JOHN CADWALADER

In the death of its President, John Cadwalader, Esq., which occurred on June 10th, the Friends of the Library sustained a great loss. Mr. Cadwalader accepted the presidency at the earnest request of the members, and, from the beginning of the organization, was active and interested in its success as an auxiliary to the University Library. His training, personal tastes, and background were such as made him a student of literature, familiar with the best, which entered into his life and conversation. His brief address at the meeting of the Friends of the Library on May 15th was delightfully reminiscent of his reading and the tribute paid by him on that occasion to Professor Schelling, who was the speaker of the evening, will long be remembered by those who heard it. Although ill at the time, he came to perform his congenial duties as president of the association of Friends of the Library. His passing only a few weeks later has left us sorrowful because of our loss.

J. H. P.

July 6, 1934.
FRANKLIN’S ELEGY

Through the kindness of thirty-two Friends the University Library has acquired what is believed to be the earliest extant manuscript of Benjamin Franklin, one of his earliest efforts in literary composition. This unique treasure is entitled “Elegy on My Sister Franklin.” It is written on four pages of a sheet of note-paper, and is initialed “B.F.” By a previous owner it has been handsomely bound in full red morocco, with gilt border-line. Well may we consider the acquisition of this interesting item of Frankliniana one of the most important events in the recent history of the Library.

The manuscript is not dated, nor do we know the name of the sister-in-law in whose memory it was written. As Dr. Pepper remarked in making the public presentation of the poem to the Library, this offers an attractive problem for investigation, though it is likely to be difficult to solve. From data given in the New England Historical and Genealogical Register it would seem that “my sister Franklin” may have been Elizabeth Tyng, wife of his brother Samuel; ————Gooch, wife of his brother John; or the wife of his brother Peter. Pending further investigation we shall welcome any information which any of our readers may be able to contribute on this point.

Unless the name of the sister-in-law and the date of her death can be established we cannot know positively when the elegy was written, but it was probably between 1718 and 1722, when Franklin was between 12 and 16 years old; most probably, we think, it was nearer the earlier date than the later. This is not surprising when one remembers the “Dogood Papers,” written when he was 16, and his account of literary aspirations which he entertained at a still earlier period. When he was but 12 years old he was apprenticed to his brother James, who had set up his printing press in Boston. “I now had access to better books,” he says in the Autobiography. “An acquaintance with the apprentices of book-sellers enabled me sometimes to borrow a small one . . . . I now took a fancy to poetry, and made some little pieces; my brother, thinking it might turn to account, encouraged me and put me on composing occasional ballads. One was called The Lighthouse Tragedy, and contained an account of the drowning of Captain Worthilake, with his two daughters; the
Elegy on my Sister Franklin.

Worms from my breast, rushing'd with grief and slop
These melancholy streams spontaneous flow
Now for a favorite sister's sad Disease
Now for the worthiest of the female Race
Your heart-felt sorrows for a Sibyl suspend
And sympathize with me whilst I lament
Our Friend's Disease and give my Passions vent
O what a loss have all her Friends sustained
A general loss which none can be retrieved
We lost a Mother, Daughter, Sister, kind
In whom each Virtue, Grace and Worth combined
May nature Heaven enable us to meet,
With our composing this Affliction great,
Sir, Heavens Commands that passed we resign
Our Will and Pleasure to the Will divine
Let Spirit of revenge! Nature will rebel
grateful sighs and filial tears impel
And lights and tears the afflicted Boston eyes
As solemn Balmav, trembling honses appraose
My much-loved sister, whose afflicted sire
With Christian patience her Affliction bore.
And as Heaven's own Time to break her chains
And as her native Home the Empyrual Plain
My dear my much−loved sister!—O my friend
He in this World on nothing may repose!
For soon as we esteem ourselves posset
Of every needful Thing to make us blast
Some friend (Demisso, like her we now lament)
Casual Mischance, or tragical Event
Like an intransient Guest will intervene
Frustrate our Hopes and mar our blissful Scene
How weak! how vain! how void all mundane joys
A Midstl fraught with Nonsense, Sham and Noise
O what's this Life which we so highly esteem
A Bubble, Vapour, Shadow, fleeting Dream
From soild Dust we sprang & surely must
On soon, or late return to native Dust
What mortal Man ever in his best Estate
All Vanity, Pride, Folly and Deceit

