The Hubbard Collection
(Excerpts from A Book Review by John Francis Gough, Harvard, 1902, a member of the Executive Council. Published in Jersey City, August, 1945.)

The Letters of Lafayette to Washington 1777-1779.

"In the background of this book is the Hubbards’ admiration of the art, culture and history of the reign (1774-1792) of Louis XVI, the period of Lafayette’s rise to renown. After the First World War they acquired from descendants of Lafayette nearly all the letters he had written to Washington; one hundred and fifty-five were original; fifty-five, in a letterbook, were copies made at Lafayette’s request in 1782, by an American sergeant who wrote a ‘fair hand.’ Even before Mr. Hubbard’s death, publication had been planned . . .

* * *

‘This book is a flowering of keen vision, deep sentiment, excellent scholarship and deft art. Students of Franco-American relations and of balanced world power will find it a convenient and authoritative work; a few booklovers, a happy few, will cherish it, as Austin Dobson did his dog-eared Jesuit Horace, close to the heart; and Fayettistes will regard it as a first-hand chronicle of a nobleman whose liberal, well-ordered soul withstood relentless trial by powers and influences essentially materialistic, and, occasionally, starkly anarchistic.’

* * *

Hands Across the Sea
We have received through Mr. Stuart W. Jackson, greetings to the Society from André Girodie, curator of the Musée at Bléancourt. It will be remembered that he edited a Catalogue of the 1930 Lafayette Exhibition in France.

Dr. William Mather Lewis

IT is with deep regret that we report the death of Dr. William Mather Lewis, a founder of the Society and its second president. Dr. Lewis, who had on July last retired after eighteen years as President of Lafayette College, died suddenly on November 11, 1945, while driving his car in West Hartford, Connecticut, on the way to his farm in Colebrook, Connecticut. His death has especial sadness for the members of the American Friends of Lafayette for it was at his invitation that the Society was formed beneath the beautiful statue of the Young Lafayette by Daniel Chester French on the campus of Lafayette College. Many of us will remember the historic meeting of the Society at the World’s Fair in 1933 when he presided. Again on our tenth anniversary, the annual meeting was held at Lafayette College through his kind invitation. On this occasion we were addressed by the Governor of Pennsylvania and other distinguished guests. It was the last time Dr. Lewis addressed us. He was a delightful speaker with a quiet humor running through his remarks.

STUART W. JACKSON

(In May Dr. Lewis was one of three to receive the 1945 gold medals of the National Institute of Social Science for outstanding service to humanity. A knight of the Legion of Honor of France since 1933, he in 1940 was further recognized by the French Republic when he was presented with the Cross of the Legion of Honor and promoted to an office in the Legion of Honor by the French consul.)

* * *

Executive Council Meeting
On January 15, the Executive Council gathered in New York at Hotel Fourteen for a dinner and business meeting. Plans were made for future activities and for society publications. President J. Bennett Nolan presided.

A Permanent Lafayette Collection in New York

Upon the suggestion of Mr. Gardner Osborn, director of the Federal Museum at Wall and Broad Streets, New York City, a committee has been appointed to set up there a permanent collection of Lafayette memorabilia, consisting chiefly of medals, statuettes, badges, and other mementos, as well as pictures portraying Lafayette, his wife and children. What are highly desirable are copies of the sketch by Duvivier and of the Charpentier, Court, Du Bucourt and Joubert pictures, and contemporaneous reproductions of pictures of events and scenes in the life of Lafayette, notably in the American and French Revolutions and particularly the abodes of Lafayette, both in America and France. Members and friends wishing to donate material should communicate NOW with the Committee:
HOWARD R. CRUSE, 15 Exchange Place, Jersey City.
WALTER P. GARDNER, 143 Liberty Street, New York City.
JOHN F. GOUGH, 26 Journal Square, Jersey City.

* * *

Miss Clara Greenleaf Perry is presenting to the Society a set of lithographs of Chavaniac, La Grange and other places, done by her during her many years’ residence in France. Some of these will be placed on exhibition at Federal Hall and others at Lafayette College.

