Editorial

In January Mr. Richard de Rochemont, president of France Forever, returning from six months in France, issued a statement to members of that organization which deserves consideration as a guide to our own understanding of contemporary France. This paragraph is from his summation:

"Therefore, I conclude that the clear duty of France Forever is to support General de Gaulle and the Resistance Movement and to constitute itself as the representative in America of that school of thought which renounces the abuses of those who accomplished the downfall of France both before and after June 18, 1940, and which, at the same time as it recognizes the need for rapid reconstruction and stabilization of the French material and economic situation, places the question of reform and purification ahead of every other problem."

Perhaps this fine statement does not sufficiently emphasize that immediate reform and cleansing are not merely abstract moral necessities. They are necessary to promote the highest possible industrial production and mobilization of military action against Germany. Such mobilization and action are, in turn, effective methods of securing the civil integrity which will assure France her future among the world's great nations. We do not presume to advise the heroic French people on this head, for their own national and social purification, are most necessary to promote the highest possible abstract moral necessities. They are necessary to France, which is offered in explanation of the hagiographical writings, those venerable narratives of struggles between saintliness and Satan's works: In our time national and social purification are most surely won by struggle against the evil of German fascism.

Another observation about France is this: There are frequent reminders in the press that the French are a proud people, that this pride has been deeply injured, which is offered in explanation of reported political alarums and failures. If I were a Frenchman, I would be suspicious of this kind of "understanding."

There is a true and honorable kind of national pride, but generally "a proud people" is the classic epithet claimed by the leaders of peoples least advanced in modern social and industrial progress. Certain gentry in Eastern Europe and in Spain (and, at one time, in some of our Southern states) burn with this intense pride. The closer a people is to feudalism the more exalted its local pride is supposed to be.

The French do not deserve this dubious distinction and, surely, will not be content to wrap themselves up in their ancient glory. France must again become a great and rich nation. In the "One World," not so far away, if the French nation is not healthy and prosperous, neither shall we be. And she will be stronger than ever because her strength will be part of the strength of a democratically oriented United Nations.

T. E. N.

Stevens’s Facsimiles

An ad hoc Committee on the Library, spontaneously (there may have been a suggestion or two from our Secretary) formed by Mr. Jackson and Mr. Tinsman, has secured for the Society's collection at the Lafayette College Library a long-wanted set of Stevens's Facsimiles of Manuscripts in European Archives Relating to America, 1773-1783. The books have been delivered and the Committee finds that all it has to do now is to get them paid for. Mr. Norton objects to a full canvass of the membership because it might take our minds off of paying the regular 1945 dues, bills for which, we understand, will be sent with this issue of the Gazette.

Some half-dozen members have contributed over $200.00 for the Facsimiles and $150.00 remains due our dealer. If any reader of this note is willing to contribute to the balance, checks may be sent to Mr. Robert Tinsman or Mr. Stuart W. Jackson at the University Club, 1 West 54th Street, New York.

The Editor

The Annual Meeting

Federal Memorial Hall, that is, the former United States Sub-Treasury Building, will again be our gathering place this year. Monday, May 21st (the day following the anniversary of Lafayette's death), will be the day of the official annual meeting. We have chosen New York City again because it is the center of the area in which most of our membership resides, thus eliminating travel, and because such a successful meeting was held there last year.

Col. Ames and Mr. Gardner Osborn have gone into action with plans for the meeting. The Executive Council will meet at an early date to discuss and elaborate the proposed arrangements. It is already clear that the 1945 meeting will be a bigger and more brilliant affair than ever.

The Letters of Lafayette to Washington (1777-1779)

Edited by Louis Gottschalk, privately printed by Helen Hubbard, New York, 1944. $15.

