

BRIGADIER-GENERAL MOYLAN.

Among the soldiers of the American revolutionary war, who without attaining to quite the highest rank, was universally conceded to have won the very highest consideration, was Stephen Moylan, a native of Cork, but by adoption a Philadelphian. The date of his emigration must have been about 1760, at which period he was probably of man's age. His family in Cork were highly respected, and one of his brothers was the well-known and well-beloved bishop of that see. Three other brothers, Jasper, James and John, accompanied him in his emigration, and long adorned that remarkable Irish society which at the period of the revolution and long afterwards was to be met in the city of William Penn.

Of the earlier years of General Moylan's life in the Colonies we know next to nothing.

The first mention we have of Moylan is at a meeting at Burns' Tavern, Philadelphia, where, on the 17th of September 1771, he proposed the formation of the society of "the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick." "His name," says Mr. Hood, in his sketch of this society, printed in 1844, "Stands first on the list of original members, and his signature is the first attached to the rules." He was also the first President, and nearly thirty years later, the last. The Medal of the society also betrays his Celto-Catholic mind. "On the right, Hibernia; on the left, America; in the centre, Liberty joining the hands of Hibernia and America, represented by the usual figures of a female supported by a harp for Hibernia; an Indian with his quiver on his back and his bow slung for America; underneath, *unite*. On the reverse, St. Patrick trampling on a snake, a cross in his hand, dressed in pontificalibus, the motto *Hiar*." This society, which began with fifteen members and two honorary members, had the high honor of "adopting" General Washington, on the 17th of December, 1781, as a son of St. Patrick. On this occasion the following gratifying correspondence and proceedings took place.

On December 17, a numerous meeting of the society was held, and dined at

Evans' Tavern. Generals Hand and Knox were proposed as members, and afterwards duly elected. On the same evening, "His Excellency, General Washington, was unanimously adopted a member of the society. It was ordered that the President, Vice-President and Secretary wait on his Excellency with a suitable address on the occasion, and present him with a medal in the name of the society. Also, that they invite his Excellency and his suite to an entertainment to be prepared and given him at the City Tavern, on Tuesday, the 1st of January, 1782, to which the Secretary is requested to invite the President of the State and of Congress, the Minister of France, M. Marbois, M. Otto, the Chief Justice, the Speaker of the House of Assembly, Mr. Francis Rendon, M. Holker, Count de la Touche and Count Dillon, with all the general officers that may be in the city."

In pursuance to this order, the President and Secretary waited on General Washington with the following address:

"May it please your Excellency:

"The society of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, in this city, ambitious to testify, with all possible respect, the high sense they entertain of your Excellency's public and private virtues, have taken the liberty to adopt your Excellency a member.

"Although they have not the clothing of any civil establishment, nor the splendor of temporal power to dignify their election, yet they flatter themselves that as it is the genuine offspring of hearts filled with the warmest attachments, that this mark of their esteem and regard will not be wholly unacceptable to your Excellency.

"Impressed with these pleasing hopes, they have directed me to present to your Excellency a gold medal, the design of this fraternal society, which, that you may be pleased to accept and live long to wear, is the warmest wish of your Excellency's most humble and respectful servant.

"By order and in behalf of the Society,

GEORGE CAMPBELL, President.

"To his Excellency, General Washington, Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Army."