* * *

Lafayette Birthday Meeting

In celebration of the birthday of Lafayette, the members of the American Friends of Lafayette met in September at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, New York City. The principal guest was the new president of Lafayette College, Dr. Ralph Cooper Hutchinson. It was also the first meeting under our own new president, Lieut. Commander J. Bennett Nolan. Various members of the executive council, members and guests also spoke briefly. Preceding the dinner, there was a meeting of the Council.
France In Distress

LT. COL. FRANK MONAGHAN, G.S.C.

France is in acute distress and now, without delay, the true friends of France should hasten to her aid. And here I speak chiefly to those who have been deeply interested in promoting the historical, the cultural and the spiritual relations between France and the United States. In a world of astronomical figures our own numbers may seem small, but we are capable of effective action; we are articulate and I hope that we shall be determined.

From the first Nazi invasion I followed with mounting apprehension the reports that came from within that stricken nation. But it was not until a military mission took me there during the spring of 1945 that I came to a vivid understanding of the extent and the depth of the crisis. My duties took me hundreds of miles through France. I talked with bankers and bakers, book sellers and farmers, professors and truck drivers. The physical aspects of even the simplest kind of living were distressing in the extreme. The grim, constant struggle to get even the minimum necessities for physical existence were beyond the understanding of persons who had never been thus afflicted. The problems of food and heat and clothing are now less acute and they slowly improve. The government of the United States is generously supplying many of the needed things for rehabilitation: foodstuffs, machinery, tools and raw materials. And in this important respect it is the government of the United States which alone possesses the resources and the instruments to deal with the magnitude of the problem.

But I believe that there is an equally serious aspect of the problem to which we who have been interested in Franco-American relations can make an important and unique contribution. France needs a spiritual and moral regeneration as well as physical rehabilitation. By providing bread alone we shall prove ourselves but poor, misguided friends. In spite of the underground and other tenuous connections with the non-Nazi world France was virtually cut off from the life of her democratic sister nations. The fine cultural and scholarly ties which once were firmest bonds of Franco-American friendship were broken or relaxed. We need desperately to build them anew and stronger than before the great disaster. We must rebuild that splendid fraternity of interests, ideas and activities. And it is now not merely a question of resuscitating the old to build more firmly a new. During and after the liberation of France certain new misconceptions have arisen to cloud the future of Franco-American relations. They arise from the presence of American troops in France long after the fighting on French soil was over. The clarification of these misunderstandings is not impossible, but it will require a positive effort. It is an additional argument for us to get into action without delay.

In my mind it is urgently important that we begin a spirited resumption of cultural and spiritual relations with France. I am also firmly persuaded that this essential task is beyond the abilities and the resources of any one of the present Franco-American organizations. But I further believe that if the present Franco-American organizations in the United States came together, pooled their ideas and talents, and mobilized their supporters and contacts that we could devise and execute a startlingly effective program for the rehabilitation of Franco-American cultural relations.

I suggest and urge that the American Friends of Lafayette take the lead in exploring the possibilities of establishing such a central committee. I feel certain that if the preparations were made carefully enough that we could convene a meeting of the representatives of all the Franco-American organizations that have done such splendid jobs in the past. The problems could be so put to each of them that they would come to such a meeting prepared to discuss, with effect, the whole question of how we can collectively and effectively prosecute a program of Franco-American activity. This is a task for co-operative, co-ordinated planning. It was such planning that won the military victory; we are somewhat less than alert if we refuse to use the same planning for the problems of the peace.

If the American Friends of Lafayette succeed only in launching such a co-operative effort and then occupy a minor place in the subsequent organization we shall still have done far more than we have thus far been able to achieve in promoting the general field of Franco-American relations. I fervently believe that it should be done; I hope that the American Friends of Lafayette will be the instigators and the agitators to the point of full success.

France is in distress. Let us, in our special ways, make a valiant effort to rescue her and to re-establish and enrich the future of Franco-American relations.