* them joy to bow to & from Pity to Woe
Here sudden the Transition here below!
And what our Pleasures and Possessions here, 
Ideal joys and Hopes insensibly 
Grows, have their Thorns and Opulence its pain, 
And all our Pleasures their Alley of Pain, 
Call the Vicissitudes of Life declaring 
Uncertainties alone is certain here, 
And none of this side Heaven not even the best, 
Compactly perfect or completely blest, 
No subsection Pitchings long endure, 
And from Death's Bentley thoughts can us ensure, 
Who e'er all flesh maintains a sovereign duty, 
And millions fell his Visions every Day, 
Nor North West, East, Beauty, Wealth or Power can reap 
From right Fate's indelible Decree, 
Whose means Time by Heaven's own Finger wrote 
Our Life, Death, Happiness and Misery note, 
She might this worthy Tabat whose wayward Fate, 
We and dejected have claimed a longer Date, 
Of wretched Years her thin to serve and blest 
Enjoy her Please and Life, poor Things rejoice 
But mourning souls, Perfections, Gifts and Prizes. 
So Whether Proof against Death's fate-wings Nazi.
Which sent her Heavenly grace to her tender Heart
The best of Friends my best of Friends must part
I las how hard to chose a friend sincere
A human Nature will be alternate her
How vain the Pomp and Pageantry of War
They faint more gratified which from 
Friendship flow
Better a silent Tear in heart felt light
Than statues, Tombs and Epitaphs which lie
And tho I humbly trust our Friend deceased
To waste to the Saints eternal rest
Yet her sad Exit many my Resolves
In heart profound, It baffles my soul involving
With sighs, Grows my labid Proserps well
And when my cheeks Oft in solemn stream impet
May Heaven forgive one if I sought offend
While thus I mourn my dear departed Friend
Sure Heaven forbids not for our Friends to mourn
Nor to bide with Tears their peaceful urn
Since Tears assuage our Griefs, so both our Wise
And our Affliction and Affliction shew
If in this Life alone we Shone project
We were of all most wretched and distrest

B. F.
other was a sailor's song, on the taking of Teach (or Blackbeard) the pirate. They were wretched stuff, in the Grub-street-ballad style; and when they were printed he sent me about the town to sell them. The first sold wonderfully, the event being recent, having made a great noise. This flattered my vanity; but my father discouraged me by ridiculing my performances, and telling me verse-makers were generally beggars. So I escaped being a poet, most probably a very bad one."

The "Dogood Papers" were printed in the New England Courant in 1722. Number VII, in June, contained the famous "Receipt" for making an elegy, reading as follows:

"A RECEIPT to make a New-England Funeral ELEGY."

"For the Title of your Elegy. Of these you may have enough ready made to your Hands; but if you should chuse to make it your self, you must be sure not to omit the words Aetatis Suae, which will Beautify it exceedingly.

"For the Subject of your Elegy. Take one of your Neighbours who has lately departed this Life; it is no great matter at what Age the Party dy'd, but it will be best if he went away suddenly, being Kill'd, Drown'd, or Frose to Death.

"Having chose the Person, take all his Virtues, Excelencies, &c. and if he have not enough, you may borrow some to make up a sufficient Quantity: To these add his last Words, dying Expressions, &c. if they are to be had; mix all these together, and be sure you strain them well. Then season all with a Handful or two of Melancholly Expressions, such as, Dreadful, Deadly, cruel cold Death, unhappy Fate, weeping Eyes, &c. Have mixed all these Ingredients well, put them into the empty Scull of some young Harvard; (but in Case you have ne'er a One at Hand, you may use your own,) there let them Ferment for the Space of a Fortnight, and by that Time they will be incorporated into a Body, which take out, and having prepared a sufficient Quantity of double Rhimes, such as Power, Flower; Quiver, Shiver; Grieve us, Leave us; tell you, excel you; Expeditions, Physicians; Fatigue him, Intrigue him; &c. you must spread all upon Paper, and if you can procure a Scrap of Latin to put at the End, it will garnish it mightily; then having affixed your Name at the Bottom, with a Moestus Composuit, you will have an Excellent Elegy."
N.B. This Receipt will serve when a Female is the Subject of your Elegy, provided you borrow a greater Quantity of Virtues, Excellencies, &c.

"SIR,
"Your Servant,
"SILENCE DOGOOD."

One can hardly read this "Receipt" and think that Franklin's own elegiac effort was of later date. If we assume that it was written about the same time, this would involve the highly improbable hypothesis that it was designed as a facetious illustration of the "Receipt." There can be little doubt, we think, that the "Elegy on My Sister Franklin" was written in 1718 or shortly after, in the period when the ambitious young printer's apprentice, with vanity flattered by the success of "The Lighthouse Tragedy" and other ballads, had not yet perceived the probability of his becoming but a very bad poet." The "Receipt" written at 16 can be best understood as a satire directed not so much at the effusions of other writers as at his own effort, of which, at the still less mature age of 12, he had been proud.

The list of contributors to the purchase of this manuscript is as follows:

Dr. J. H. Austin
Dr. Detlev W. Bronk
Dr. Charles W. Burr
Mr. Thomas F. Cadwalader
Dr. G. M. Coates
Dr. George E. deSchweinitz
Mr. Russell Duane
Mr. A. Felix duPont
Dr. Thomas Fitz-Hugh, Jr.
Dr. Thomas S. Gates
Dr. F. C. Grant
Mr. R. C. Hill
Mr. Edward Hopkinson, Jr.
Dr. Karl M. Houser
Mr. Samuel F. Houston
Dr. E. B. Krumbhaar

