

A FAMOUS FÊTE.

BY GEORGE F. HOAR.

THE National Library, through the efforts of our associate, Henry Vignaud, Esq., first Secretary of the Embassy of the United States at Paris, has just acquired a very interesting and curious historical relic which its librarian and the librarian of the State Department have been seeking to discover for more than twenty years. Mr. Sumner in his report on the French Spoliation Claims, made to the Senate from the Committee on Foreign Relations in 1864, gives an account of the humiliating treatment of our envoys, James Monroe and his associates, who came back from France, baffled and insulted; of the expected war when Washington was summoned from his retirement to take his place at the head of our armies; of the renewal of the negotiations by President Adams in spite of the angry remonstrance of the Federalists; and of the success of the new embassy consisting of Oliver Ellsworth, William Vans Murray and Governor William R. Davie of North Carolina. Patrick Henry was first appointed, but was compelled by age and infirmity to decline and Governor Davie took his place.

This triumph of American diplomacy was gained when Bonaparte was First Consul, just after his return from his campaign of glory and victory in Italy. Whatever else may be said of Napoleon Bonaparte, the people of the United States have great reason to regard him as a friend and benefactor.

The conclusion of this treaty, most advantageous and honorable to both nations, was celebrated by a magnificent fête, one of the most splendid among the splendors of that time. The convention was signed at Morte Fontaine, the

country house of Joseph Bonaparte, the first-named of the French Commissioners. Napoleon himself was present with his associates in the then Republican Government of France. Lafayette was there, just rescued from his Austrian dungeon. His wife, who owed her escape from the scaffold and the guillotine to the spirited interference of an American woman, the wife of James Monroe, seems to have been absent. There were gathered many persons distinguished in the political and social life of France. There were the American Commissioners, headed by Oliver Ellsworth, famous for his great Revolutionary services, famous afterward in the civil life of the early years of the Constitution, wearing upon his head the triple crown of statesmanship, jurisprudence and diplomacy. He is, save Marshall alone, the most illustrious on the illustrious roll of our Chief Justices. He was one of the very greatest men in the Convention that framed the Constitution. He had signed the Declaration of Independence. His great influence as a senator in Washington's administration has become known to his countrymen even through the barrier of the closed doors of the Senate chamber. Aaron Burr, the Vice-President, said of him that his influence over the Senate was so great that if he were to undertake to spell the name of the Deity with two "d's" it would take the Senate three weeks to get rid of the superfluous letter. To these two wreaths he was to add that of the successful negotiation in which after so many failures his country was saved from a war with France, then governed by the most famous soldier of Europe in the very flush and triumph of his greatest victory. If we estimate men by moral quality, by useful service, and by consummate wisdom, Oliver Ellsworth was the most illustrious of that illustrious company, not excepting Bonaparte himself. No other certainly can be compared with him, unless it be America's friend and idol, the adopted son of Washington, Lafayette.

The scene has been preserved for us by an engraving, which is among the curiosities of French art. It is by François Piranesi, sometimes called the Cavalier Piranesi, son of Jean-Baptiste Piranesi, the Michel Angelo of engravers, the famous Italian whom many persons account the greatest engraver that ever lived. His noble reproductions of the magnificent ruins of Roman architecture, now growing scarce, are eagerly sought by collectors. His genius idealized and added a new grandeur to the architecture of imperial and mediæval Rome. He left three children—a daughter, Laura, and two sons, François and Peter,—all of whom pursued their father's vocation. The only one who attained any considerable distinction was François. He was a favorite of Napoleon. The Emperor's interposition rescued him from prison where he had been committed by order of the King of Naples, who seized him and his collection of engravings and plates as he was about to embark for France. This collection made by the younger Piranesi embraces his own engravings, and, which are much more valuable, and I suppose by far the larger number, those of the father. There are various estimates of the number of these prints; one states it as 1,733, one as 2,000 and one as 4,000. This valuable collection passed into the possession of the French government. François also established in France a manufactory of painted vases, candelabra, tripods of terra cotta in imitation of the Etruscan and other ancient productions,—all which were finally acquired by the government. He died in 1810 in poverty. He also had a political career of considerable activity and distinction. He was *chargé d'affaires* of King Gustavus III. of Sweden at the Court of Rome, and in 1798 was sent to Paris as the Minister of the Roman Republic.

The figures in this print are colored somewhat rudely, but I suppose as well as the progress of the art at that time made possible. But the picture enables the student

of history to reconstruct in his imagination the brilliant spectacle. It is interesting not only as showing the importance which the French people attributed to this renewal of peaceful relations with their old ally, but as showing also what events and what characters in American history were most highly esteemed by the French people so shortly after the close of the war of our Revolution, when so many of its conspicuous characters were still upon the stage.

This was the first convention concluded by the Consular government. Napoleon himself, the First Consul, proposed a toast "To the manes of the French and the Americans who died on the field of battle for the independence of the new world." The second Consul, Cambacérès, proposed the toast: "To the successor of Washington." The third Consul, Lebrun: "To the union of America with the powers of the North for the securing the freedom of the high seas."

At the bottom of the print is a key which gives an explanation of the principal figures and objects which it represents, and which is itself as good and compact a description of the work of art as could be made. It will be observed that there is an emblem of Trenton, the Federal City. This is due to the fact that the archives of the government had been temporarily transferred to Trenton because of the existence of a pestilence at Philadelphia. The key here follows.