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Fish and Lafayette

I HAVE a treasured item on my shelf of special books — a finely-printed volume of 329 pages . . . informative, rollicking and mystifying pages. The title-page is admirably simple; it says, 1600-1914. By S. Fish. Privately Printed, 1942. In a preface of nine lines the author explains that he had once thought of calling the book Family Papers, but gave this up in explaining: "I have merely dated the book. The reader can call it what he will." And various readers will call it sundry things. This reader esteems it as a most welcome relief from the distorted and pompous genealogical hash dished out by the authors of most privately-printed family histories. Mr. Fish has a certain earthy humor, a mischievous and calculated irreverence and a sharp intelligence that are elements of delight. It is a pity that this volume was never given wide circulation.

For students and collectors of Lafayette this volume has a distinct and special interest. Nicholas Fish and Lafayette were old friends from Revolutionary days. Few letters of this early period seem to have survived, but the author states that the correspondence between Nicholas Fish and Lafayette from 1825 to 1833 amounts to "about 150 typewritten pages." From conversations with Mr. Fish, I am led to believe that this is an underestimate of the Lafayette material in the Fish family archives. The present volume includes 19 letters (in part or in whole; the indication is not clear) between Fish and Lafayette: 13 from Fish to Lafayette and 6 from Lafayette to Fish.

I make no attempt to evaluate these letters. I merely wish to point out their existence to the members of the American Friends of Lafayette. They will value it not merely for its Lafayette material; I feel certain they will esteem it as a valuable contribution to a select shelf of Americana.

LT. COL. FRANK MONAGHAN
Notes On An Unpublished Letter From Lafayette To Jay

By Dr. Louis Gottschalk

There are two published versions of Lafayette's letter of February 8, 1783, to John Jay. The letter is printed in Jared Sparks (ed.), The diplomatic correspondence of the American Revolution, X (Boston, 1830), 48-49, and in (William A. Weaver (ed.), The diplomatic correspondence of the United States of America from the signing of the definitive treaty of peace, September 10, 1783, to the adoption of the constitution, March 4, 1789, I (Washington, 1837), 419-20. The original is a holograph in the Library of Congress, Papers of the Continental Congress, 156, fols. 400-02. An incomplete copy is also to be found in the Greene papers at the William L. Clements Library, Ann Arbor, Michigan, where the letter is wrongly described as of Lafayette to Greene.

A comparison of the original and the printed texts reveals that both Sparks and Weaver (who apparently copied Sparks' version) omitted some interesting passages. The first omission is relatively minor. In the fifth line of both printed texts the words "Fort Lillo" are omitted; they are, however, given in the copy at the Clements Library. The other omissions have more significance and are here published for the first time:

You have desired I should make it a point to inform Court, and inform you upon the Unhappy affair of Longchamp. By all accounts the man is a despicable wretch: it was expected by many he should be Returned. The matter, however, is taken in a very friendly point of view — allowances are made for the situation in which the affair Happened — and the injustice of Retrospective laws is properly felt — so that I am not so uneasy upon this point — and don't doubt but what either the Recommendation of Congress, and the laws of the states to that purpose will be worded in such a way as will settle the whole affair in a satisfactory manner.

The above passage is omitted in the Sparks-Weaver versions following the sentence: "In every country mercantile prejudices wear of [sic] little by little." It refers to the problem of the extradition of Charles-Julien Longchamps, who had assaulted Barbe-Marbois, secretary of the French legation and later chargé d'affaires at Philadelphia.

The printed versions also abbreviate the close of the letter. After "I beg; my dear Sir, you will forgive the Hurry in which I write," they omit the following passage:

... and will exactly inform you of every political event in Europe. I wish my gazettes may some times be agreeable to Congress. Some of my opinions, and peculiarly that Respecting Longchamp's affair, I lay Before Congress Rather in a confidential way Because my informations are friendly if I am allowed to speak so, and not official.

The final omission follows: "Be pleased, by dear Sir, to Remember me to all our friends." Lafayette adds here:

... and to present my affectionate Respects to Mrs. Jay. Mde de Lafayette joins in Compliments to Both and..."