Dr. William McClellan
Dr. E. P. Pendergrass
Mrs. John P. Pepper
Dr. William Pepper
Dr. Alexander Randall
Dr. I. S. Ravdin
Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach
Mr. A. G. Rosengarten
Mr. Maurice Bower Saul
Dr. Harry Shay
Dr. Alfred Stengel
Mr. C. F. C. Stout
Dr. W. D. Tracy
Dr. Gabriel Tucker
Mr. Charleston Yarnall
Mr. John E. Zimmerman

To all of these we are deeply grateful; and acknowledgment is particularly due to Dr. Krumbhaar, who first undertook to collect the money needed for its purchase; to Dr. Ravdin, who aided greatly in achieving the goal; and to Dr.
A NOTEWORTHY MEETING

A meeting of the Friends of the Library, held in the Horace Howard Furness Memorial at the University Library on Thursday evening, September 27, was made memorable by two events of unusual interest: the presence of Dr. H. H. E. Craster, Librarian of the Bodleian Library, who was the principal speaker; and the presentation of the Franklin manuscript described in the preceding pages.

Dr. Penniman, presiding, introduced Dr. Craster, the present distinguished incumbent of the honored office of Bodley's Librarian, who gave a highly interesting and informative talk concerning the famous Oxford Library, its history, collections, building problems, position in the scheme of organization of the University, and service. He spoke also of the society of Friends of the Bodleian, the organization after which have been patterned a number of similar groups in this country, including the Friends of the University of Pennsylvania Library, telling briefly of its organization, its methods of operation, and its publications.

After Dr. Craster's address Dr. William Pepper was introduced, and told of the successful efforts which had been made to acquire the Franklin elegy for the Library; concluding his remarks by reading the "Receipt for making a New-England Elegy" and a few lines from the poem, illustrating its style. He then, on behalf of all the contributors, presented the precious manuscript to Dr. Penniman, who accepted it for the Library of the University.

Before adjournment Dr. Penniman spoke appreciatively of the large contribution which Mr. Cadwalader had made to the success of the Friends of the Library, serving as its president from the date of organization until his death, and giving generously of his time and interest.

After the meeting an informal reception was held in the Henry C. Lea Library, where the members and their friends had an opportunity to meet Dr. Craster and Mr. R. H. Hill, secretary to the Bodleian Library, who is accompanying him on his American tour.
RECENT GIFTS

In August the University Library was presented by the Misses Vankirk, of Philadelphia, with fourteen hundred books in memory of their father, the Rev. John Vankirk. A brother, Walter Vankirk, was a graduate of the College in the class of 1899.

These books comprised in large part a personal library collected by Mr. Vankirk, and in addition to useful duplicates of important standard works in ancient classical and English literature are especially rich in rare works of humor, travel, and biography. In the latter group are numerous original memoirs of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries which are of great value to students and of which the Library has previously not had copies.

The collection includes several splendid examples of sixteenth and seventeenth century black letter folios and quartos. A particularly interesting group of these represents a field of which the Library has hitherto had but few examples—that of fine early Dutch printing. Outstanding among them are the Historien der Nederlanden to 1612 by Emanuel van Meteren (1647); the Cronyke van het Leven en Bedryff van alle de Coningen van Engeland (Amsterdam, 1649); and the works of Jacob Cats, including his Gedachten op Stapeloose Nachten (Amsterdam, 1700). The latter work consists of two magnificent folio volumes with superb portrait and innumerable curious plates or Emblems, picturing the thoughts. Amongst the many illustrated books in the collection, however, the choicest probably is the superlative folio of engravings commemorating the visit of Louis XV to Strasbourg in 1744, an outstanding example of its art in that period.

Such a gift appreciably enhances the resources of the Library.

JOHN C. MENDENHALL.

Mr. Henry Reed Hatfield has recently given $610. to enable us to purchase certain essential works of reference and several long “runs” of important periodicals in the field of chemistry. All of the books thus acquired have been added to the Walter Hatfield Memorial Library of Chemistry, which was established by Mr. Hatfield many years ago in a room provided by him as a memorial to his brother.
A gift of $500 has been received from Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Singer for the purchase of desirable additions to the Godfrey F. Singer Memorial, which was described by Dr. Mendenhall in our June issue.

From Dr. E. B. Krumbhaar has come a copy of the Bibliotheca historica of Diodorus Siculus, printed at Hanau in 1604 at the famous press founded by André Wechel and carried on after his death by Marni and Aubri. This copy, bound in heavy boards and remarkably well preserved, is of additional interest because of the signature, on the fly-leaf, of Thomas Arnold, of Rugby.

Dr. Burr has continued to manifest his constant interest in enriching our collections with noteworthy books in many different fields. Among his more recent gifts are the commentary of Petrus Victorius on Demetrius Phalereus; several of the early editions and commentaries to be added to the Aristotelian collection; a 1567 edition of Virgil; a Lucretius of 1768 and an Aristophanes of 1770; and many other classical works and commentaries. Special mention should be made of the Florilegium diversorum epigrammatum veterum, Geneva, 1566. This is a splendidly preserved copy, bound in vellum, of the edition of the Anthologia graeca (based on the work of Maximus Planudes first published in 1494), printed by Henri Estienne, under the patronage of Ulrich Fugger.

