AMBASSADOR BONNET
Awarded The Medal of
The American Friends of Lafayette
On December 1, Ambassador Henri Bonnet was awarded the medal of this Society at ceremonies held at the French Embassy in the presence of Embassy officials and members of the American Friends of Lafayette. In accepting the medal Ambassador Bonnet said: "I will accept with gratitude and with the memory of the friendship of the Societe des Amis de LaFayette — American Friends of Lafayette — for my country and for myself.

"It is always moving to see how the memory of Lafayette is kept alive in this country. The work you do is especially important for maintaining amity and solidarity between our two countries.

"We are proud, too, of that young man who moved only by the love of liberty, came to help George Washington. It is one of the most moving links." In concluding his remarks to President Kendall, Ambassador Bonnet said: "It is very handsome. It is a beautiful medal."

New Active Members
Mrs. Albert W. Claflin
Providene, R. I.
Mr. Howard Lindsay
New York, N. Y.
Mrs. Girard von B. Hale
Santa Barbara, Calif.
Mr. Girard von B. Hale
Santa Barbara, Calif.
Mr. Charles Ward Chase
New York, N. Y.
Mr. Alfred Peyton Jenkins
Richmond, Va.
Mr. Paul Jokelson
Scarsdale, N. Y.
Mrs. Rex Lee Paris
Whitestone, L. I.
Mr. Samuel White Patterson
New York, N. Y.
Mrs. William H. Pouch
New York, N. Y.

THE ANNUAL MEETING
May 24, 1952
in Boston
For some years members of the Society have expressed a desire to hold a meeting in Boston, a city where we have never met; this spring that meeting is to take place there. Lafayette loved this old city; he visited it on eight different occasions — twice in 1778 on hurried trips on horseback from Newport, Rhode Island, to intercede for the sake of harmony with the French; a third visit in December of 1778 when he was on his way home from furlough, and with the brand new Alliance unready to sail immediately — a month's stay resulting; then in the spring of 1780 he came into Boston on his return from France aboard the Hermione — a triumphant though short stay, as he bore the news of the coming of Rochambeau and French assistance; in 1781 a thirteen-day stay on his way home on the Alliance again after the Surrender at Yorktown.

The autumn of 1784 brought him to Boston for the sixth visit when he was on his early tour of the United States and his visit with George Washington — he was in Boston some three weeks. His last two visits were on his second and last tour of the country — that of 1824-25 when he was again the "Guest of the Nation." He assisted in the laying of the cornerstone of Bunker Hill Monument on June 17, 1825. Altogether, Lafayette spent well over eighty days in Boston, therefore it is quite fitting that the American Friends of Lafayette gather there this spring and see again through his eyes many of the places he saw. Plans for a meeting of interest and value are now in process of formulation. We hope for a goodly attendance.

MISS ANNE MORGAN
Miss Anne Morgan, a former member of our Society, and a most distinguished and devoted friend of France, died on January 29th. French-American friendship never had a more ardent champion.

THE LAFAYETTE STAMP
A cause for jubilation is the announcement by the United States Post Office Department of a forthcoming stamp honoring the Marquis de Lafayette. The date of issuance is to be June 13; the place, Georgetown, South Carolina, a date and place most appropriately selected for this honor, as Lafayette first set foot on American soil near Georgetown on June 13, 1777, one hundred and seventy-five years ago.

INDEPENDENCE DAY IN PARIS, 1951
The commemoration of Independence Day in Paris was enhanced by the presence of President and Mrs. Kendall, with Commander and Mrs. J. Bennett Nolan and Mrs. Bright also representing the Society. As President Kendall wrote at the time from France, "The day was highly successful and began with a tea at the apartment of General de Chambrun in the Luxembourg section of Paris. On July 3rd, the Marquis de Rochambeau gave a tea for our Society which we five attended with the American Ambassador and a large company. On July Fourth, the day opened with a reception given by Ambassador and Mrs. David K. E. Bruce at the American Embassy; at least 2,000 Americans were present, and toasted the day in champagne provided by the Ambassador. At four o'clock, Mrs. Kendall and I attended at Lafayette's tomb in Picpus Cemetery with Commander and Mrs. Nolan, Mrs. Bright and Mr. and Mrs. Howard Lindsay, all members of our Society. A very representative procession led by the Sons of the American Revolution with many flags marched through the Cemetery to the tomb. Arriving there General de Chambrun and the American Ambassador, Mr. Bruce, made addresses. I was then introduced by Commander Nolan and spoke of the 175th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and saluted Lafayette for his part in making this brave
pronouncement a reality. A wreath from our Society was then laid by me upon the tomb. This was followed by attendance at the statue of George Washington, where a wreath was laid by the Ambassador.