The William L. Clements copy ends before the reference to Mrs. Jay and so leaves the addressee in doubt. The fact that the original is found in the Papers of the Continental Congress is further evidence that the addressee was Jay, at this time secretary for foreign affairs, rather than Greene.

After "I have the Honour to be," the original continues:

very Respectfully
Your obedient Humble servant
LAFAYETTE

A Revolutionary War Musket

Last November Dr. Henry Ewing Hale, 2d, of Princeton, presented a Revolutionary War musket to the American Friends of Lafayette. We give below all that is known about the provenance and character of the piece, in the hope that some especially informed in the history of American firearms may be able to identify it even more fully than the collectors and experts already consulted have reported to Dr. Hale and to us.

Dr. Hale sent the following note with the musket:

"Its history known to me is as follows: From my earliest recollection, it was in my father's home on Battlefield Farm, Princeton, N. J., the place where General Hugh Mercer died on January 12th, 1777."

"I was born in that house August 4th, 1869."

"My late friend, Captain Walter G. Watts, of Ticonderoga and Silver Bay, N. Y., recognized it as a Lafayette musket, although it had been converted into a cap-lock affair. It had no maker's name on it, to prevent the British from having proof of its origin, and it had a plug in the stock, the Holy Water mark, signifying it has been, as it were, baptized and blessed by some priest of the Roman Catholic Church."

"Captain Watts (of the U. S. Artillery of the Spanish War) showed the weapon to Mr. Pett, the reconstructor of Fort Ticonderoga, who concurred in the identification and had it reconverted to flint-lock firing. I believe the barrel has been shortened."

Captain L. V. Naisawald, stationed at Lafayette College on the staff of officers in charge of the United States Military Academy Program at the College, took the musket apart and examined it very thoroughly. He noted the following markings:

On main plate the name, possibly the maker: DEMUTTIG (?)
On back of lock a large letter: L.
Underneath it, small letters: N E (or F).
On under side of trigger guard a large letter: D, preceded by an arrow.
On front of trigger guard the number: 8.
On wood in slot where trigger guard fits are scratched: + III.
On left side of stock, stamped on wood underneath inlaid metal brace or ornamental piece: + VI.

(The over-all length: 50".)

The only note we can add is that Sawyer's Firearms in American History does not mention a DEMUTTIG.

T. E. Norton

A Book Not In Our Collection

The following item was published in the New York Times of December 4, 1944:

"Paris, December 3 — Some French collaborationists who fled to Germany, especially the group revolving around Fernand de Brinon, are displaying great activity, according to underground reports reaching here, and have accepted the German invitation to conduct propaganda against the Allies. Printing facilities have been granted to them and they recently published a book entitled France and American Independence, described as calculated to embitter relations between the two countries."

T. E. Norton
Chavaniac, A Maquis Center

(Excerpts from the letters of Madame Marie-Louise Le Verrier at Chavaniac to Miss Clara Greenleaf Perry of Boston, Massachusetts.)

The Last Months of Occupation in the Heart of France

War is not ended, but our part of France is liberated. The department of the Haute-Loire suffered less than the other departments of Auvergne. It did not attract the enemy as much. The land is poor and it is very difficult of access. This does not mean we have not been plundered and "sucked to the bone." We have. Consequently, when people from Marseilles, Toulon and the Mediterranean border rushed up here, in the early spring, to seek shelter, we had nothing to offer them! Not enough food nor any decent housing.

Our landscape is magnificent, our red-roofed villages, zigzagging amidst pastures or perched on mountain tops, are most picturesque from the point of view of the tourist who hurries along on a main road in a fast car, but intimacy with them is another thing; they possess very few good houses, mostly hovels or sheds abandoned since the other war, and the lovely roofs leak abundantly! The unfortunates who swarmed here were given in Avignon a sort of hospitality the people from the cote d'azur were given in Avignon. They came in herds and could not bring any luggage along. They landed at this altitude of 750 meters with the summer clothes they had on and a small bag for underwear, no coats, no wraps, and we had to sew new garments 10 months out of the 12.