Quoted from "Pour la Victoire" 3 Fevrier, 1945, under "LES IDEES ET LES LIVRES" par ANDRE MAUROIS de l'Academie Francaise

Les lettres de Lafayette a Washington, qui appartaient jusqu'à Mrs. John Hubbard, viennent d'être données par elle au Collège Lafayette et elle a chargé Mr. Louis Gottschalk d'en faire une édition à tirage limité. Mrs. Hubbard a été toute sa vie une grande amie de la France et elle a certainement voulu, par ce nouveau geste, souligner l'ancienneté de l'alliance franco-américaine. Elle a en outre donné aux historiens un livre utile et bien fait. L'érudition du commentateur, aussi discrète que savante, s'est cantonnée dans la préface, dans les notes et dans un précieux index. Roger Picard écrivait l'autre jour, traitant de la lecture, que celle-ci n'a pas de pire ennemie que l'excès des notes au bas de la page. Il a raison: ces notes "rompent le courant de l'attention et provoquent dans l'esprit des pensées parasites." Louis Gottschalk les a sagement évitées, de même qu'il s'est gardé (et le lecteur l'en remercie) de souligner de six éditoriaux l'orthographe,
toute personnelle, du jeune Lafayette. La préface dit l'essentiel sur les relations des deux hommes. Après quoi Lafayette entre en scène, livré à lui-même, et monologue librement pour son général, "père et ami."

Toutes les lettres du temps de la guerre nous montrent en Lafayette un bon officier, méticuleux et, pour un garçon de son âge, singulièrement réfléchi.

* * *

New Active Members

Mrs. Samuel Duncan, 73 Roundwood Road, Newton Upper Falls, Mass.
Mrs. C. Nichols Greene, 6 Chestnut Street, Boston, Mass.
Miss Clara Greenleaf Perry, 7 Marlborough Street, Boston, Mass.
Mr. Harold J. T. Horan, New York, N. Y.
Mr. Charles Francis Adams, Boston, Mass.

* * *

Our First Report From Liberated France

(Copy of postcard received by Mr. Stuart W. Jackson.)

27 Septembre 1944
Cher Monsieur Jackson,

Après de longues années de séparation, je suis heureux de vous adresser et d'adresser aux Amis américains de Lafayette, par votre intermédiaire, la nouvelle et fidèle expression de sympathies du Musee de la Coopération Franco-Américaine de Blérancourt.

A bientôt

Votre dévoué

André Girodie
February 15, 1945

Dear Mr. Girodie:

We were happy to have your card. It is good to know that you are safely through the terrible years of the German occupation. We now join you in looking forward to the complete restoration of your country, so long esteemed by all Americans. Indeed, we shall do more than simply watch this restoration, but also join you in working for it, following the example of our soldiers who are now fighting at the side of your own heroic armies. Your people and ours, and those of all the world, may move on to ever higher levels of democratic well-being and culture only when the evil of German Nazism is utterly crushed. And this task, with French, British, Canadian and American armies at the west and the magnificent Red Army in the east, will surely be finished soon.

Sincerely yours,

Stuart W. Jackson

Activities of Our Members

THE JACKSON COLLECTION OF LINCOLNIANA

The distinguished collection of books and other materials relating to Abraham Lincoln, assembled by Mr. Stuart W. Jackson, member of our Executive Council and former President, has been presented by him to the Yale University Library. We quote from the article in The Yale University Gazette (October, 1944) by David M. Potter:

"The Yale Library is fortunate to have received recently a notable collection of this literature as a gift from Mr. Stuart W. Jackson, B.A., 1896. The Jackson Collection of Lincolniana had its inception more than forty years ago with the purchase of a copy of Henry J. Raymond's biography of Lincoln, and it has grown constantly until it now numbers approximately two thousand pieces, and includes many rare items. Printed books and pamphlets comprise the bulk of the collection, but programs, prospectuses, manuscript items, medals, sheet music, badges, and portraits provide a representative cross section of all classes of Lincolniana. There are about one hundred portraits...