"During the day a large group of Cavalry dressed in the uniforms of the epoch of Lafayette’s Guard, led by an impersonator of General Lafayette, cluttered through the streets of Paris, starting at the Arc de Triomphe, down the Champs d’Elysées, and all through the streets of the city. It was very impressive and colorful." This commemorated Lafayette’s ride at the head of his volunteers down the Champs d’Elysées in April, 1790, to present the Mayor of Paris with the first tricolor Cockade of Liberty, devised by Lafayette himself. The French actor, Jean Dehelly, was the impersonator of Lafayette, followed by his chiefs of staff and the long procession of cavalrymen, hussars, dragoons and mounted guards. The parade ended with a review in the Place de la Concorde.

Toward evening the Paris Post of the American Legion held its annual parade to the tomb of the Unknown Soldier under the Arc de Triomphe. A reception at Pershing Hall and a dance at the United States House of the Cité Universitaire closed the celebration of Independence Day in Paris, a celebration in which we most happily had a part.

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President Kendall has sent to the Collection of the Society at Lafayette College a faded American flag which flew for one year over the grave of Lafayette in Picpus Cemetery. The custom of having an American flag continuously flying over the tomb was inaugurated in 1918 by Colonel Louis Annin Ames, then President General of the Sons of the American Revolution and former President of our Society. The French Society of the Sons of the American Revolution has kept an American flag there ever since.

ADDRESS OF
MESSMORE KENDALL

Address of Messmore Kendall, delivered at the Tomb of Lafayette in Picpus Cemetery, Paris, on July 4th, 1951.

One hundred seventy-five years ago today at Philadelphia, there was issued a Declaration of Independence from the crown of England by which all men were declared equal and entitled to the individual pursuit of life, liberty and happiness.

These clarion words found a sympathetic chord in the heart of a young citizen of France named Gilbert Motier Lafayette and he determined to cast his lot with the struggling people across the sea who sought to be free.

When he arrived in America the fortunes of the Colonies were at a low ebb and all might have been lost. The inspiration of this youth’s arrival revived the hopes of Washington and his famished army, and he was welcomed by our great General and appointed a member of his Staff. He was more than a recruit to our aspirations. He was a symbol of sympathy of other people to our ideals. He became a dearly beloved son to Washington, a bond which never was broken. When France supported our cause and sent an army to America under the command of Rochambeau, Lafayette with Washington awaited his arrival in a house which is my proud distinction to own today. It is history that these clarion words found a sympathetic chord in the heart of a young citizen of France named Gilbert Motier Lafayette and he determined to cast his lot with the struggling people across the sea who sought to be free.

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I was privileged two months ago at the annual meeting of our Society at Mount Vernon and in the presence of France’s Ambassador, M. Bonnet, to hear read the tender sentiments of love and appreciation voiced in a letter from Washington to Lafayette. These sentiments exist today in the hearts of all lovers of our country who believe in the freedom of individual effort; that freedom which Lafayette struggled with Washington to establish. None will challenge me when I say that next to Washington he stands even today as our greatest hero.

Our Society was formed to perpetuate the affection and appreciation of this great man. By our collection of memorabilia; by our publications setting forth his deeds and by recalling his intrepid participation in our ideals we have gone forth.

If our efforts have made stronger the bonds between France and America we have not worked in vain.

Gilbert Motier Lafayette, on this anniversary of our brave Declaration of Independence, we salute you in the name of all lovers of liberty!