Convention entre la République Française et
les États-Unis d'Amérique.

Signée

à Mortefontaine le onze Vendémiaire, An 9

3 Octobre 1800

et Vue des Jardins dans lesquels a été célébrée la Fête donnée à cette occasion.

1. Le monument représente la France et l'Amérique qui se donnent la main en signe d'amitié.
2. Bustes de Washington et de Franklin.
3. Le Candélabre qui fut donné par les États-unis à l'époque du 1^{er} traité conclu avec la France.

4. Antel de la Liberté sur lequel les Ministres Plénipotentiaires des deux Nations jurèrent Paix et Union.
5. Les Ministres Plénipotentiaires de la République Française.
6. Les Ministres Plénipotentiaires des Etats-unis d'Amérique.
7. Le trois Consuls de la République Française.
8. Le Secrétaire d'État.
9. Les Ministres de la République Française.
10. Les Présidents des Sections du Conseil d'État.
11. Le Président du Sénat.
12. Le Président du Corps Législatif.
13. Le Président du Tribunal.
14. Le Président du Tribunal de Cassation.
15. Le Préfet du Département de l'Oise.
16. Le Sous-Préfet de l'arrondissement de Senlis.
17. Les Envoyés du Département de l'Oise au premier Vendémiaire.
18. Les Maires des principales Villes maritimes de France.
19. Le Corps Diplomatique.
20. Groupes de Dames et de Citoyens invités à la Fête.
21. Le Ceu Despreaux, Ordonnateur de la Fête célébrée à Mortefontaine.
22. Saugeon, maire de Mortefontaine.

EMBLÈMES.

23. Federa-City. TRENTON.
24. Cornes d'Abondance.
25. Au 19 Octobre 1781. YORK-TOWN.
26. Philadelphie, Havre, Brest. GREEN. au dessus une figure représentant la Paix portant une branche d'Olivier de France en Amérique.
27. Un vaisseau Américain naviguant avec un vaisseau Français.
28. Au 17 8bre 1777. SARATOGA.
29. Une Lire avec branche d'olivier.
30. Un Aigle. LEXINGTON.
31. Au 4 Juillet 1776. Indépendance Américaine. HANCOCK.
32. Deux faisceaux unis. WARREN.
33. Au 9 Vendémiaire, An IX.
34. Deux Couronnes d'Olivier. PUTNAM.
35. à Wasington. BUNKERS-HILL.
36. Un Caducée avec une ancre.
37. à Franklin. MONTGOMERY.
38. Un conducteur Electrique avec ce vers de Turgot :
Eripuit Coelo fulmen sceptrumque Tyranni.

William Vans Murray has left behind him a diary never published, now the property of the government of the United States and among the treasures of the Congressional Library at Washington. The diary indicates that he was

an intelligent and wide-awake observer with great capacity for describing character, and I think will tend, when published in full, to raise his reputation as a man of large capacity. Upon the fly-leaf are several pencil drawings which are somewhat above the capacity of a clever school-boy, with which he seems to have amused himself in idle hours. Among them is a very amusing caricature of his colleague, Oliver Ellsworth, and a sketch of Bonaparte, which has a good deal of interest. Accurate copies of these accompany this report. I extract from the diary the account of the fête at Morfontaine.

Fête given by Mr. Joseph Bonaparte at his chateau of Morfontaine on Friday the 3d Oct. 1800 (11 Vendemiaire an 9. French.)

Mr. J. B. was President of the French Commission to treat with us, he is eldest brother of the consul, aged 33, the consul is 32 only. Lucien is 30 (the Min. of the Interior). Louis appears to be about 27. Madame, the sister about 25. Made. Murat, wife of the general about 20 and a young brother, now a private in the garde du corps about 18, named Jerome. Made. B. wife of the consul, late Made. Bauharnois (Her husb'd was guillotined) must be 45, her daughter Mdle. B. about 17.

Mr. J. B. is marry'd, I do not know the first name of his wife, a small delicate woman, a little jéalous. He resembles his family who are all alike, none tall nor athletic, but neatly and actively made with dark complexion or rather an India pale brunet colour, black hair. Mr. J. B. has a mild disposition, tranquil, a little lazy, guarded, but not reserved, a pleasing countenance, loves the chase and his country estate wh he purchased of the heirs of the late owner Mr. Morfontaine who died quietly in his bed! He has an easy flow of literary knowledge wh comes from him like insensible puseration without his seeming to know it; he is very unaffected and wh out pretense, the bane of the french clever men.

Mr. La Fayette who had been invited went in our carriage, we could but admire the beauty of the country to Morfontaine, the whole road from Louvre show'd that the common people knew there was a Fête going forward, we perpetually met the return post horses and but on one occasion did we see them go off the road and ride through the Luzerne field's edge, for there are no fences nor ditch, a row of trees only protects the fields in full cultivation.