"In presenting this collection to the Yale Library, Mr. Jackson has emphasized his hope that it may stimulate other gifts of Lincoln material and may thus contribute to the further building of resources in a field in which the Library has, heretofore, not been especially active."

Dr. John Francis Gough, a member of our Executive Council and an authority on Vioménil, has written a brochure entitled "A French Friend of America," published in September, 1944, in Jersey City. It is an inspiring account of "an almost forgotten, deserving and skillful friend of America, a nobleman who helped found our Republic." A further description will be found in the "Book Notes" of this Gazette.

Our first Honorary Member, Leverett Saltonstall, ex-Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, now takes his place in Washington as Senator.

Professor Louis Gottschalk is now at work on Vol. IV of his Lafayette studies. It will be entitled Lafayette Between Two Revolutions (1783-1789). Dr. Gottschalk is finishing Chapter VII, which deals with Lafayette's visit in 1783 to the United States. He is also preparing the "history" part of a volume to be published by the Social Science Research Council entitled The Use of the Personal Document in Sociology, History and Anthropology.

An article by Mr. Norton, our Secretary-Treasurer, on "John Paul Jones and Suvorov," appeared in the July, 1944, issue of the magazine Soviet Russia Today. The article recalls a forgotten episode in Russian-American relations and notes the high personal and professional esteem in which the two 18th century heroes held each other.

We have heard of but have not seen a copy of Professor Gottschalk's edition of the great Hubbard Collection of Lafayette-Washington letters.

There is a lack of news on the most important activities of our members: service in the armed forces. Our roster, which we suspect is incomplete, includes Messrs. Columbia, Hume, Monaghan and Nolan in uniform and Boyd, Knollenberg and Roberts in special government work. We shall be glad to have information on other members who are devoting all or a substantial part of their time to war service.

Excerpt from a letter from one of our honorary members: "In grateful memory of Lafayette and the helping hand stretched out to us in the past, America clasps the hand of France in friendship, understanding and sympathy. In keeping alive the memory of Lafayette, the American Friends of Lafayette also honor the spirit of the French people."

LEVERETT SALTONSTALL
Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

(May 17, 1944.)

* * *

Festung Europa: The Nazi are melting down the bronze statues of Paris, but one of Lafayette has escaped them. A crew of workmen removed the 1½-ton statue from its pedestal and hauled it away in broad daylight—and it didn't occur to passing Nazis that the workmen were guerilla fighters from the Maquis.

(We found this item in the Nation, Aug. 12, 1944, but have not checked on whether it is fact or fable.)

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Lafayette to Baron de Vioménil at Yorktown: "We are young soldiers and have only one way in these cases. That is to unload our rifles and march right in with our bayonets."
Chavaniac
By GRACE GREENLEAF PERRY

(Miss Clara Greenleaf Perry, the artist, distinguished in many fields, an active member of the American Friends of Lafayette, is an early member of our Society. She has been a patroness for many years, and her influence has been felt in the following decorations: the Commenorative de La Grande Guerre, the Rainbow Medal of the Allies (given only to those with at least nine months' service at the front), and the Legion d'Honneur. As the outbreak of World War I, Miss Perry put aside her art and worked with the American Fund for Wounded, opening a service for the distribution of American hospital supplies to the twenty-one hospitals in Amiens, acting as interpreter for American soldiers, securing knitting machines and teaching many hundreds of convalescent soldiers to use them; she also worked for the treatment of burns with Ambrine (paraphine wax). Then, wishing to be nearer the front, she enlisted in the French army, driving a huge Renault ambulance with a crew of twenty. She was stationed temporarily near Amiens. In addition to her regular duties, she found time, with the help of two English comrades, to form independent soldiers at Amiens and she also cared for the civilian population, as no one was doing so and their need was great. She was the liaison between the Red Cross and the Surgeon-General of the Army in the work of establishing occupational therapy."

