's completed work on one of his subjects of investigation. It was entitled, "Picture-writing of the American Indians," filling 807 quarto pages, with 54 plates and 1,290 figures. This volume, with its opulence of illustration, is a noble testimony to the tireless industry, ingenious research, and power of philosophical comparison of its writer.

At the time of his death Mallery was preparing a treatise on the sign-language of the American Indians, intended to

be a companion work to the "Picture-writing" last published. This, unfortunately, was left unfinished; but it is understood that it will be completed and published by the care of the Bureau of Ethnology.

In addition to the foregoing important and valuable series of writings, Mallery was the author of many erudite critical essays. In the Anthropological Society of this city, of which he was one of the founders and afterward president, some of these were read. Of these shorter ethnological writings may be mentioned "Manners and Meals," 1888; "Customs of Courtesy," 1890; "Greetings and Gestures," 1891. An essay entitled "Israelite and Indian; a parallel in planes of culture," 1889, which was published in the Popular Science Monthly, attracted much attention from its bold and ingenious comparison of two such widely dissimilar races, and a rather sharp controversy was the consequence.

Colonel Mallery was at one time president of the Literary Society of Washington, and his graceful essays read at its meetings proved his wide acquaintance with the literature of his own and other countries. He was for many years a member of the general committee of this Society and in 1888 was its president. His address on retiring from office had for its subject "Philosophy and Specialties." In it he insisted upon the importance of acquiring a correct and even elegant style of writing in scientific papers. His own compositions were marked by ease and grace, and by great care in selecting words and terms which should be accurate in expressing the meaning intended.

Colonel Mallery died, after a short illness, at his residence on N street in this city, on October 24, 1894. He will be long remembered in this Society for his warm interest in its welfare and for his kindly disposition and genial manners.

ROBERT FLETCHER.

COLONEL GARRICK MALLERY, U. S. A.

[Read before the Literary Society of Washington, December 29, 1894.]

I have been asked to say a few words in relation to our lost friend and associate, Colonel Garrick Mallery.

There are three phases of his life and actions which naturally present themselves—his social history, his army career, and his scientific achievements. Of the first we all know something, many of us much. In the Literary Society, of which he was one time president and in which he felt an abiding interest, he was one of the most accomplished of its members. His excellent judgment, discriminating taste, and wide knowledge gave especial interest to all he said or wrote. In the papers which he read to us and in the addresses which he delivered before the scientific societies to which he belonged, there was particularly noticeable a vein of philosophic thought and analysis. In all his writings there was a clearness and simplicity of style which was especially attractive. This was the result partly of inherent good taste, but he had given much study to the subject of style in composition. Its application to scientific writings was the theme of his address before the Philosophical Society of this city on retiring from its presidency.

We had, I think, been so long accustomed to regard him in the light of a man of letters and scientific pursuits that to some extent his military career was forgotten. This was brought forcibly to my mind when I stood in that beautiful grove of the dead at Arlington and heard the volleys fired over the soldier's grave. An officer of high rank said to me as we returned from the funeral: "Colonel Mallery was a gallant officer, who held positions of great importance

during the war, and in all of them he displayed very high qualities." This officer sent me an official copy of our friend's military record, and kindly wrote some additional facts relating to it from his own knowledge.

I shall not dwell upon this part of his history, for it will be embodied in a biographical sketch which I have undertaken to write for the Philosophical Society. This biography will be published in the Bulletin of the Society, with a portrait of Colonel Mallery, and I shall take care to have copies of it sent to his old friends of this Association.

I may, however, mention one incident which I think will be new to you and which is equally creditable to our friend and to a very famous and much vilipended man. In 1862 Mallery was severely wounded at Peach Orchard, Virginia, and was left on the battle-field. He was captured and sent to Libby prison in Richmond, where he suffered from neglect and privations of all kinds. He never expected to leave that place of horrors alive, but his gay and buoyant spirit sustained him through it all. It happened that Mr. Stanton, the Secretary of War, had some slight knowledge of the young Captain Mallery, and thinking he might need money in his deplorable position, sent him a hundred dollars in a kind letter announcing his exchange. Mallery was sent to his home in Philadelphia, and one of the first pleasures of his recovered freedom was the return of the money so generously sent. Perhaps the recording angel looked with some benignity at the good deed of the "Great War Secretary," and allowed it to counterbalance some possible harshnesses. Colonel Mallery set much store by Mr. Stanton's letter and acknowledgment of the return of the loan, and had put these documents away with two photographs, one representing Libby prison, the other the mansion of the President of the Confederacy, in which Colonel Mallery oc-

cupied quarters while on the staff of General Schofield after the fall of Richmond. It is of record that Colonel Mallery was some time later practically for a while the governor of Virginia, having been assigned to duty as acting adjutant general of the State.

At an early period of our friend's army experience he began to take an interest in the customs of the Indian tribes with which he came in contact. He was especially struck with their extensive sign language and pictographs, and following up this particular subject of research during his subsequent connection with the Bureau of Ethnology, he produced, as we know, a work which brings together all that could be discovered in relation to it, set forth in a comprehensive and masterly manner. It was his happiness to see his book completed and published, but a philosophical summary of the results of this vast accumulation of facts upon which he had entered was left uncompleted at his death. This occasion does not admit of any account of his other ethnological work or of the many graceful and critical essays which were read in this and other societies; neither do I need to dwell in this assembly upon the charm of his manners and the many lofty qualities which so endeared him to his friends.

How, then, shall I sum up this brief sketch? The gallant soldier with a stainless record; the scholar largely read in the literature of his own and other times; the man of science, who has left an imperishable record of ingenious and far-reaching research; the trusted counselor in the societies which honored him with their highest dignities; the genial companion; the affectionate husband; the stanch friend; the high-bred gentleman—such was Garrick Mallery.

ROBERT FLETCHER.