Another handsome gift from Dr. Burr, received as the Chronicle is about to go to press, is the first volume of Woodcuts of the XV Century in the . . . British Museum, edited by Campbell Dodgson. The British Museum has one of the largest five collections of woodcuts of the northern countries, and practically the entire collection is to be reproduced, in the exact size of the originals and with splendid workmanship. The first volume, recently published, is a worthy companion to Stanley Morison's German Incunabula in the British Museum, presented by Dr. Burr a year or more ago. The remaining volumes of the catalog of woodcuts will be received as they are issued.

Dr. Theodore W. Koch ('92 College) librarian of Northwestern University, has given a copy of his Mirror of the Parisian Bibliophile, a translation of the "satirical tale" of Alfred Bonnardot. This delightfully whimsical story of love, intermingled with the idiosyncrasies of a book-collector and a picture of the second-hand book-trade, has certainly never
appeared to better advantage than in this limited edition, which appeals strongly to all lovers of fine books. In paper, typography, cloth binding of light blue with delicate gilt tooling, and the enticing sepia illustrations by José Longoria, it exemplifies the best of craftsmanship. The introduction and the copious notes (out of the ordinary reader's way at the end of the book) are equally rich in value to the bibliographically-minded book-lover. The whole work is a splendid example of the kind of thing Dr. Koch loves to do, by way of diversion, and does so surpassingly well.

Among books purchased this year with money contributed by Friends of the Library is a set of the "definitive," complete edition of Froissart, in the French, with the variant readings of the several manuscripts.

WHAT THE LIBRARY DOES

We have no love for statistics, but tolerate them only when and so far as they may be necessary. Nevertheless, perhaps a few statistical facts concerning the Library's work may be of interest.

With more than 811,000 volumes (inclusive of the Biddle Law Library), we rank ninth in size among American university libraries.

In normal times we add about 2,000 volumes each month. Reduced funds have diminished this average, and in the last year we acquired altogether, by purchase and by gift, 16,626 volumes; about 8,000 less than we had come to consider normal.

We serve approximately 11,500 borrowers: in round numbers, 2,400 Faculty members and graduate students; 6,000 undergraduates; 1,900 alumni, not now directly connected with the University; and 1,200 other borrowers.

Last year we issued, for use outside the building, nearly 130,000 volumes. This is but a small fraction of the number used from open shelves in the reading rooms and from books reserved for required collateral reading, to be used only in the building. With an adequate open-shelf collection of general literature, available to undergraduates, the home circulation would undoubtedly—invariably—increase by, who can say how much? Perhaps 10 per cent.; perhaps 20; perhaps 30.
THE GIFT OF LOUIS XVI

By C. Seymour Thompson

In 1784 the University of Pennsylvania received from Louis XVI a gift of books for its library, comprising 36 titles in 100 volumes. A similar gift was sent by the King at the same time to the College of William and Mary. Until recently little has been known concerning the gift to Pennsylvania beyond a few brief entries in the minutes of the Trustees, but in 1932, through the kindness of Mr. Warrington Dawson, then engaged in research at Paris, we received transcripts of several documents pertaining to it which he had found in the French archives. These were so interesting that it seemed desirable to publish them, in a translation by Dr. Edwin B. Williams, professor of Romanic languages, and in connection with them to tell the complete story of the gift so far as it can now be discovered.

In the search for further information we have received invaluable assistance from a doctoral thesis by Dr. Allen J. Barthold (Yale, 1931, as yet unpublished), entitled History of the French newspaper press in America, 1780-1790. The King’s gift to the University Library, our most notable acquisition of the eighteenth century, was one of the causes of a bitter controversy between some of the most prominent men in Philadelphia and the editors of Courier de l’Amérique, a paper recently established in this city. Dr. Barthold’s excellent dissertation has facilitated location of some of the articles which appeared in various papers, and to it alone we are indebted for the information concerning the end of the controversy in the forced discontinuance of the French gazette. It is a pleasure to make this acknowledgment of Dr. Barthold’s courtesy in permitting us to draw upon his work for some of the essential facts.

Credit for inspiring the King’s benefaction has often been erroneously attributed to Lafayette. One writer has said that this good friend brought the books with him from France when he re-visited America in 1784. An earlier account states that “Lafayette, while in America, was greatly

1 Incorrectly stated in the Library Chronicle of December, 1933, as 35 titles in 101 volumes. In the original list several of the titles are entered so vaguely or inaccurately that the correct numbers could be established only by careful collation of the list with the books and with various catalogs.

interested in the University [of Pennsylvania], and on his return solicited a gift of books from the King.” Since the books were received in July, and Lafayette did not arrive in this country in 1784 until August 4, it is clear that he did not bring the books with him, and there seems to be no evidence that he was in any way connected with the gift.