The maquis was all around us . . . the maquis remains still very mysterious. Naturally, all that was attempted to fight the occupants had to be kept ceaselessly in mind, accomplished while preserving a normal appearance, with as few people as possible in the secret, and was mostly realized in the most dangerous moment under the eyes of the enemy. No place was safe, in city or country. At any hour of the night or day the Boches entered the houses, opened wardrobes, cupboards, bureau drawers, pulled everything out and helped themselves to whatever they pleased. Photo hamlets, isolated farms, charcoalmakers' huts have been for no reason plundered, erased or burnt. Danger was everywhere and fell in the most unexpected spots.

Near Chavaniac a picturesque village [Domeyrat], where a few dozen people live in the shadow of a chateau in ruins since 175 years, was ransacked. The Boches took the trouble to search every house, smashing the doors of the inhabited ones. Where they found pictures on the wall, they unframed them to see if any writing was hidden behind. They stole all the watches, stylos and money they found. However, a young boy had placed a huge revolver in his grandmother's couche a dentelle [pillow for making lace]. They took hold of it, shook it, turned it upside down and threw it on the floor in the lad's presence, but did not find the weapon — which happened to be the only one left in the village!

The maquis was still a mystery, but when young men who had been ordered to start for Germany "happened" to miss their train and met gendarmes whose duty it was to arrest them, the gendarmes, when at liberty to speak their minds out, gave them the paternal advice to take to the woods instead of returning home . . . and the families approved.

If the maquis remained mysterious so long for the "grown ups," it did not for the children. When I crossed the yard of the Preventorium, kiddies armed with sticks were always attacking older boys representing the farmers — "Give us some grub or we shoot!"

There were so many men camouflaged in the Margeride 18 months ago that the news from it was: "The allies better land quickly now. We are ready!" The waiting seemed hopeless! When at last the long expected signal for action was given, the ones who were not yet in the maquis left openly with an explosion of joy. Unarmed and untrained, instead of adopting the guerrilla tactics of trying to remain unnoticed as long as possible, they rushed through the main roads, be-decked with allied flags, singing the Marseillaise with all the strength of their lungs and many of them got killed uselessly.

As soon as the camion of the Preventorium disappeared on the road that afternoon, 40 boys between the ages of 10 and 14 left also . . . but very secretly, to join the resistance. Of course their resistance was vanquished by hunger and, having skipped one meal, they returned for the next!

The morning the ones of Chavaniac had left, our cure, celebrating early mass, said as usual at the end of it, "Let us pray for our prisoners, for our workers in Germany . . ." then he added, thoughtlessly, letting his heart out — and for our maquisards." A very unwise statement for him to have made, which might have brought severe reprisals on him. But only a few women heard it. They agreed with the cure on that subject, so young and old held their tongues.

Six lads of our commune lost their lives; 5 being killed outright and another one severely hurt. He could not longer walk. He knew how the Germans tortured the wounded and deliberately blew himself out with a grenade. A woman who had been caught in the skirmish and had remained squatted in a hedge was a witness. He was just 17 . . .

Near Le Puy four young maquisards were eating cherries along the road. An ambulance came hurrying along with white and tricolor flags flopping on the top. The four comrades rushed towards it. The ambulance stopped. There were Germans riding in it, thinking it wiser to travel under the protection of Red Cross and French emblems and . . . the four boys fell dead on the road.

August 17, 1944

There was trouble today between Fix and Allegre. Result: 15 maquisards killed. The Germans refused them burial; they are to lie like beasts of the forest. No one must approach them.

