

tent; altho' I own, if I could come at the property our enemies are possessed of, belonging to me, it would increase the pleasure. I do assure you it is not less than twelve thousand pounds sterling at least, besides my real estate at Newport; yet I can with truth say it never broke my rest a moment." At the close of the war he reëntered upon commercial pursuits, and was one of the founders of the Newport Bank, of which institution his son Samuel and his grandson William were successively presidents. He was also one of the founders of the Newport Artillery Company in 1741. He was a great friend of learning, and assisted Dr. Witherspoon in raising funds for Princeton College. . . . On the death of Abraham Redwood, he was elected the second president of the Redwood Library. He was on terms of affectionate intimacy with La Fayette, Dr. Stiles, Adams and Franklin; and was intimate with Jefferson, Viscount de Noailles, and other prominent men too numerous to mention.

His correspondence during colonial, revolutionary and post-revolutionary times, which is very large and well preserved, is in possession of Thomas Vernon, Esq., of New York, who contemplates printing it at some future day. He has also a large family correspondence of the Wards, Ellerys and Vernons of the same periods, which throws a good deal of light upon colonial times and life, and upon the feelings which permeated the men and women immediately before, during and after the Revolution.

Mr. George C. Mason, of Newport, in 1853, contributed a serial sketch of Mr. Vernon to the *Newport Mercury*.

William Vernon was a man of very imposing presence and courtly manners. Children:

7. i. SAMUEL, b. May 29, 1757.

ii. WILLIAM, b. March 6, 1759; d. unm. in 1833. He was afterwards known as William H. Vernon; was for many years secretary of the Redwood Library. He was a man of elegant and courtly manners, and was known in Newport as "Count Vernon." He graduated at Princeton College in 1776. He is famous as the owner of a celebrated collection of paintings of great merit, which he made in France; an account of them is given in the *Galaxy* of December, 1876. It is thought that he may have inherited the seal ring referred to in the affidavits, which may have been lost by him, as while in France he went through many vicissitudes. He was a constant and favored guest at the court circles of Louis XVI., and a favorite of the Queen.

At one time during the French Revolution he was recognized as a courtier by the mob, dragged to a lamp-post, and was only rescued from being hanged by a Frenchman who knew him and assured the mob that he was an American citizen.

iii. PHILIP HARWOOD, b. April 3, 1761; d. Aug. 26, 1762.

6. SAMUEL<sup>a</sup> VERNON (*Samuel<sup>a</sup>, Samuel<sup>b</sup>, Daniel<sup>c</sup>, Samuel<sup>d</sup>*), b. Feb. 17, 1744-5; d. Dec. 1, 1809. He had two children:

i. HARRIET, m. her cousin Samuel King.

ii. WILLIAM S., of Louisville, Ky., who m. America Fontaine, and had:—  
 1. *George Talbot*,<sup>7</sup> m. Mary Ross. 2. *Charles Fontaine*,<sup>7</sup> dead.  
 3. *Mary Ann*,<sup>7</sup> m. Nathaniel Wolfe, a distinguished lawyer of Louisville. 4. *Ann M.*<sup>7</sup> 5. *Harriet King*.<sup>7</sup> 6. *Daniel Smith*.<sup>7</sup> 7. *William S.*,<sup>7</sup> dead. 8. *Edward Harwood*.<sup>7</sup> 9. *Grace*,<sup>7</sup> m. Francis L. B. Noad, of Montreal, Can.

7. SAMUEL<sup>b</sup> VERNON (*William<sup>a</sup>, Samuel<sup>c</sup>, Daniel<sup>d</sup>, Samuel<sup>e</sup>*), b. May 29, 1757; m. Dec. 31, 1784, his cousin Elizabeth Almy, daughter of Christopher and Mary (Vernon) Ellery. She was born March 24, 1764; died Feb. 21, 1857, æ. 93. Mr. Vernon was an eminent Newport merchant,