At Louvre we changed horses, a crowd of poor beggars flocked to the windows of our coach, mostly women, yellow and squallid. The horses and jack boots, the jack boots of a french postilion

nearly the size of a hominy mortar! were immediately hitched and off we went at 7 miles, but their harness is always bad, ropes for traces, miserable bridles, horses excellent, but wherever leather, rope or iron enter into the service you fail in France. The country became irregular and picturesque. We arrived at half past three. It is a modern chateau of about an hundred years old, with a large court in front, fosse, and buildings and offices on the sides of the court. There were cannon and troops in front. It is on the edge of the Village. Its back front has the South and commands a view of the Lawn pleasure grounds and river or piece of serpentine water, the extremities of wh are concealed as it seems to issue from a pile of rock on the side of the Lawn and winds diagonally towards the Chateau, near wh it is lost in thickets of shrubs and trees, a bridge in the more distant part, an island with shrubs, groups of Chsnut, Locusts, and willows, to the right and left pleasure grounds trees walks and statues concealed in the shrubbery, a very pretty cupid with his finger on his lips in a thick shrubbery show'd that Mr. Morfontaine's taste was of the age of chivalry wh is past in France and where little secrecy attends the little deity either in shrubberies or in gilded Salons. In the distance is a handsome Pavillion that commands a fine view of the surrounding country and hills, from the rock or grotto in it the water tinkles, how it gets there I could not learn, certainly by pipes from some higher source as the gardens and park are not high enough in any part to afford it. The House is spacious, at least 150 feet long. The buildings on the court, les accessoires, extensive, and the whole furnished and alive with company, soldiers and servants, and Hammers in the part on the left wing preparing for the Fête, for the whole was prepared between the 1 and 3d oct. the day we went.

We were invited by Mr. Joseph Bonaparte on the 1 to be there at XI a. m.

When we arrived we found my colleagues, Mr. Ellsworth was indisposed and in his room, for each of us had a bed room with a good fire, and were invited to stay all night. We drove to the chateau and did not go to the village. We were shown by Mr. J. B. who received us very kindly, into the breakfast room on the left through a corridor into a large billiard room and thence to it, we found most of the company done breakfast. Mr. Fleurieu ordered us what we wanted. It was a *dejeuner Française*, froid et chaud, patties of fowl, beef &c. &c. cold, bouillon &c. &c. wines, cordials, tea, coffee, chocolate.

vid. post 5 pages at A.

We then all assembled in the Salon, a room about 44 feet long, in the right. The Spanish minister Count Musquez, Mr. Dryer, Danish, Mr. Frabajas Ligurian (Genoese), Baron Sandos Prussian (but not his wife) Baron Poppenheim, Hesse Darmstadt, (), Hesse Cassel, Mr. Roederer, Mr. Fouché of Police Gen'l,

Mr. & Made. Fleuriu, Mr. & Made. DuBazin, Made. Jancourt, Made. Murat, Prefet of Bouvais, La Forest, Micot, Cassus, Made. Bonaparte, Made. Bonaparte her Mother of that singular family, a lady who looks as young as the Consul's wife, and a pleasing looking woman, she is not more than 46, Lucien Bonaparte min. of the Interior and his two little children of whom he seems very fond, his wife died 6 months since. Col. Louis Bonaparte, and Jerome, a great number of ladies and public men at least 150, at half past four.

The changes of the Title of the Treaty to Convention, and of the Style from begin'g F. Rep., to the Premier Consul, were to be made and of course new signatures, before dinner, the French mins. was there but Pichon had not arrived (their Secretary who had their copies, he was to come with Mr. Talleyrand).

At half past four a cannon announced an arrival, and a guard du corps arrived as avant courier of the Consul who in 3 minutes after dashed into the court with a coach and six white horses, guards before and behind. He entered the Salon, the company standing and the members of the gov't approach'g the door to receive him. He was drest as Col. of his guards, blue faced with white, red cape, and sword on, he was very affable, in five minutes he proposed a walk, and asked me to join him. We went out and walked in the shrubbery alone for half an hour, his conversation was general, about the rapprochement we had made and the good understanding wh w'd now follow. I spoke to him freely about the privateers wh ought to be well restrained or their colonies wd yet be ruined, of the approaching peace of the continent and my wish that Engd. also were in the pacification. On our return we met the Spanish and Danish mins., he asked where is Sandos, and it was remarked his wife was with child. Il est trop agé pour faire un acte semblable, il a viellée beaucoup depuis, quel sottise! The Consuls Cambacérès & Le Brun arrived and came to us, with some members of the council of State, all these approached uncovered.

I went to our chamber where Mrs. Murray was, and began to make the necessary alterations for signature in my copy of the Convention wh I had in my porte feuille, Mr. Talleyrand & Pichon came.

By half past 6 we were all assembled in Mr. E's room (to the right hand) and by seven finished our work, signed and sealed, and burnt the other signatures. In carrying my porte feuille to Mr. E's room, as it was not proper to usher it through so ceremonious a company I went round by the front through the court, wh I found brilliantly illuminated. The who[le] front of the building, the court, and the approaches, and an immense crowd. On returning the same way I found my young friend Ellsworth standing at the door, wh was guarded by two dragoons. He told me they would not let him in though he had shown his card

of hospitality, I observed to them that they had not known that he was attaché au Pambassade des E. U., and we entered, by this time the Salon had at least 200 persons, many of the first artists, Theatrical and musical from the best Theatres were among them, as we had heard there wd be a play, Madlle. Constat, Devienne (so like Mrs. Bingham!!) Mezerai & Simon, Garat the singer, Rode & Kreutze, violins, Frederick the horn &c. &c. &c., at Half past seven we were asked to see the Salles à manger, the decorations &c. &c. Three large tents had been erected at the East end of the chateau towards the old chapel, ceilings of sky blue paper, walls perpendicular, trees about 5 or 6 inches diameter planted all along the sides, the back or wall part thickly laced with small branches w. fresh leaves, garlands, shields attached to the wall of foliage gilded and with emblems, or inscriptions, Festoons of coloured small lamps, Lusters hanging. They were then serving the dinner in these three large rooms or salles, The Tables very beautifully set off, names to each plate, Mr. Davie, Talleyrand, Mr. du Bazin and myself went through them all. These were approached from the Breakfast room through another large room at the end of wh was a Transparent painting, to the left into a new made alley of Foliage, orange trees, busts and Flowers in vases, that alley led to these 3 rooms 1. Salle d'Union (Hall of union) or of reconciliation, in large gold letters over the door, the next of Washington with his bust by Hudon at one end raised on a pedestal, the Third of Franklin w. his also.

vid post 2d page.