October 6, 1944

Little by little also we have, alas, more certitudes about the tortures inflicted to prisoners. Everywhere ditches are discovered in which assassinated men have been thrown in a hurry. They are always disfigured — always disfigured. Somewhere weird cries are heard . . . a masonry work is taken down and several women are discovered standing up; they had been walled in. They have lost their minds. It is impossible to know what is their nationality. In other places rows of young men have had their eyes and nails pulled before being shot. Some of their inventions are beyond anything one could imagine or believe.
in order to do away quickly with some of their victims, they took 120 of them into a deserted house not far from Saint-Etienne, at Saint-Genis-Laval, and blew up the house with dynamite. The scattered bodies discovered in the ruins had screws in the bones, at the heels, in the hips. Heads had all the teeth removed and nails driven in in their stead.

... Will it ever be possible for us to understand German traits and nature? We remain aghast and speechless when a sample of their true self is suddenly exposed before our eyes. How can people, having so many appearances of civilization, who are so well organized at home, who are such excellent workers, such astute businessmen, who drink such good beer, who are so sentimental over music, who have had such great artists and writers in the past, be at heart, in the depth of themselves, such brute? They even revel in torturing their own fellowmen. When Hitler’s troops entered Brioude, there was no preconceived opinion of them. People thought they looked rather young and pitiful. As soon as it was possible to exchange a few words with them, the first thing the French asked was: “How old are you?” The proud answer was: “I am 16 for my Führer!” “What a shame,” the French said, “to throw such youngsters in such awful business!” Very soon the French learned how the German youngsters were treated by their own officers.

In the beginning of the occupation, the Boches were busy loading trains night and day for Germany. The necessary tools and implements were put under the care of the station master. He had them in charge and was responsible for them. One day, having given out 16 shovels, the soldier trusted with them returned only 15. When the station master discovered one shovel was missing, there was a crowd at the station; a train was signaled, the station master could not run after the fellow, yet had to prevent him from walking off, so he called after him, “Eh, là-bas, wait a moment. There is a shovel missing. Where is it?” As the chap paid no heed, a passenger ran out and pulled him by the sleeve.

During this short scene, a German officer had entered the station, and listened to it. Before the poor devil could grasp what the fuss was all about [the soldier who had forgotten the shovel, she means], he was called by the officer and questioned. “Yes, he had forgotten to return one shovel.” The officer pulled out of his boot a flexible stick. The soldier always standing at attention. The officer slashed and slashed, horse-whipped him on the head, in the face till he bled and bled, and finally beat him so savagely all over that the poor wretch fell in a heap on the ground. His job accomplished, the officer, pleased with himself, put his elegant stick back in his boot and walked peacefully away.

The horrified witnesses helped to carry the lad to the hospital, where he died of his wounds that very night. The station master was ill from grief at having been the innocent cause of his death. Everyone in the town kept asking, “How can they treat their own people that way?” But no one has yet been able to find a satisfactory answer.

How will it ever be possible to expelirpate out of the Germans’ mind, heart and soul the craving they have for torturing their fellow men? I fear that as long as their children are allowed to come into this world, it will be necessary to transplant them in democratic countries and bring them up there, allowing them to return to their native land only when they have sucked and breathed the air of justice and liberty long enough for them to feel unable to live in another atmosphere.

MARIE-LOUISE LE VERRIER

**

The Lafayette Statue

Madame Le Verrier to Miss Clara Greenleaf Perry

L E PUY had not suffered very much, not being on a main road line. I happened to go to it on the very winter day when the statue of Lafayette was removed from its pedestal. It was hardly 9 when we arrived, and as we reached the town we noticed that a pole, higher than the monument, was placed in front of it and long ropes, large as cables, were hanging about it. We realized at once what it meant; there was no need of asking questions, so we did not, but we-...
Washington's Gift to Lafayette

By Fred C. Mueller

(Published in the Minneapolis Star Journal; sent by Mr. Allyn K. Ford of Minneapolis.)

At this time when much attention is given to the birthday of George Washington, it may be of interest to mention a personal incident in his life which resulted in a long chain of events extending over nearly a century and involving two countries.

It is well known that General George Washington held in high esteem General de Lafayette, who played a prominent part in the Revolutionary War; and also that Lafayette felt a deep friendship for his friend and named his only son George Washington Lafayette.