The books were sent by the King at the request of the Comte de Vergennes, French minister of foreign affairs, and the Marquis de Chastellux. Probably it was Chastellux, who had but recently returned to France from America, who first suggested the gift and enlisted the interest and aid of Vergennes in procuring it. The Marquis de Barbé-Marbois, French consul-general in the United States, may also have been instrumental to some extent in securing this token of the King's friendliness, but we have no evidence that he was active in the matter except as consignee of the shipment. Both Chastellux and Barbé-Marbois had won distinction and favor in America. Chastellux had come here in 1780, served as major-general in Rochambeau's army, and returned to France in 1783. Barbé-Marbois had come in 1779 as secretary to the embassy, and in 1783 was appointed consul-general. Both he and Chastellux were elected members of the American Philosophical Society. In 1782 both were given the degree LL. D. by the University, and it is reasonable to assume that there was some connection between this honor and the gift of 1784.

Barbé-Marbois was described by Chastellux as a man who united “to all political and social qualities a great deal of literature, and a perfect knowledge of the English language.” That he was highly esteemed in Philadelphia and at the University is evident, not only from the degree conferred upon him and his prominence in the American Philosophical Society, but from his marriage to Elizabeth Moore, whose father, William Moore, was president of the state of Pennsylvania in 1781-82 and a trustee of the University from 1784 to 1789. That he became deeply interested in the Univer-

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3 U. S. Bureau of Education, Public libraries in the United States of America (1876), p. 117. This statement was repeated by Robert Ellis Thompson in 1877 in an article.
4 Pennsylvania Gazette, August 11, 1784.
5 Travels in North America, 1: 321
6 The date of the marriage was June 17, 1784. (Pennsylvania Gazette, June 23, 1784, and other Philadelphia papers.) Mitchell, op. cit., p. 220, cites the Connecticut Gazette of July 9 as reporting it to have occurred July 1.
sity is apparent from a letter which he wrote to Vergennes July 5, 1781:

"I was present at the annual opening of the University of Pennsylvania, which was founded last year. The literary exercises of the pupils, which lasted nearly six hours, have as their chief object to inspire in them the keenest devotion to the cause of independence and to the King and the French Nation, and to stir up their hatred against the English; they profess hatred for Tyranny and they pardon the Monarchy only because of the virtues of the King and his benefactions. The name of his Majesty was repeated over and over in these exercises, and the heads of the University said that an essential point in the training of youth was to foster these sentiments in a way to form a new generation free from all the prejudices of the old in favor of England, and to enkindle a spirit of gratitude for France. I witnessed last year and again this year the zeal with which the professors fulfil this task, and they succeed beyond what one could imagine."

Although we can only conjecture that the consul-general may have participated in plans for securing a gift from the King, by this letter he must have given Vergennes a favorable impression of the University, and thereby, perhaps, made it easier to obtain his interest in that project. To do this was probably undertaken by Chastellux at the first opportunity after his return to France. That a similar gift was sent to the College of William and Mary was probably due likewise to Chastellux, for he and Madison, president of the College, had established a congenial friendship during the former's stay in Williamsburg in the campaigns of 1781, and he had received from the College the degree LL.D. The King's gift was undoubtedly not intended merely as a compliment and favor to the University, but had behind it a hope of strengthening good-will and cordial relations between the two countries, and it would naturally have seemed that this purpose would be better served by two gifts than by one.

The Pennsylvania Gazette of July 14, 1784, reported the arrival in New York, after a voyage of forty-six days from

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7 The description of the exercises seems to indicate that this was the University commencement, held July 4, the day before this letter was written. The word used, however, is ouverture.

8 Extract from letter in the French archives, translated by Dr. Williams.

9 See the long letter to Madison, written by Chastellux in January, 1783, and published in his Travels in North America, 2: 333-385.
Lorient, of the *Courier de l'Amérique*, one of the packets with which efforts were being made to develop regular intercourse between France and the United States for passengers, mail, and freight.\(^{10}\) It was a peculiar coincidence that the packet which conveyed the books to America bore the same name as the newspaper which became so prominent in connection with them. The *Pennsylvania Journal* of July 17 printed what was probably the first public announcement of the gift: “A well chosen collection of books is arrived at New-York in the French Packet le Courier de l'Amérique; they are sent by order of the King of France to his Consul General, to be presented to the Universities of Philadelphia and Williamsburg. They have been given at the joint request of the Count de Vergennes, and of the Chevalier (and since his brother's death) Marquis de Chatellaux.”\(^{11}\)

On May 8 Chastellux had written to the University,\(^{12}\) notifying them of the shipment, and the Trustees' minutes of July 20 contain this entry: “A Letter from the Marquis Du Chattaleau was read presenting to the Board a Collection of Authors from his Most Christian Majesty at the Instance of the Compt De Vergennes and the Marquis De Chataleau. Agreed that Mr. Moore be desired to enquire after and take charge of the said Books.” Since the shipment was consigned to Barbé-Marbois Mr. Moore, his father-in-law, could most conveniently obtain them and see to their installation in the room which served as a library. At the next meeting of the Trustees, July 27, “Mr. Moore informed the Board that the Books presented by his Most Christian Majesty was arrived.” This entry is followed by a list of the books. The Board, on receiving Mr. Moore's report, adopted the following resolution:

“Resolved that the president of this Board be requested to write to the Marquis De Chatellaux acknowledging the Obligation of this Seminary to him for his polite Letter and very friendly Offices and requesting him to communicate to the Compte De Vergennes the grateful Sense with which the Trustees are impressed of his kind Zeal on behalf of this University and of the Honor His Most Christian Majesty

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\(^{10}\) See the interesting chapter on “The Packet Service” in Mitchell, *op. cit.*, pp. 175-216.