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MAJOR GENERAL
E. E. HUME

Major General Edgar Erskine Hume, a former member of this Society, died in Washington on January 24th. He will be remembered as the author of Lafayette in Kentucky. He was Chief Surgeon of the Far East Command, a veteran of both World Wars, and one of the most prominent medical men in the country. He had returned from Japan last year; he had served as Chief Surgeon throughout the Korean campaign.

In October a monument to Howard Rupert Cruse, 33rd degree Mason, was dedicated at the New York Bay Cemetery by the Scottish Rite Masons, Valley of Jersey City. Mr. Cruse, a beloved member of our Society, long a member of the Executive Council, died on July 1, 1949. He had held the highest offices in Masonry — Grand Master for New Jersey, Commander-in-Chief of the New Jersey Consistory, and many other offices.
LAFAYETTE TO JEFFERSON

(Through the kindness of its owner, Mr. Stuart Wells Jackson, we publish for the first time this fine letter written by General Lafayette to Thomas Jefferson, from Alexandria, April 21, 1781.)

"Sir,

"My Last Letter to Your Excellency Having Acquainted You of Our Preparations to Return to the Southward, and Having also Mentioned the Reasons Which in the present danger urge me to Hasten By forced Marches to the Support of Virginia, I will only Add that we Came in two days from our Encampment Near Baltimore to this place and intend Setting out to Morrow for fredericksburg.

"Our Baggage, Artillery and Stores are left Behind us — in our Absolute Want of Shoes and Cloathes of every Kind it is Impossible for the Men to Make Such Rapid Marches unless we Have An extraordinary Help of Horses and Waggons — This Method I know to be Bigg with difficulties — But Every letter Urging the Necessity of our Going to the Southward, Representing the Vast and Immediate danger which threatens this State, I have flattered Myself that Her Inhabitants Could not deny us the Means of Advancing to their defence, and Have Been Encouraged By this idea that in the Whole detachment (considering its peculiar Circumstances) there is not one soldier But who Sacrifices more in this Expedition than Would be the very loss of the Articles which we Borrow for two or three days.

"From What is Reported in this town, I am led to Believe that General Philips is expected into the Country and that Your Excellency Has some apprehension of a visit to Richmond — Whatever May Be your intelligence of the Enemy's intended Movements I Beg your Excellency will please to Give me a full Knowledge of them that I may, As far as possible, Endeavour to check Gen'l philip's plan, and Render our Services to the State.

"May I Beg leave to Request Your Excellency that orders Be given for the getting of provisions at Richmond — Backed Bread, fresh and Salt Meat, with a Quantity of Rum will Be Necessary — we are So entirely destitute of Shoes that Unless a large Number of them is Collected the feet of our Men will Be So Sore As to Make it impossible for them to Advance — What public Authority and private Credit Could do I Have already tried — But find Myself obliged to trouble your Excellency with the Care of Remedyng our Wants — Should the Movements of the Enemy alter Circumstances, Your Excellency will determine where our provisions ought to Be Collected.

"On My Arrival at Alexandria, where I Had two days Before Sent one of My Aids de Camp with An Application to the Civil Authority, I found that Not one single Wagggon Could be obtained — Under these Circumstances I thought it was Better to use Military imposts — My Aid de Camp, A Virginian, with Non Commissioned officers — (to Be more Certain of their delicacy towards the inhabitants,) and people of the County Accompanying them were interested with the Care of providing Means to Carry us to fredericksburg.

"I Request your Excellency to Be Convinced that My Respect for the Rights and Conveniences of the Citizens Cannot Be Equalled But My Zeal to forward Every Means of Securing their freedom, and that My Happiness will Be Complete if our Services May Be Useful to the State of Virginia.

"With the Highest Respect I Have the Honor to Be

Your Excellency's Most obedient Humble
Servant'

LAFAYETTE"

BOOK NOTES

BILLY, ANDRE.