A, vid ante 5 pages.

Mrs. M. having occasion to pluck a rose as is usual with delicate women after a ride of 22 miles and a dish of tea asked Made. Fleurieu to show her the way, this was a point of negociation and delicacy, so Made. F. very gingerly spoke to her husband, negociator, membre of the council of State, and of the Institute and Board of Longitude, and then took her seat. Mr. Fleurieu spoke to another Minister, Ct. Musquez, Ambassador of Spain and the two gentlemen approached the two ladies to escort them on the expedition. Mrs. M. was surprised, but as Mr. F. was husband to Made. F., she presented her hand to Mr. F. & Made. F. gave hers to () and away they went in due ceremony. Mr. F. and his friend led the ladies up the grand Staircase, and passing through the long corridor arrived at Mrs. M's chamber where she had not been before. The ladies contested amicably the point of precedence, but as the occasion was urgent, that matter, through a negociator being present was soon settled. The ladies entered the chamber shut the door and the two gentlemen politely waited their return at the outside of the door in the corridor, received them when they returned and in the same order ushered them into the grand Salon.

After our return from a walk at 5, the Prefet of Beauvais informed Bonaparte that he wished to show him some golden Roman medals wh a poor peasant of Beauvais lately found in an urn, the terre cuit. He drew a handful of small medals of very pure gold and show'd them to B. who distributed them for observation, he gave me one a Trajan. I saw twenty others, Aurelius, Claudius Vespasian Faustina the daughter, none of the Augustan age, I returned mine to him, Gen'l Davie came up and he show'd them to him and then begged him to accept 7 or 8 [*Note in margin.* Gen'l Davie gave me two, one a Faustina. Mr. E. would not accept any.] desiring the Prefet to get all he could from the peasant and give some to the Spanish Ambassador and the Danish Minister, Dryer. The Prefet had at first remarked that many wd be lost as the poor man feared gov't wd seize on them. B. observed, no they belonged to the finder, it was a stroke of Fortune who gov'd things. The medals in all as gold were worth 6000 Livres ()

When B. spoke to La Fayette he called him citizen la F. and received him as he did others with affability.

At half past eight we were called to the Dinner, names on the napkins in each plate. Mrs. Murray was on Bonaparte's left right hand my colleagues next Made. Fleurieu who was on B's left (Mr. E.) and then a lady and then Gen'l D., my place was on Mr. J. B's right and on my right Made. Bonaparte, who changed seats and that gave me Mr. Cambacères the 2d Consul on my right.

The Dinner was superb and pleasing gaily and richly ornamented. The Three large Salons were filled, 180, all at dinner at once.

After dinner we retired to the great Salon and took coffee. The intention was to have walked to a handsome Pavillon at the bottom of the lawn and to have taken our Caffè there, but it rained, after coffee we were invited up into the library to see the fire works on the Lawn and water. I was at a window with two ladies one of whom spoke to me in english and told me she had been educated in Engd., she was about 20 and very handsome. I found it was the celebrated beauty Miss Morge, now Made. du Bazin her husband a wealthy proprietor in the Isle de Bourbon, the sister of Mr. Morge, who was first named as the Secretary of the French negotiation with us but who declined. The fire works were very beautiful, but did not accomplish the emblems of amity between U. S. and F., intended by the founder of this elegant Fête. The rain had spoiled some of the works, though then a clear sky. After the fire works we descended, and the concert began. Made. Mrs. Had had the place of honor all day, the right of the fire place, and great attention was shown her throughout. I had a seat near the P. Consul by accident. His brother Lucien and he were on a sofa behind Made. B. near the

orchestra. Before it began he spoke to some of the performers Garat & Frederic and seemed to speak scientifically about music. He shakes his foot, and seems always thinking with earnestness. He is about the height of Gen' Hamilton, hardly so tall, not large nor square but well made. His complexion a pale, tinged with an Italian and Egyptian hue, eyes a lively piercing grey, large and a good deal of white about them particularly when he laughs a little, and he laughs but little when at all. Then his eyes open in accord w. his smile & an under low heh! heh! showing his teeth also, by falling the under jaw. His nose aquiline head large and finely shaped, the lower part of his face like the bust of Junius Brutus wh I Remarked(?) two months since when Mrs. M. and I breakfasted w. Mr. & Made. Wespenon(?) No. 101 Place de Vendome, at the artist's statuary whose name I forget Mr. G. some one. His hair is black and well placed, short in his neck and neither combed on his forehead nor turned back but rumpled and standing different ways, he certainly looks best so, it gives more the air of his countenance. His voice is good, though not loud, his expression opposed to whatever is feeble and insipid in the virtuous affections when unattended by prompt energy, grave rather thoughtful, occasionally severe, not inflated nor egotistic, very exact in all his motions wh show at once an impatient heart and a methodical head, not the exactness of a special pleader, but of a most skilful self possess Fencing master. What he says has always extent and relation to important ideas in it, though little, it seems a peep you get into a porte! Feuille of important matter, and though he does keep his secret, yet he speaks with a frankness so much above fear that you think he has no reserve. He is a pleasing man with the Soldier drawing into the politician. He never could have been a trifler in his life, an extraordinary man he is, and is too generous for the french enemies he has, generosity was Caesar's foible and his ruin. He found a Brutus after he had supposed that he had united friends and enemies for him by his manly kindness to them, both eras were too corrupt for any moral esteem, admiration was but the tribute one pays to a spectacle!