A short time after the successful conclusion of the campaign in Virginia, when the British army surrendered at Yorktown, Washington presented his friend with a gold watch and on the case was engraved in touching simplicity these words: "G. Washington to Gilbert Motier de Lafayette, Lord Cornwallis's Capitulation, Yorktown, October 19, 1781."

In recognition of services rendered to our country during the Revolutionary War, an official invitation to visit the United States was extended to Lafayette by President Monroe and Congress. The letter was delivered to him by our Minister to France, Hon. James Brown of Lexington, Kentucky. General Lafayette arrived at New York City in August, 1824. For nearly a year he remained in the United States, visiting many of the important cities in a triumphal tour. In the spring of 1825, General Lafayette and his party, including his son, George Washington Lafayette, visited many cities in the South and in the Mississippi Valley. He was the guest of General Andrew Jackson at the Hermitage and was also entertained in Nashville. While in the state the Washington watch was stolen from Lafayette and although the Governor of Tennessee offered a reward for the return of this valuable timepiece, it was never found during his lifetime.

When the party reached Louisville, General Lafayette made a side trip to Frankfort, Kentucky, where a magnificent ball was given in his honor on May 14, 1825. When Mrs. John Brown, whose husband was a brother of the Minister to France, failed to appear at the reception, Lafayette and his son visited her home and spent some time in conversation with her. Tea was served and the cup from which he drank is still preserved. Mr. John Brown served as aide-de-camp to General Lafayette and was one of the first United States Senators from the state of Kentucky. It was my privilege a few years ago to visit Frankfort and the Brown mansion built in 1796 and called Liberty Hall.

Nearly fifty years later the Washington watch was recovered in a pawn shop in Louisville, Kentucky. When its existence was brought to the attention of the government officials at Washington, Congress passed a joint resolution on June 22, 1874, ordering that the watch be purchased and be restored to the family of the Marquis de Lafayette in France. ($300 was the amount paid. — Ed.)

In due time Washington's gift was sent to the United States Minister in Paris, France, the Hon. E. B. Washburn. In his book, Recollections of a Minister in France, published in 1887, appears an interesting account of the event which took place in the Minister's residence in Paris in December, 1874. Our Minister presented this gold watch to M. Oscar de Lafayette, a grandson of the Marquis de Lafayette, and among the remarks he made on that occasion, in part, were the following:

"Perhaps it is known to you that during the voyage which your illustrious ancestor, General de La Fayette, made to the United States in 1825, he was robbed of a gold watch which had been presented to him by General Washington.

"In the execution of the decision of Congress, the Secretary of State has sent to me that precious souvenir, and has charged me to offer it in the name of the Government of the United States to the oldest of the male descendants of General de La Fayette, as representative of the family. In that capacity, it is you, monsieur, who should receive the relic, and in placing it in your hands I fulfill a duty which is very agreeable to me.

"In fulfilling today this agreeable task which has been confided to me, I am certain that I am the interpreter of the sentiments of the government and the people of the United States, in presenting to you, and to all of the descendants of General de La Fayette, our most ardent wishes that happiness and prosperity will always accompany those who bear your venerated name; and we associate with these wishes, France, which was the ally of the United States, and who is its traditional friend, and whose glory is so dear to us."

After the presentation of the watch, M. Oscar de Lafayette made the following response to Minister Washburn:

"Monsieur le Ministre — The descendants of General de La Fayette receive with pious thanks the precious relic which you offer to them in the name of the United States. They are profoundly touched by the unanimous vote of Congress, and the care which the executive power has taken to recover and afterward to transmit to the children of General de La Fayette, the gift of Washington to their grandfather. This watch bears its date sure and certain, that of the surrender of Yorktown, the day after the victory. It was the gift of the Commander-in-Chief to his lieutenant, the legacy of the father of his country to the son of its adoption. We recall with you that, in this glorious military action, the French and the American armies were united. They were both happy and proud to be commanded by Washington."

The Editor will be glad to consider contributions and to hear from anyone who has interesting material suitable for the Gazette.

Mrs. Alan MacIntire, Editor
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Waban 68, Mass.