\(^{11}\) The same announcement is in the *Pennsylvania Packet*, July 20; *Pennsylvania Gazette*, July 21; and (abridged) the *Freeman's Journal*, July 28.

\(^{12}\) This letter, unfortunately, does not seem to have been preserved. The date is established by MacKean's letter.
has done them by extending his Royal Attention to the Advancement of Science in the Institution under their Care and adorning their Library with so munificent a Donation."

Two days later a more formal presentation was apparently made, for the Courier de l’Amérique reported that the books were delivered to the Trustees by Barbé-Marbois July 29. The editors had evidently had opportunity to examine the books, presumably at a gathering which was open to the public, or at least to the press. This was probably the first occasion of the kind in the history of the Library, setting an early precedent for our recent meeting of the Friends of the Library at which the Franklin Manuscript was presented.

The letter conveying the Board’s thanks was written, not by John Dickinson, then president of the state and ex officio president of the University Trustees, but by Thomas MacKean, chief justice of the state and ex officio a trustee. This is explained by an entry in the minutes of August 4, which seems to indicate that in the absence of the president the chief justice was regarded as president of the Trustees pro tem: “His Excellency the President of the State having not hitherto signed and forwarded the Letter to the Marquies de Chateleau and having requested that the same should be signed by the President for the time—Agreed that the Chief Justice sign the same as President of this Board and forward it without Delay.” This letter has been found only in the French version which Chastellux made and sent to the Comte de Vergennes. We therefore print it here as it has been translated back into English by Dr. Williams from the transcript made by Mr. Dawson:

“We have duly received your kind letter of May 8th last, as well as the beautiful and valuable collection of books of which his Very Christian Majesty has had the kindness to make a gift to the University of Pennsylvania, and I am charged by the Board of Trustees to express to you how sensible they are of the proofs they have of your interest and regard, and what satisfaction they have in seeing the name Chastellux placed in their annals, a name equally distinguished for literary merit and for military fame.

“The Trustees beg you to please offer their sincere thanks to the Comte de Vergennes for the zeal with which he is inspired in favor of this seminary of the sciences, and of which he has given the most flattering proofs by calling the atten-
tion of a great King to it and by using his good offices in order to bind still closer by a literary alliance two nations already bound together by the most cherished and most sacred political ties.

“Our Trustees desire, further, if this wish is not indiscreet, that their humble thanks be offered to His Majesty; they are overwhelmed with gratitude because of the honor which His Majesty has done the University of Pennsylvania, and they contemplate with great joy the character of a monarch whose power, spreading to the limits of the West to uphold the rights of humanity, seems to follow the sun in its course and to make resplendent to the very ends of the earth virtues which will add a new lustre to the most dazzling throne and will serve as an adornment to the history of Kings.

“You will find enclosed a copy of the action taken by the Board of Trustees.

“Signed by order of this Board,

“Thomas MacKean, President.”

The translation which Chastellux made of this letter and of the resolution of the Trustees he sent to Vergennes with the following letter, November 15, 1784:

“Your benefactions, my dear Count, have not failed to meet with a hearty response in America. Here is a resolution of the Board of Trustees to whom the care of the University of Pennsylvania is entrusted, and a letter which was written to me by the President of this University. M. de Marbois who has sent them both to me informs me that the President of the State of Pennsylvania and the President of the University wish that these two documents be inserted in the public papers. The reason for this request is doubtless that a writer in a French gazette printed in Philadelphia, a man hostile to France, had taken it upon himself to criticize the choice of books forming our little stock, as if it were not a collection of books belonging to the King, either by subscriptions or because he had them printed by his own press, but a collection of books in general use to be found everywhere. This journalist was severely rebuked in all the American gazettes, in which there was no stint of expressions of appreciation and gratitude. From this you can judge, my dear Count, if it is fitting to give some publicity to the papers enclosed herewith. The resolution is the only thing which

13 Dickinson and MacKean.
can be placed in the Gazette de France. The letter which the President of the University wrote me could be inserted in the Mercure together with a short notice. As this letter contains things that are far too flattering to me, I should not like to be charged with sending it to the Mercure; but it will be with great pleasure that I shall see homage rendered there to the ministers for whom I know they have the highest regard. It will be said that they are paid for it, but it is unusual to find a way like this to win support. It is not my connections with them, my dear Count, which make me share their opinions, but I am glad at this time to combine my character as American and as Frenchman in order to have an additional reason for the sincere and respectful devotion with which I have the honor of being, my dear Count, your very humble and obedient servant

"Marquis de Chastellux."

"It may be that M. de Marbois has sent you a translation of the letter which was written to me, but as I believe that this one is better, I beg you, my dear Count, to use it rather than the other."