"I became gravely ill and had partly recuperated when the Offensive started. Returning to my post, I took the last train into Amiens which was being evacuated to Beauvais, but my place in the ambulance had been filled and I was allowed to remain at the club until evacuated. The house in which I lived was blown to pieces, but I was fortunately at the club. The bell forty minutes after the Armistice was rung. (In fact, I myself rushed to ring the bell to the Chavaniac housekeeper, working for the department of Calvados, was twenty-two refugees there. I had three houses of two rooms each and a cabin built up my mountain slope. A young Belgian couple (he being an eighth prisoner, so I then decided to come home. I started to make my way back to America on the day after hearing Petain has for an Armistice. And I will never forget the horror-stricken faces of the French when that news came."

"In World War I the soldiers called Miss Perry 'La Petite Foiu Americaine' and 'La Petite Zouave.' She is the godmother of the 118th Regiment of the 18th Army Corps. She constantly sends food packages to our prisoners. Today, in her Bonen apartment, this remarkable lady said, 'Nothing holds me back; I am doing everything I possibly can for France and of course Chavaniac.' At the editor's request, she gives below an account of her activities, then, with her correspondence, news of Chavaniac.—The Editor.)

LAFAYETTE loved children; his son George Washington Lafayette once said that his own aim was to go back to Chavaniac and "fill the house with children." And today Chavaniac is indeed filled with children. The chateau was purchased in 1917 by Mrs. William Astor Chanler and Mr. John Moffat to be preserved as a Museum and Memorial to Lafayette and the Heroes of War I. They founded a Preventorium for the children of France. It started with twenty-four. It grew to be the largest and best preventorium in all France specializing in all branches of pediatrics or the curing of children's diseases. The topography of Chavaniac-Lafayette proved favorable and the work of the preventorium became and is today famous, particularly in the cure of extremely serious cases. A school was also established at Chavaniac.

Only lately has it become known that the work there went on in spite of the Occupation. The Red Cross and the Lafayette Preventorium, Inc., in New York, only were allowed to send aid to Chavaniac. I hear now that the Nazis would not allow telephones to be used; they suddenly decided that no vehicles must go on the roads. Then the Maquis (for Chavaniac is a Maquis district) began to blast trains, railroad tunnels, bridges, and cut down wires and poles. The Nazis mended them, then they were again blasted. All bridges were destroyed, isolating Chavaniac, but they found ways to ford the rivers in their cars as in summer the water was low.

Last August letters from Paris reached Chavaniac by auto or bicycle one month en route. Relatives in Brioude, only 14 miles away, died and were buried before news reached the chateau. An example of the hardships: a district nurse, sister to the Chavaniac housekeeper, working for the department of Calvados, was taken last July from her work (caring for 200 people in an old mine) and was forced to join a convoy headed towards the Loire. She went for 21 nights without sleep, arriving at Montsurs at the same time as the Americans and was thus caught for the second time in our driving battle. Owning now nothing in the world but her nurse's uniform, she was planning to walk to Brioude, a distance of several hundred miles, to try to find her sister; she expected to reach that place by September, but nothing had been heard from her on the 29th of September when this letter, received just now, was written.

The president of the Preventorium, Baron de La Grange (whose wife was Miss Sloane of New York), was taken by the Germans at 8:30 in the morning on August 13, 1943. We only know that he is in a prison camp in the mountainous part of Germany. His family is scattered, but his mother is still at Chavaniac. Now in charge at the Preventorium is his daughter, the Countess de Guebriant, together with Dr. Pierre H. Anglade. Over 400 French children are there today and we Americans are caring for them in Lafayette's memory.

Dr. Anglade reports: "The Museum in the Chateau was not visited by the Germans and remains intact and undamaged. As a precaution, all the precious articles the Museum contained were hidden." Among them were Washington's duelling pistols, given by him to Lafayette, the gold snuff box presented to Lafayette by the city of New York, Franklin's ring containing his wife's hair, the uniforms worn by Marshal Joffre and Marshal Foch at the Battles of the Marne, many of Lafayette's letters and much more. Chavaniac is sometimes called "A Mt. Vernon in France."