Garat sang, and I saw in him the prototype of the Incroyable in the little comedy rather musical opera of the Sabines (from the picture of David) Frederic's horn was as flexible as a fiolet and not too loud for any room 30 feet square. Garat's style of singing cannot last.

After the concert, then past one, Tickets were distributed for the comedy, and away we went up a narrow staircaise and through a pretty bed room in the *accessoires*, to a charming little theatre which was repaired, new curtains and dressed for the Fête, we were in the Consul's Loge. The Parterre and under the gallery must have been a Salon about 40 by 30 feet. The piece was and the farce(?) the *midnight hour*.

Devienne was charming in the Lisette, she is so like Mrs. Bingham that I felt doubly interested for her, father(?), the following couplets were sung after the end of the piece.

The performers and orchestra were of the very first of Paris, Gen'l D. and I elapped the songs, Mr. E. had retired after the concert. indisposed.

After the play we retired to bed at 3½!!

We breakfasted in our chamber where Hubert brought us our Tea & Coffee at half past eight.

At Ten Mrs. M. & I strolled with a french gentleman over the grounds, I asked him if the water were natural, he said it was artificial and the bed once dry for years, that at a great dinner many years since the company said it was a pity there was no water there. The owner sent off to Paris for pump men and engines and next morning it was full of water.

In the left of the grounds among the Trees was a machine that turned vertically, form of a cross with seats hung to axes that preserved the seat perpendicular, all turned by a man as you wd turn a grind stone.

The french love outdoor amusements, and must be always in motion, in all their actions there is a certain grace and air of enjoyment that inspires cheerfulness.

On returning I went to Mr. E's room (the evening before at eleven I went to see him, he was unwell. He seemed a good deal pleased with the Fête and wished that an acct of it might be published.

The Premier Consul was to receive us at Twelve, Mr. Roederer and Joseph Bonaparte soon joined Mr. E. Gen'l D. and myself in Mr. E's room, R. said speaking of the gravel wh Mr. E. has, that Bear berries are good, Uva Ursi, and Box leaves made into Tea. I told him I suspected that every sedentary man by 40 had the gravel. He sd most had, but he had been deceived by that idea. He thought he had it, urined w. pain and difficulty and every moment expected to see grains come from him. His Doctor assured him it was not, and told him it was blood pressing the parts in the region of the bladder and that a discharge of that blood wd ease him; to that end he must procure the piles, wh wd be done by injecting warm water (or cold I forget, more likely warm) He did so, procured piles and was relieved. We spoke of something that led me to use the word Luxe, and I asked him if it were the french for Luxuria. He sd yes, and then gave it the derivation from Lux & uro, equivalent to consuming, burning, destroying, destructive.

In talking of the Rev'on, He said it was in pursuit of your principles of Liberty that all this has happened, it began at court where a few young men made them fashionable, as La Fayette &c &c

At 12 we ascended to a large Salon where were Bonaparte and Talleyrand, and D'auteville as interpreter.

Mr. E. said

After Mr. E. & Gen'l D. took leave and departed for Hayre, Mrs. M. Made. du Bazin and Mr., Gen'l La Fayette and I walked to the Lakes, Made. B. said Made. Fleurieu had written a novel lately called Stella. She spoke of La F. as a man to be pitied, and as one considered as weak. She spoke with great attachment of Eng'd where she had been 6 or 8 years since 12, Bristol &c &c She had an agreeable way of leaning on one's arm and is very handsome, we returned and set off for Ermenonville in Two carriages.

We took Made. du B. & La F. with us, La Forest and Mr. Du B. & Mr. Girardin, tribune and son of the owner of Ermenonville with Mr. Maret, Secretary of State, Two Leagues, a good deal of wood. The chateau white, regular and a stream of water on one side. The House of Rousseau on the right near the Chateau among the trees, a common house such as a french farmer Lodges in. We past on to the Lakes, a shower came on and we went into a Chinese Tower, on a raised ground. It was very damp, the view from this reminded of twenty views in Dorset, fishing creek, cambridge creek, [*Note in margin.* In returning to the chateau from the Tower I gave Made. du B. one of my medals] grounds low, in the vestibule was a nice Hammock, wh the rage of the beastly Jacobin villagers had spared, for the village near the chateau was all a thirst for the blood of the old respectable Mr. G. during Robespierre's gentle reign, though fed by the celebrity of the place wh drew travelers constantly, both to view the grounds and water works and woods, and because Rousseau lived there, died there and was bury'd in an island with poplars, where his tomb now stands. I had a snuff box in 82 or 83 I remember with Le Tombeau de J. J. Rousseau and the Isle des Poupliers on the lid. We visited the Isle and his Tomb, but the villagers by destroying the water works and everything ornamental had diverted the water courses, and the island of Poplars is now but a swell of Land of about an acre in a rank and weedy meadow or low ground. It is a common tomb of stone with allegorical figures on the sides, on one a woman giving suck to an infant. Had he done nothing said Mr. La Forest but introduce that custom for mothers to suckle their children it wd justly make him dear to France, on the winding little stream further on is a Temple of Philosophy a Dome Twelve feet diam'r, supported on two sides by pillars over the capitals of wh are written the names of some celebrated men, Locke, Newton, Descartes, Voltaire. The other space is left to be filled by others who may add to the list of Philosophers by their labours.

