

it did not reach St. Louis till a "bright day in August." But the news was not well received by the mass of the people in St. Louis. There is nothing in history more touching than the devotion and affection which these old French residents had for their mother country. The love of *la belle France* was with them a supreme and ruling passion. It was with feelings of unmeasured sadness and regret that they found their allegiance to France was to be severed. The transfer of the sovereignty sank deeply into their hearts. The long association of Charles Gratiot with George Rogers Clark and his associates, who captured Illinois, the interest he had taken in the cause of the Revolution, and the fortune he had devoted to upholding that holy cause, had made him in heart and sympathy more of an American than any man in St. Louis. He had the strongest desire to see the French territory annexed to the United States, to the independence of which he had contributed so much. He hailed the event with joy. On the 10th of March, 1804, tenderly and reverently the proud ensign of France was lowered in the presence of a great multitude, and amid tears and sighs. Then was thrown to the breezes of heaven the starry banner of our Republic. All this important and interesting ceremony, the germ of so much greatness, took place on the balcony of the house of the grandfather (on her father's side) of the donor of this portrait; and as the American flag was lifted toward the heavens, the emblem of a new, a great and a powerful nation, he alone saluted it with respect and affection.

Charles Gratiot had four sons. The oldest, Charles Gratiot Jr., was educated at West Point, graduated in the engineer corps, and became distinguished in his profession. As a young officer, he gained much distinction in the War of 1812, and in after years became the chief of the corps of engineers in the United States army. He was the officer who planned and constructed Fortress Monroe at Old Point Comfort, on the Chesapeake Bay, which stands today the most extensive and important fortification on the American continent, which will remain an enduring monument to the skill and scientific accomplishments of Gen.