This is a cloak-and-dagger historical novel about the conspiracy of the Carbonnerie against the restored Bourbon monarchy in 1820-1821. The benevolent and patriarchal Lafayette was a leader of the more or less secret society, whose name and form of organization were copied from the revolutionary Carbonari of Italy. Membership was largely made up of veteran officers of Napoleon's armies, in and out of service, but included a miscellany of political figures and intellectuals: Bonapartists, constitutional monarchists, republicans and even a few socialists. Their common interest was opposition to Bourbon absolutism. Their open political activity was in the extreme left of the Liberal opposition party in the Chamber of Deputies. The one hundred per cent Bourbons, the "Ultras," made up the extreme right of the Chamber.

The treatment of Lafayette's career after 1791 is bound to be somewhat anticlimactic. Mirabeau, his bitter enemy, placed the high point ten years earlier, 1781, in the unkind epigram comparing Lafayette's successive roles in the American and French revolutions, qu'il avait bien servi pour reculer. The witticism may be a little strained, but it correctly suggests that Lafayette's passionate support of American independence was the most positive element in his career. His "American principles" were the dominating ideas of the rest of his life. And we, his American friends, approach the tremendous spectacle of the French Revolution and the political maneuverings of 1815-1830 with that personal partisanship one feels, to use a frivolous analogy, at a football game in which one of the players is a son or brother or a friend of the family. We are miserable when he stumbles (but who wouldn't on such a muddy field?) or on another play we feel
that a teammate has let him down or that the opponents are unnecessarily rough.

M. Billy is on our side, never doubts Lafayette's solid patriotism. If the book is not distinguished literature, if for the specialist it sheds no light on the history of the period, it does provoke us others to peer into the Restoration years more closely, to leaf through some of the literature. Here the prejudiced interest which we amateurs permit ourselves may prove useful in penetrating or clearing away other prejudices which have acquired the status of historical fact.

It is my impression that Lafayette's part in the conspiracies - actually he was involved in a series of them in those years - has been a little embarrassing to his biographers. Lafayette himself makes only oblique references to this interest in the Mémoires, although there are some statements on policy and program, apparently drawn up on the eve of the planned uprising at the end of 1821, under the heading, "Sociétés Secrètes" (vol. 6, pp. 135-143). He insisted, and history proved that he was right, that the Restoration, which he was willing to support in 1815, had actually become a counter-revolutionary movement and that it must itself be renversée. It is customary to mention, apologetically or derisively, Lafayette's vanity, his so-called compulsion to seek a conspicuous role in every popular movement. The friendly biographer Bardoux (Les dernières années de La Fayette, 1893) says that the banker Laffitte, a liberal colleague, said to Lafayette at the time of the conspiracy, "You are a statue looking for its pedestal and it will not matter to you if the pedestal turns out to be a scaffold" - and that Lafayette accepted this characterization.

Thureau-Dangin (Le Parti Libéral sous la Restauration, 2d ed., 1888) no admirer of the "hero of two revolutions" but showing a grudging respect, possibly because Lafayette was, after all, a member of the ancient nobility, considered the conspiracy a wicked foolishness. But in his view the entire liberal opposition was made up of fools, dupes and opportunists. No doubt there was a lofty naivété about the whole business, perhaps a characteristic of conspiratorial revolutionaries, along with some dubious elements of calculated self-interest. But however foolish or venal the affair may seem in isolation, surely it suggests a preliminary grouping of the forces which played decisive parts in the July Revolution of 1830. To explain Lafayette's role as resting on vanity rather than on the political convictions he had been stating for some forty years and a correct understanding of the absolutist tendencies of the monarchy is one way of making nonsense out of history.

Napoleon II, who figures in the subtitle of the novel, is scarcely mentioned up to the melodramatic epilogue, although his name, after the death of Napoleon I at Saint Helena in 1821, became a rallying cry for the substantial Bonapartists at the Charbonnerie. Lafayette was suspicious of Bonapartism but apparently was willing to work with its partisans, in the belief that their visions of restored imperial glory were less dangerous than the actualities of restored Bourbons in power. A recent student, Beau de Lomenie, claims that the original Bonapartists, the men who managed the seizure of power on 18 Brumaire (or the sons of these men) were the manipulators of the conspiracy and the July Revolution, and, in fact, if you want to find out who is in back of any queer business in French politics from 1799 to 1939 look for a brumaire or his latter-day relatives.