These brief scraps of information give a picture of Chavaniac today: cable contact is established now; night letter cables are received and answered in a few days. A letter received by me lately, written in August, says, "There is hope now, at least, and we have been so many years without hope." It now takes from three to five days to get from Chavaniac to Paris (normally nine to ten hours). There are many people on the roads now and they are in dire need. A two-room house near the chateau shelters a refugee family from Toulon—five children and mother. My own peasant house, I have just learned, now houses eight people, one a baby, although when I sailed there were twenty-two refugees there. I had three houses of two rooms each and a cabin built up my mountain slope. A young Belgian couple (he being an eighth
son was not allowed to enlist) occupied the cabin; a Polish agricultural worker shared my maid's room; a Paris customs officer and wife had one tiny house; one French soldier bicycled 600 miles, passing through the German Army, and there was one family from Nice. All the houses were full in that countryside. Many friends are prisoners still. A letter written in September from Chavaniac: "The towns are starving. Neîmes has lived on 100 grams of bread a day plus peaches during the fruit season." Once a box of food came mysteriously from Portugal — this faraway thought cheered me a lot but I want to know whom to thank." On September 24, 1944, "They accept today letters for America, but do not know yet when they will go." This letter reached me on February 27. Only a few days ago I received a cable — "Grateful love. All well Chavaniac." What wonderful news! And Dr. Anglade cabled Mr. John Moffat in New York, "Everything intact in Chavaniac."

Lafayette Preventorium, Inc., in New York, shipped in October a half million franc's worth of clothing and shoes, later in the month $2600©s worth in twenty large wooden cases; in November a thousand dollars' worth, making then twenty-nine cases in all. Ten more cases in January of dresses, sweaters, wool shirts, hankies, coats, bonnets, blankets and quilts all new, for the children of Chavaniac. There is need of much more — sheets, dressings, adhesive plaster, thermometers, surgical cotton and other medical supplies; also vitamins, sulphamides, iodine, etc., soap and tooth brushes. Food is needed at Chavaniac — chocolate, rice, sugar, oats, macaroni, etc., and tires for the touring Ford now nearly worn out, tires for the Unit car and the Chevrolet. And $10,000 which the organization is trying to raise here. No war charity is this; it is a permanent institution, operating for the last twenty-seven years in Lafayette's memory without once closing down. The National War Fund aids the temporary charities, but under this Chavaniac does not come.

And so the work at the birthplace of Lafayette goes on, as he would wish, and Chavaniac has come through the war intact, undestroyed. The spirit of Lafayette lives on.

(Author's note: Any of our membership list wish to assist in maintaining this great work, donations should be sent to the Lafayette Preventorium, Inc., 254 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y. Mrs. William Astor Chanler is the president; in France the president is Baron de La Grange. — The Editor.)

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**Book Notes**

Brandon, Edgar Ewing. A PILGRIMAGE OF LIBERTY: a Contemporary Account of the Triumphant Tour of General Lafayette through the Southern and Western States in 1824, as Reported by the Local Newspapers. Compiled and edited by Edgar Ewing Brandon. Athens, Ohio: The Lawhead Press. 1944. This work covers the period of Lafayette's great American tour, February 23 to June 14, 1825. Some of it is material already in other books (e.g., Hume's Lafayette in Kentucky), but even so it is a useful addition to the Lafayette shelf.

Study of Lafayette's tour in 1824-5 is probably more rewarding as social history of the American people than as Lafayette biography. It is to be hoped that someone will use the considerable amount of printed material on the tour as basis for a study of American public opinion during the period. A start could be made by tabulating all the subjects of toast at the Lafayette banquets. It would show, for one thing, a very international-minded American public, for few of Lafayette's hosts failed to toast Greek freedom and South American independence, or to condemn the Holy Alliance.