Vergennes replied that in his opinion "the statement of the special favor which the King had the kindness to show to this University is not the sort of thing to be inserted in the Gazette de France, because it seems to me that it is not customary to announce in a work sponsored by the Government a gift of his Majesty of the kind in question; but I see no reason," he said, "why you should not propose to the author of the Mercure to make it the subject of an article for this periodical." Chastellux' desire for publicity was at least partially gratified by the publication in the Mercure de France, November-December, 1784, of his translation of the Trustees' resolution and of MacKean's letter. Some belated publicity was given to the gift in England, too. The Gentleman's Magazine of February, 1785, printed a brief communication from Philadelphia, announcing the gift and giving the substance of the resolution.

Naturally, however, the greatest publicity came in the Philadelphia press, and most of it was due to the French journalist who aroused the indignation of Chastellux. The Courier de l'Amérique was edited by Daniel Boinod and Alexandre Gaillard, two young Frenchmen who had come to America in 1783 and opened a bookstore in Philadelphia.
Their paper was "an organ of propaganda and . . . was immediately concerned in directing its venom against the existing régime in France." The first issue appeared July 27 and the last issue October 26, 1784; 26 semi-weekly numbers were published, and 14 weekly supplements. It has been formerly thought that lack of funds was responsible for the discontinuance of the paper, but "the underlying reasons . . . were political and not financial, and they form a very interesting commentary on the freedom of the press of that period."\textsuperscript{14}

In the supplement of the second issue, August 3, either rashly or with deliberate trouble-making intent the editors printed the following paragraph:

"On the 29th of last month Monsieur de Marbois, French consul-general, delivered to the Trustees of the University of this city a collection of books which his Most Christian Majesty has presented to this institution. The book-lovers who have seen them find that the selection does not do much credit to the taste and to the literary knowledge of M. le Comte de Vergennes and of the Marquis de Chateleux, on whose recommendation the King has made this gift; still, these gentlemen, and especially the latter, are very well acquainted with this country. Among the thirty-six titles which compose this collection, one can find but little of interest other than the natural history of M. de Buffon, Réaumur's history of insects, and M. Bailly's history of astronomy, all in quarto, and the first two parts of the \textit{Art de vérifier les dates}, in folio. All these books are in excellent condition, and we have no doubt that they will be preserved a long time in the same state. If this is not exactly the munificence of Louis XIV, it is at least the small civility of a kind friend who makes everything, even down to mere bagatelles, seem to have some worth."

This affront could not be allowed to pass unnoticed. The editors must be taught to observe a proper discretion. The campaign was begun by Francis Hopkinson, who presented to M. Boinod the following notice for publication in the \textit{Courier de l'Amérique}:

"His Most Christian Majesty, willing to promote a literary as well as a political connection with the United States, hath been pleased to present to the University of Pennsylvania, a valuable and elegant collection of books in philoso-

\textsuperscript{14} Barthold, \textit{History of the French newspaper press in America}. 

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phy, history, arts, &c. by the most eminent French authors and of the most approved editions, amounting to more than one hundred volumes; these have been respectfully received by the Board of Trustees, and are now lodged in the Library of the University, where it is hoped they will answer his Majesty's good intention, by increasing the avenues to knowledge, and encouraging the study of the French language in America."

Boinod refused to publish this paragraph unless it was signed. Hopkinson would not consent to this, and sent the statement to the other papers of the city, supplemented by an account of his interview with the editor, signed "A. B."

"Messieurs Boinod and Gaillard having been pleased," he wrote, "in their paper of the 3d instant, to mention the circumstance noticed in the above paragraph with a malicious sneer, equally unprovoked and misapplied, a member of the Board of Trustees thought proper to place this article of intelligence in the foregoing form, which being translated into the French language was presented to Mr. Boinod for publication. This, however, Mr. Boinod refused to do, alledging that his paper was not intended for this country, but for France; that this paragraph contradicted what he had said in his Courier of the 3d, and if he should insert it now, it might be thought that he had been intimidated by the French Minister, and compelled to publish against his will and judgment; and lastly, that his paper was a paper of truth, and the article offered was not true, the books being in his opinion neither valuable nor elegant. Astonished at this refusal, and much more so at the absurd reasons of Mr. Boinod, the author demanded the publication of the article, not as a matter of favor, but of right, offering to leave his name and pay for the printing. This did not satisfy the editor of the Courier de l'Amérique, he insisted that the paragraph should be announced as coming from the Board of Trustees, or that the author should subscribe his name to it. Both these requisitions were declined; the first, because only the consent, and not the authority of the Board had been obtained for such a publication; and the second, because the paragraph in its present form would not with propriety admit of such a signature. Whereupon Mr. Boinod absolutely refused to give it a place in his paper."