However that may be, we do see in the conspiracy (definitely an open conspiracy - the word could be in quotation marks) or in the political complex of which the conspiracy was an element, the pattern of the partisanship or deployment of forces which characterizes French political crises from 1789 on through 1830, 1848, 1871, the Dreyfus Affair, the Popular Front of the 1930's and even the Resistance Movement of 1940-1945. Where, in the other western democracies, the division has been between two parties with an underlying unity - liberals and conservatives, reformers and vested interests, ministry and loyal opposition, even Labor and Tory - and while the same can be said of the center parties in France, in the multiple parties of the traditional French left and right there are always significant groupings which are consciously revolutionary and consciously counter-revolutionary. This quality may be deplored as extravagant Latin temperament (political ineptitude) or admired for its penetrating Gallic clarity (political realism).

Getting back to M. Billy's thriller, it may be reported that his Bourbon police spies (in this case the agents of the king's brother, the Comte d'Artois, later Charles X) are vicious enough but a little too clever: the plot to assassinate Lafayette reads, in its professional details, like something worked out by Tom Sawyer. The character of Malvina remains enigmatic, at the end irrational, which seems to be standard literary procedure in getting some feminine or "love" interest into a book without taking the trouble to identify women with reality. Men's actions (in literature), whether good or bad, wise or unwise, have political or social or intellectual motivation; are rational. Women's motivation is personal, they seek "happiness" or are oppressed by unhappiness. The heroic woman is nobly self-sacrificing, the unheroic scheming and seductive. Malvina is definitely heroic, in the highest self-sacrificing tradition, but one gets the impression that other strong qualities weren't given a chance to develop, what with men moping or whining or panting around her all the time.

In general, the patriots in the story are an uninspired lot, embarrassed by the mummery of their own secret ritual. Fayetists will enjoy the glimpses of Lafayette at La Grange and at his Paris house on the Rue d'Anjou. Print collectors will discover that our old friend, the artist Ary Scheffer, whose famous portrait of Lafayette hangs in the House of Representatives in Washington, was not only one of Lafayette's closest intimates but also a zealous political collaborator, a high-ranking Carbonaro. Readers having even a slight acquaintance with the period will recognize a good many other historical personages or at least...
their names. The dour Caron, unloved husband of the lovely Malvina, was a real person, an unreconciled Bonapartist who was tricked by royalist agents provocateurs into an attempt to liberate the patriots seized after the failure of the Belfort rising. But the virtuous Malvina herself and her kept-at-arms-length lover, Messimieux, and the villainous Vicomte de Romange — on the historicity of these I have no information.

THEODORE ELI NORTON
Lafayette College.

JAMES MONROE MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

Because of Lafayette’s feeling of deep gratitude to President and Mrs. Monroe, and his affection for them, this Society has keen interest in any activity concerning them. Moreover, Mr. Laurence Gouverneur Hoes, who has assembled such a remarkable collection of Monroe memorabilia, is a member of our Executive Council.

The American Friends of Lafayette have accepted membership on the Advisory Council of the James Monroe Memorial Foundation of Fredericksburg, Virginia, of which Laurence Gouverneur Hoes is President.

The James Monroe Memorial Foundation was incorporated in 1947 under the laws of the State of Virginia as a non-profit educational, tax-exempt institution. It is managed by a Board of Trustees, of which Mr. Messmore Kendall, our President, was recently made a member.

The Foundation operates the James Monroe Law Office in Fredericksburg, the building in which James Monroe practised law in the 1780’s. In it are housed a vast collection of the personal possessions of James Monroe and his family, handed down through his family for six generations and presented by them to the Foundation.