This extremely interesting brochure is the fourth in the Institute's Petite Bibliothèque series. Chevalier and de Tocqueville studied our society at the apogee of Jeffersonian democracy, a nation of independent landowners and artisans. Chevalier found the American workingman in the North in all world history actually to reach the status of freeman.

Gough, John Francis. A FRENCH FRIEND OF AMERICA. Jersey City, 1944, 49 pp. Mr. Gough is our Viomènil (Antoine Charles de Houët, baron de Viomènil, 1728-1792) specialist and the present brochure is mainly devoted to Viomènil's services as second in command to Rochambeau with the French forces in the American Revolution. There are eleven pages of annotated bibliography.

Jackson, Luther Porter. VIRGINIA NEGRO SOLDIERS AND SEAMEN IN THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR. Norfolk, Va.: Guide Quality Press, 1944. 46 pp. Contains a short essay on "James Lafayette, a Spy for General Lafayette" (pp. 18-19) and an article by Samuel H. May, Negro who served Lafayette as a spy, Saul Mathews, is mentioned in the roster (p. 40). (An earlier issue, with slightly different title, carried the note: Reprinted from the Journal of Negro History, Vol. XXVII, No. 3, July, 1942.)

Leduc, Gilbert F. WASHINGTON AND THE MURDER OF JUMONVILLE. Boston: La Société Historique Franco-Américaine. 1943, 235 pp. Disproving charges against Wash-

ington arising out of an incident in the campaign against the French in western Pennsylvania in 1754.

McCombs, Charles. FLOWERS. THE IMPRISONMENT OF MADAME DE LAFAYETTE DURING THE TERROR. New York: New York Public Library, 1943, 33 pp. "The letters and documents presented here were addressed to James Monroe by Madame de Lafayette between August 27, 1794 and January 22, 1795. Hitherto unpublished, and apparently unknown to biographers of Lafayette, they are from the Monroe papers in the New York Public Library."

The study was prepared for and originally published in "Bookmen's Holiday, notes and studies written in tribute to Harry Miller Lydenberg."  

Redlich, Fritz. ESSAYS IN AMERICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY: Eric Bollman and Studies in Banking. New York: G. E. Stechert & Co. 1944. 199 pp. The section on "Eric Bollman, Adventurer, Businessman, and Economic Writer," takes up more than half of this book, with several pages devoted to the attempt to effect Lafayette's escape from Olmutz. Bollman's subsequent relations with public figures in Europe and America, where he was involved in the Burr Conspiracy, are narrated with considerable documentation. When Lafayette appealed to Jefferson in Bollman's behalf, when the latter was on trial for treason, Jefferson wrote to Lafayette: "Be assured he is unworthy of ever occupying again the care of an honest man." Redlich does not hold Bollman in such low esteem.

Washington, George. THE WRITINGS OF GEORGE WASHINGTON. John C. Fitzpatrick, editor. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1931-1944. 39 volumes. Attention is called to the Index (Vols. 38-39) issued in 1944. In addition to the Lafayette material, the great number of French personal names and topical entries bearing on French participation and Franco-American relations after the Revolution makes this set a work of high importance to students of these subjects.

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**Wanted:**

The London edition of Lafayette's Memoirs, that is, the London edition of the English translation, published in three volumes by Saunders and Otley in 1837, is in our Collection but with an imperfect first volume. A set or a sound Volume I will be a welcome contribution. — T. E. N.

Lafayette to Washington: "Though I am to re-enter the French line as a field-marshall, from the date of Lord Cornwallis's surrender, I will, however, keep my American uniform, and the outside, as well as the inside, of an American soldier."

Le Capitaine de Frégate Pierre Gilly of the Free French Navy: "In times of distress one finds the true friends." (February 24, 1945.)