After being well dry'd and looking into R's room and on his

little pine table where they show'd us the blots of ink wh are left, for their he wrote his *confessions* we returned to Mortfontaine.

When we arrived we expected to have found but few. In the morning Made. B., the Premier, Joseph & a Duroc had gone a hunting, Made. had returned at 1 P. M. I thought that the Premier had gone to Paris, on entering the drawing room or great Salon we found 60 or 80. When we went to E. we left word that we shd return to take leave, supposing that they did not expect the world to dinner, we made an effort to go, as it was most nec'y for me to be in Paris, as Mr. M'Henry was to go in the Diligence at 4 in the morn'g to Havre to embark in the Portsmouth, a sister of Mr. J. Bonaparte engaged Mrs. M. to take a bouillon.

I spoke to Bonaparte who was sitting on the left of the fire place in a grey riding coat, he had not been long returned from the chase. He asked me to set down by him and La F. on my left. He told me they had taken a biche (a doe) I asked him how he bore the wet and fatigue, Ah, tres bien, je suis un militaire, et tres accoutumé à la fatigue et beaucoup d'exercice.

He spoke about the American govt & Constitution with an air of real inquiry wh convinced me he wished to know of what he was not well informed, Particularly about the expence of the President, manner of Living &c &c if he had guards, no, et bien, La police est bonne, nous n'avons ni guards ni police! The President has near () 1000£. (Eng.), and spends it handsomely, but no guards, justices of the Peace execute the subaltern offices of Justice and wh out police. I wished to reconcile him to the difference, you cannot draw any practice from the U. S., we are distant and yet strong in ourselves, no dangerous neighbours, our laws are more the birthright of the citizens to wh they are by nature accustomed than of their institution, we are naturally in that state of freedom, you have powerful nations agt whom you must keep up large armies. He asked are their citizens more rich and who spend more than the President, we have a great deal of Luxury in the U. S.; there are a few who have a larger income than the President. What is the standing force, a few 4000 or 5000 men on the Frontier, the militia 7 or 800 000 men. It is a Europe without King, hereditary power and church establishment, far from Europe. I then mentioned our exports and tonnage in 91 and in 99, I told him the french Revolution had injured us, that it had set in motion a class of men têtes exaltés. He asked how we liked the 18 Brumaire, a strange question. I told him that my private letters said that it was rec'd as might be expected among a people part of whom had been gaté by the metaphysics of France. The friends of order and rational liberty rejoiced at it as bringing F. back to reason, the Jacobins cd not like it, as it concentrated the powers and gave a Senate for Life. He observed that

was natural. [*Note in margin.* vid a Letter, Leyden *Nouvelles Politiques*, of July last, I think 18 or 15, from Philad'a to Amsterdam. I am sure almost, from his conversation, that he had read and thought of that Letter!] But in my opinion F. cd not do with a gov't less strong, (I spoke sincerely, and unless he wd give back his power to L. 18, I wish for the peace of the world he may keep it as long as he lives!)

I knew that La F. must wish to have an oppt'y of speaking to him and left them. L. F. I observed took my seat, and though we wanted to go, I cd not think of depriving him, and we staid till we were called to dinner. Pichon asked if that was Mrs. Murray opposite to the P. C., I said yes, he said he wished to make her a bow, but cd not pass the P. C., I asked why, he had not been presented to him! you not presented after your mission as chargé des aff's in Switzerland last winter?! no, that is strange, why do you not make Mr. T. introduce you, you ought to have been presented on your return, Mr. M. you cannot think of the strange situation of aff's, unless you are of a particular circle, the public men treat one with an astonishing distance, well but you ought to get some one.

From that moment I resolved to get P. presented, for I believe had it not been for P. we should not have brought the french ministers to several points until the spring. He helped us over several bars we, else, sh'd have thumped for months.

I told Gen'l D. of my intention, he said it was best to let these frenchmen manage each other. I thought differently.

At dinner B. was very disengaged. His Mameluc standing behind, with his turban, red jacket and blue sleeves and white trunk trowsers, and yellow face gave an oriental air to the feast, B. talked w. Mrs. M. and pretty made. du B., and gaily w. the little daughter of Lucien his brother, whom he handed into the dining room, at dinner the child talked freely, and he jocosely said something menacing, she said, very well, I have a friend who will defend me, and who is able to do it agt you, who is that, Lucien Bonaparte, minister of the Interior s'd the little girl. Do you not know that it is I who give orders to Lucien and that he must Obey! He always asserts himself.

The Mameluk sleeps across his chamber door and is an attached and intrepid fellow, a young man of 20, since a poor fellow entered B's room while he was a bed w. his wife at the Palace of the Thuilleries, the man walked in his sleep and entered B's room. B. seeing a man enter jumped out of bed and seized him by the throat, the poor fellow waked, and was very much frightened. After dinner I spoke to La Forest to present Pichon. He said he had spoken to T. who had presented him after dinner. They had not thought of these things, often I suspect the world gives them credit for more good and evil by design than is just.