Included in the plans for the future of the Law Office is one for the addition of a wing to the building in which to house a large library pertaining to Monroe and his accomplishments, and a large part of Monroe’s original correspondence with prominent men of his day, both of which have been given to the Foundation but for which there is now no space. The idea is to make of the building a reference library dedicated to one man, under one roof and in the midst of his personal possessions.

Another activity of the Foundation is the dissemination of information regarding the Monroe Doctrine, concerning which there seems to be too much ignorance on the part of the general public today. Thomas Jefferson ranked James Monroe’s view on this subject above even the Federal Constitution and the Bill of Rights, stating it was “the most momentous which has ever been offered to my contemplation since that of Independence.”

In order to accomplish its aims, the Foundation is in process of forming a Board of Regents, to be composed of two women from each State of the Union, and of increasing its Board of Trustees to number twenty-five. Mr. Hoes would be glad to hear from persons throughout the country who would like to serve as Regents.

M. ALBERT CHAMBON

On January 8 in Boston a Farewell Dinner was given in honor of M. Albert Chambon, French Consul-General of New England, an Honorary Member of our Society, and very much our friend. His selfless and devoted service in strengthening the bonds of friendship between the Republic of France and the United States was constant and inspired throughout his seven years in the city. With deep sorrow, Bostonians said their farewells to him and to Madame Chambon, good and gracious friends. They have gone to Naples, Italy, where M. Chambon will serve as Consul-General for France. He has had a career varied and dramatic. He was born at Chalons sur Marne in 1909, graduate from the Schools of Oriental Languages and of Political Science. His diplomatic career has taken him to China — to Foochow, Shanghai, Pekin and Harbin; to Monte Carlo, Monaco. From 1936 to the declaration of war, he was attached to the political department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, participating in major international conferences and meetings of the League of Nations. In September, 1939, he volunteered, going to the front with the Eighth Alpine Brigade, receiving the Croix de Guerre, and, after the French-German armistice, resumed his position in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In 1942, when Assistant Consul at Tangiers, he was recalled at the request of Von Abetz, German Ambassador to France, for sympathizing with the Allied cause. He joined the liberation movement, working with the Resistance and becoming chief of the information service, assisting in the creation of the secret army of the Allied Department. Facing arrest in Vichy, M. Chambon reached Paris, collaborating with the “France Combattante” but finally was imprisoned by the Gestapo in 1944. Then followed solitary confinement at Fresne, then concentration camp at Compiegne and lastly the horrors of Buchenwald.

After the war and release, he was appointed Consul for New England. He has been decorated with the Medal of the Resistance, the Legion of Honor (for military services) and the Croix de Guerre with Palms and Stars. His seven years in Boston were seven years of friendship for the American Friends of Lafayette; through him this Society was represented on many important committees. He regretted very much not being in Boston this coming spring to receive the members of the Society. In his fine address on the occasion of the Farewell Banquet, he brought up a point worthy of our attention, and to be taken to heart:

“I know the United States well enough to have learned to love your country, and to know that the hasty judgments, so often made about it, can come only from people who did not have a chance to stay here long enough. But let me tell you, frankly, that some of the blame lies on you. The best propaganda has always been to tell the truth. Do many Americans know how to emphasize what is the real truth about the United States? Of course, they speak of their Frigidaire machines, their television sets, their cars, their washing machines, and so they give the impression that American life consists first and only of their comfort. They hope thus to glorify American civilization,
Page Six

whereas they are laying themselves open to criticism; for the millions of Europeans, if this comfort represents a certain amount of happiness, it is far from being the chief one. Besides, it is taken for granted that material progress has been possible for you by the fact that, unlike the European nations, and France in particular, the United States has undergone no devastation and ruin from war on its territory in the last fifty years. Yet, innumerable are speeches and articles that we have heard or read, in which the American way of life is presented as being, more or less exclusively, the putting of this comfort within the reach of all.