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15 Published in Pennsylvania Packet, August 10; Pennsylvania Gazette and Pennsylvania Journal, August 11. 45
Boinod was prompt in replying, through a communication which appeared in the next issue of the leading papers.\textsuperscript{16} He emphatically denied having said that the \textit{Courier} was published only for France, and gave his version of his interview with Hopkinson. He had been requested, he said, to make "a recantation, if not formal, at least tending to bring into question the honor and firmness which belong to every gentleman." He had therefore refused to "degrade" himself by publishing an article which was contrary to his sentiments. "I cannot insert your complimentary paragraph, unless it be signed. . . . I do not know what opinion would be conceived in America of such a paragraph, but in Europe it would be considered as a forced and ignominious recantation, and never shall we expose ourselves to such an infamy. . . . If we are mistaken, and the error be shewn to us, we will hasten to confess it; but I see nothing in this case which can alter my opinion. As a matter of taste and literature you find this collection rich and precious; our opinion is different. Let the catalogue be printed, and the public will decide whether you or we are the best judges of French books."

Hopkinson had closed his communication with the following attack, going far beyond the question of the excellence of the books which had been presented to the University:

"The foregoing narrative seems to give some insight into the views of Messrs. Boinod and Gaillard in the publication of the \textit{Courier de l'Amérique}, which they say is not designed for this country, but for France. Their paper of the 6th instant is a further manifestation of those views, and it is more than probable, that an attention to their future publications will discover a direct tendency to one important object."

"Queries"

"1st. Could the views of our enemies be better served, as things now stand, than by introducing persons on whom they can depend, to set up presses in each of the United States, who might, by reviving old prejudices and insinuating new ones, secretly undermine the foundations of our peace and political interest?"

"2d. Whatever unrestrained liberties may be allowed to the presses of our own citizens, whose allegiance to government and zeal for the independence of these United States

cannot be doubted, does not common prudence dictate that a jealous eye ought to be kept upon strangers publishing Couriers and Gazettes amongst us, as these afford the most direct access to the minds of the people at large?

"3d. Could those, who envy the freedom we enjoy, contrive any means for subverting our peace and happiness more effectual, than by endeavoring to prejudice us against our friends, or to prejudice our friends against us?"

To this Boinod replied: "France, all powerful as she is, has not yet arrived at universal monarchy; she does not yet comprehend all Europe or America; and is it our fault if the earnestness of your good wishes makes you mistake them for the reality? Still less do we rest our hopes chiefly upon France. The firm language of truth, from which we will never depart, may not always be found agreeable to its government, and by this means may expose us to lose every advantage which might be procured from that kingdom; but as we have already said, the love of truth and liberty will be our sole guide; and if a citizen of Philadelphia can deprive us of the precious and sacred privilege of speaking agreeably to our sentiments, he never shall oblige us to be the tool of individuals, and meanly sacrifice truth to personal considerations.

"With regard to the Queries which the author proposes, on the means to be taken for restraining the liberty of the press, we leave them to be solved by those to whom they are addressed: the citizens of Pennsylvania can judge for themselves as well as any other people on earth; let them read and determine."

Dr. Barthold is probably correct in his opinion that the editors of the Courier were "desirous . . . of trying to provoke an extensive public discussion on the liberty of the press." No further comment was drawn from Hopkinson or any other friend of the University. An anonymous rhymester sought to prolong the dispute by contributing some lines to the Freeman's Journal\[17\] in which he echoed Boinod's challenge:

"Your catalogue then, Master Francis, produce,
That each man may judge of their merit and use,"
and touched on the issue of the freedom of the press:

"A secret newspaper, were sure a strange thing,
Undermining the interests of country or king,"

\[17\] August 11.
and Boinod returned to the attack in the *Courier* of August 13, without, however, adding anything new to the presentation of his case. His hope of drawing further fire from his opponents is evident in his closing words: "We shall cheerfully receive, and publish in our paper, every thing Mr. Hopkinson could wish to insert, relative to our literary dispute."\(^{18}\)

The controversy, however, had gone beyond Mr. Hopkinson and the Trustees of the University. Boinod and Gaillard had made themselves unpopular with Barbé-Marbois and other prominent men because of certain articles which they had published in the first number of the *Courier*, and both they and their paper had come to be generally considered a public menace. The consul-general made a full report of the matter to Vergennes. That minister did not think it necessary or desirable that the French government should take notice of the case, for he considered the paper and its editors worthy only of contempt;\(^{19}\) but before his letter was received Barbé-Marbois was able to write him that the offending gazette had ceased publication. Tersely he stated the cause: "One of the most effective means of putting a stop to the publication was the refusal of the postmaster-general to give him a contract except at a very high rate."\(^{20}\)

So far as we are aware a complete list of the books which constituted the King's gift has never been published, and all of the partial lists which we have seen have given the titles in the incomplete and inaccurate form in which both the titles and the authors' names were recorded in the Trustees' minutes. One hundred and fifty years have passed since Boinod delivered his challenge: "Let the catalogue be printed, and the public will decide whether you or we are the best judges of French books." Feeling that it is time that this challenge were accepted, on behalf of the University and of his Majesty the late Louis XVI, we had intended to print here a complete "catalogue" of the thirty-six titles, and leave it to our readers to determine their excellence. Lack of space necessitates its postponement and it will be printed in our December issue.

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\(^{18}\) As translated in *Freeman's Journal*, August 18.


\(^{20}\) Ibid., pp. 100, 101.