After dinner, (Piranesi) who had set next me at dinner show'd me a sketch on paste board of Mortfontaine and the groups to designate the Convention, wh he sketched the day before, the back grounds and the back front. He took my address and is to send me a copy, it will be published.

Made. B. begged me to send her some seeds, flowers and birds from America, wh I promised, and asked for my address that she might correspond through mfe w. her mother at Guadeloupe of wh she is a native.

At half past eight we set out. Salicetti a Corsican (and formerly great jacobin) came up to La F., who recd him coldly. J. B. sd that is cit'n Salicetti.

Our wheel demanded repairs at about 2 leagues from Paris, this was 12, we saw the Consul and family dash by in a coach and six with the guards.

We were at the Grand Cerf, a whining sore-eyed landlady who quarreled with a young wagonner. Her daughter, while we warmed ourselves, was warming up some ragout wh she told Mrs. M. came from Mortfontaine, where had been a great Fête, and where there were 1000 people at dinner, she did not know on what acc't, but never since the Revolution was seen such a number of equipages. In fact the windows from three leagues out of Paris were all on the stare, and here and there chasseurs on the road side. La F. was sleeping in the coach. I went for him but he wd not drink the anis wh our old landlady begged us for the love of God to take as a preservative ag't the night air, All ready, I gave her half a crown, and she pressed me to remember the Grand Cerf of Vauland, we got home at two, Mac. waiting and very anxious as he was twenty Louis short, wh I lent to him. He parted at Four, I went with him to the place du corps Legislatif, he cry'd and sobbed all the way, I took an affectionate adieu of my worthy secretary who ever since he heard of his uncle's going out has been restless and anxious to return. So ended a brilliant and noble Fête to the envoys U. S.

A brief account of the fête in the *Gazette Nationale* ou *le Moniteur Universel* is added.

Gazette Nationale ou *le Moniteur Universel* Quartidi, 14 vendémiaire An 9 de la République Française, une et indivisible.

Intérieur, PARIS, le 13 vendémiaire.

Le citoyen Joseph Bonaparte, président de la commission des ministres plénipotentiaires chargés de negocier avec les envoyés extraordinaires, ministres plénipotentiaires des Etats-Unis, a donné le 11 à Morfontaine une fête très-brillante à ces ministres pour célébrer le retour de la bonne intelligence entre les deux états. L'intention du citoyen Bonaparte dans cette solennité a été de donner aux ministres américains un temoignage des dis-

positions du gouvernement envers les Etats-Unis, et de la satisfaction générale que produit le rapprochement qui vient enfin de s'opérer. Rien n'était plus propre que la composition et l'ordonnance de la fête à manifester aux américains ces sentimens. Tout y était disposé à leur intention, et les premières autorités, de la république ont semblé n'y assister que comme spectatrices, et pour mettre le dernier sceau aux égards et aux attentions de tout genre dont eux et leur pays étaient l'objet.

Le premier consul s'était rendu à trois heures à Morfontaine avec sa famille. Les deux consuls, tous les ministres, les membres du corps diplomatique, plusieurs conseillers-d'état s'y trouvaient réunis avec les présidens du sénat, du corps-législatif et du tribunal, et différentes personnes employées autrefois aux Etats-Unis sous divers titres, et parmi lesquelles on a remarqué le général Lafayette.

A six heures le ministre des relations extérieures a remis au premier consul la convention signée le 9 entre les ministres français et ministres américains; et cette remise a été annoncée par une salve d'artillerie.

Le dîner a été servi sur trois tables formant 180 couverts, dans trois salles qui communiquaient les unes avec les autres. La première était la *salle de l'union*; la seconde et la troisième, qui portaient les noms de Washington et de Franklin, étaient ornées des bustes de ces grands hommes; leurs noms étaient écrits sur des écussons soutenus par les drapeaux réunis des deux nations. Ces trois salles, et surtout la première, étaient tapissées de feuillage, élégamment décorées de draperies, et illuminées en verres de différentes couleurs. Mais ce qui en formait le plus bel ornement, c'étaient les emblèmes qui rapprochaient de l'époque récente de la réconciliation des évènements passés dont les deux nations ont en quelque sorte partagé la gloire. C'était surtout la *salle de l'union* qui offrait ce genre de décorations touchantes. Dans un premier écusson, on voyait un aigle, et *Lexington*; dans un second, 4 juillet 1776, *indépendance américaine: Hancock*; dans un troisième le chiffre *F. A.*, et *Warren*; dans un quatrième, *Au 9 vendémiaire an 9* (date de la signature du traité); le cinquième portait, *F. A.*, *Putnam*; le sixième, *Ville fédérale: Trenton*; le septième, *Au 17 octobre 1777, Saratoga: Gates*; le huitième, *9 octobre 1781, Yorck-Town*; le neuvième, les côtes de France et d'Amérique, séparées par la mer, un vaisseau quittant le Havre, et cinglant vers Philadelphie, et le nom de *Green*; le dixième, enfin, présentait un vaisseau français et un vaisseau américain naviguant de conserve.

A la fin du dîner il a été porté différens toasts. Le premier, porté par le premier consul, a été: "Aux mânes des français et des américains morts sur le champ de bataille pour l'indépendance du nouveau monde."

Le consul Cambacérès: "Au successeur de Washington."

Le consul Lebrun : "A l'union de l'Amérique avec les puissances du nord, pour faire respecter la liberté des mers."