"Why do not people speak more often of the receptive attitude one finds in the United States, as opposed to the critical attitude, which, of course, is not to be condemned in itself, but which, as it exists in Europe, goes sometimes to extremes? Why not speak of the spirit of solidarity which, though obviously it cannot exist in the domain of business because of competition, exists in every other aspect of life in the United States? Why not speak of that magnificent trait which is found here, whereby everyone is respected for himself more than for the position he occupies? Why not speak of the broad opportunities offered young people with ambition and which are too often denied them in the older countries of Europe? Americans invented the term 'public relations'; I sometimes am led to wonder if it was meant only for domestic consumption. Why not make it an article for export?"

"Since I consider myself your friend, I take the liberty of repeating that too many Americans do not know how to publicize their country, that they have only to tell the truth, and that they need not be afraid of admitting their faults, provided they emphasize what is so admirable in the American way of life and civilization. You may take some consolation in the fact that Frenchmen also publicize generally their country very badly, in part because they have the unfortunate habit when they are abroad of criticizing everything French — until some foreigner tries to do the same thing! Anyway, you may be sure that in Italy as well as in France I shall be quick to defend your cause whenever there is need to do so.

"There is another point that I would like to call your attention to, and that is that Europe should be told that American public opinion is not one and indivisible. Too often my fellow countrymen, like the majority of Europeans, have a tendency to say: 'Americans think thus and so, or Americans want this or that,' and to identify, as American public opinion, the statements of some Senators, the editorial of some paper, or the policy move of a government. Nothing could be more dangerous. It is one of the essentials of a better understanding between Europe and the United States, that you should make known abroad how diverse are the currents of opinion, thought and sentiment in your country regarding all the grave problems of the hour. Again one only needs to tell the truth."

Thus did this quite remarkable friend of ours gently lecture us on the eve of his departure for a new phase of his career.

YORKTOWN DAY, 1951

Those who were fortunate enough to be present at the 1951 Yorktown Day celebration on October 19th, proclaimed it the most colorful and stirring yet held. This, the 170th anniversary of the victory at Yorktown, embraced the traditional series of events — the tours of the battlefields with Colonial National Park Historians as guides, the impressive parade to the monument and the exercises there, with the solemn Wreath Ceremony, the address of the day, this year by the Honorable Edward J. Robeson, Representative in Congress from the First Virginia District, and also the address of Lieutenant General Merwin H. Silverthorn, Assistant Commandant of the United States Marine Corps. As usual, a ship of the Atlantic Fleet came into the harbor, anchoring for the day's celebration; this year the U.S.S. Mississippi, together with her officers and crew, contributed much to the occasion. The American Friends of Lafayette, as before, was one of the several societies under whose auspices this celebration was held. Again our members are urged to proceed to Yorktown next October for a day which will most assuredly never be forgotten.

LAfayette at Mount Vernon

For details of Lafayette's early visits to Mount Vernon, readers may refer to Professor Louis Gottschalk's Lafayette and the Close of the American Revolution (Chicago, 1942), p. 206, for a visit of Lafayette to Mount Vernon in April, 1781, and to Lafayette Between the American and the French Revolution (Chicago, 1950), pp. 88-89, for the visit of August 17-18, 1784, and pp. 127-30, for the visit of November 24-28.

On September 6, 1951, a special emblem was raised on the main staff of Independence Hall in honor of the 194th anniversary of the birth of the Marquis de Lafayette. The emblem is similar to an early American flag, with the conventional stripes and a circle of thirteen stars. The names of Lafayette and Washington are on the border. The thirteen members of the Independence Hall Bell Ringers' Society rang the big tower bell for the figures "one," "nine" and "four" as the flag went up. Representatives of Lafayette College joined in the observance in honor of the man who helped this country win its freedom.

Members will receive presently two publications bearing the imprint of this Society — Brisout de Berneville and also a part of the diary of Louis Alexandre Berthier, the Marshal of France, Prince of Neuchatel, Prince of Wagram, friend of Napoleon. Berthier served with Rochambeau in the American Revolution. The parts of the diary to appear contain his departure from France, arrival at Newport, camp at Newport, the march of the French Army to join General Washington, the false attack on New York and the final departure from Dobbs Ferry to Yorktown. Two maps will be reproduced: the camp at Providence and the camp at Phillipsburg — two splendid pieces.