Immédiatement après le dîner, on a tiré un feu d'artifice sur la rivière en face du château. Le feu et ses pièces diverses représentaient l'union de la France et des Etats-Unis; et au moment de l'explosion, de petits bâtimens avec pavillon américains sont partis à la lueur des artifices qui éclairaient les allégories, et ont fait voile entre les bords illuminés de la rivière vers un obélisque, où la France et les Etats-Unis se juraient une éternelle alliance.

Après le feu d'artifice, un concert a été exécuté par les artistes plus distingués de la capitale.

Au concert succéda le spectacle. On a joué pour 1^{re} pièce, *les Jeux de l'Amour et du Hasard*, et pour seconde, *Minuit*. *Les Jeux de l'Amour et du Hasard* ont été joués par Fleury, Dazincourt, Caumont, mesdemoiselles Contat, Devienne et Lachassaingne avec une perfection et un ensemble au-dessus de toute expression. Mademoiselle Contat, surtout, a étonné les personnes les plus habituées aux prodiges de son art. Dans la seconde mademoiselle Mezerai a joué avec infiniment de grâce. Les américains auront pu remporter, par ce seul spectacle, une idée complète de notre comédie. Au vaudeville *des Jeux de l'Amour et du Hasard*, les citoyens Despréaux et Barré avaient substitué presque impromptu des couplets ingénieux analogues à la circonstance.

Le 12, à midi, les ministres américains ont pris congé du 1^{er} consul à qui ils ont été présentés par le ministre des relations extérieures. Mr. Ellsworth, au nom de ses collègues, a dit "qu' il espérait que la convention signée le 9, serait la base d'une amitié durable entre la France et l'Amérique." M. Murray a ajouté "que les ministres américains n'omettraient rien pour concourir à ce but." Le 1^{er} consul a répondu "que les différends qui avaient existés étant terminés, il n'en devait pas plus rester de trace que de démêlés de famille; que les principes libéraux consacrés dans la convention du 9 vendémiaire sur l'article de la navigation, devaient être la base du rapprochement des deux nations, comme ils l'étaient de leurs intérêts; et qu' il devenait, dans les circonstances présentes, plus important que jamais pour les deux nations d'y adhérer."

Deux des ministres américains, MM. Ellsworth et Davie, sont partis à une heure pour le Havre. M. Murray est resté avec son épouse. Plusieurs personnes l'ont accompagné le soir à Ermenonville, séjour que révère la jeunesse passionnée, et que les amis de la liberté visitent toujours avec un intérêt mêlé d'une sorte de vénération.

Nat'l Intelligencer, Wed. Dec. 17, 1800.

"PARIS, 15 Vendémiaire, 8th Oct.

"While the first Consul was at Morfontaine, at the entertain-

ment given by Joseph Buonaparte to the American Plenipotentiaries, citizen Cambry, Prefet of the department of Oise, presented him several golden medals, which had been lately found by country people in his department. They were concealed in an earthen vessel, large enough to contain 600,000 livres worth, were perfectly well preserved, and of various epochs, some of them dated from an early period of the Roman Empire, others during the time of the republic.

“The Prefet observed to the Consul that it was difficult to procure these medals, because the people who found them, were fearful lest they might be taken from them, as according to the ancient laws of France, all treasures found in this way belonged by right to the government. At present, replied the first Consul Buonaparte, government will not contest the good fortune of a citizen. Besides, it is necessary to use every precaution, to prevent these medals being melted down into bullion by the country people, buy up then, as many of them as you can, probably, added he, after a moment's silence, it will be easy for you to procure more. I hope it will general, answered the prefet. On this reply the First Consul advanced toward Mr. Davie, one of the American ministers and said to him. ‘These Roman medals, Sir, have just been found in France, accept and carry them with you to America, so that the monuments of the Roman Republic may become pledges of amity and union between the Republics of France and the United States.’”

The account of the fête given in the *Journal des Débats* of 15 vendémiaire is the same as that of the *Gazette Nationale*, with this addition.

“Au vaudeville des Jeux de l'Amour et du Hasard, les citoyens Despréaux et Barré avaient substitué presque'impromptu des couplets analogues à la circonstances. Les voici :

Air : Femmes, voulez-vous éprouver ?

1^{er} Couplet, chanté par Dazincour.

Aux jeux d'amour et du hasard,
En France comme en Amérique,
La fortune a plus d'un écart,
Le gain est souvent chimerique ;
Mais d'amitié le doux lien,
En tous tems, en tous lieux se fonde ;
De vrais amis s'entendent bien,
Sans habiter le même Monde.

II^e Couplet, mademoiselle Devienne.

Par un ouvrage assez vanté,
Du savant et doux Fontenelle,
Des Mondes la pluralité
Fut une vérité nouvelle.
Laissons raisonner sa gaité
Sur ces découvertes profondes :
Nous servons mieux l'humanité,
En faisant la paix des deux Mondes.

III^e et dernier Couplet, mademoiselle Contat.

Grâce à la consolante paix,
Source de toute jouissance,
Unique objet de leurs souhaits,
Pussions-nous ;—j'en ai l'espérance,
Partout ne rencontrant qu' amis
A qui notre âme corresponde,
Ne voir que des Etats-Unis,
En courant l'un et l'autre Monde.

These verses, together with the names of the play and the farce given in the *Moniteur*, supply the lacunæ in Murray's narrative.

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