

"I have not yet had the pleasure of news of you, my dearest ~~letter~~ ^{in the country} ~~letter~~, but ~~in return~~, I have had the pleasure of making a trip which has strongly interested me. I owe you a faithful account of it, which I shall begin before even telling you that I love you out all my heart.

I left Rhode Island the 10 Nov. ~~7~~ to go to the headquarters of the Colonial Army at Fort Mifflin, in the state of New York, 15 miles from Monistown. The character of the country we traversed interested me greatly; - I being on horseback, I was able to ~~take~~ ^{observe} within range of examination the ~~land~~ ^{best} ~~land~~, the nature of its soil, that of the rocks, the cultivation, the population etc.

The state of Rhode Island which we crossed, seemed ^{well} ~~to be~~ cultivated; nevertheless, from Providence as far as I know, it only produces maize and a very little barley. Providence is a pretty little ~~town~~ ^{city} situated at the extremity of the bay in which are the islands of Providence, of Conanicut & Prudence. The population of Providence is not above 3000; it was a communal centre before the war, the surrounding being sandy but fertile enough; there reigns a pleasing activity. At the beginning of hostilities the English burned several ^{small} ~~farm~~ ^{settlements} ~~at~~ around. but Providence itself was sheltered from such devastations. There is a fine college of which we have ^{possessed} ~~had~~ as a hospital, which, if you to go, we have had no ^{need}. There are five churches in the city. ~~The~~ ^{habits are} ~~manners~~ ^{very} pure here. There are no ^{feudal} ~~unimpaired~~ households, and the women are ^{freer} ~~freer~~ than in the other American provinces. Religion has a greater empire ⁱⁿ the simpler spirits of these people than it has with us. The

arts are still in their infancy. The high wages ^{paid} given
workmen scarcely ^{incurs the} ~~cost~~ ^{expense} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~it~~ ^{it}. A white man will
not work for less than a piastre, which is 500 ^{cents} ~~cents~~ of our
money. Labour is very small, its soil is hilly ^{and} ~~and~~ ^{sufficiently}
well inhabited and cultivated. There is much granite, ~~and~~
quartz, and schistes both friable and hard, mixed with the
quartz. One cannot go 3 miles without encountering ~~the~~
houses and fine fields, always very near the roads. The
country is well watered and communication facile, ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~high~~
~~roads~~ ~~being~~ ~~well~~ ~~inhabited~~, every 10 miles there are ~~inns~~.

The landscape becomes more broken as one enters Connecticut
and ~~we~~ ~~crossed~~ ~~a~~ ~~mountain~~ ~~ranges~~ ~~running~~ ~~generally~~ ~~north~~ ~~&~~ ~~south~~
we followed ^{the} ~~the~~ fertile valley where agriculture is at its best.
It is a cattle-country abounding in pasture land, and the
cultivated fields yield 20 fold. ^{we} ~~before~~ ~~out~~ ~~before~~ ~~arriving~~ ~~at~~ ~~Hartford~~,
which ~~is~~ ~~built~~ ~~on~~ ~~the~~ ~~right~~ ~~bank~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~river~~.
It is one of the principal cities of the province, ~~the~~ ~~houses~~ ~~are~~
~~well~~ ~~built~~, ~~and~~ ~~are~~ ~~well~~ ~~separated~~ ~~from~~ ~~each~~ ~~other~~ ~~as~~ ~~is~~ ~~the~~ ~~case~~
in all American towns. The deputies of the provinces were
assembled there when we ~~went~~ ^{went} ~~through~~. Around Hartford a
feruginous red stone like saquin abounds. This stone is
in almost horizontal layers of from 1 to 6 inches in thickness,
& the rains dissolving it give a blood red tint to ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~atmosphere~~
surrounding soil. The principal ^{trade} ~~exports~~ of the region is
in cattle and flour. In times of peace much ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~sent~~ ^{exported} to
the Antilles. There is some ^{making} ~~manufacture~~ of ordinary
cloths, but insufficient for the needs, and hand-works being
so high. They cost quadruple the price of similar stuffs
from any French ~~manufacture~~ ^{manufacture}.

We then crossed the mountains of Litchfield, all granite & quartz, covered with forests. Several settlements have been made in the ~~center~~ ^{midst} of these woods. I saw some not two years old. The way they ~~came about~~ ^{are frequented} is sufficiently curious. Any man who has a hundred Louis, in ~~the~~ money or credit, may start out. He pays about half that sum to the owner of the wood, who sells him a certain number of arpents. He goes to the ~~spot~~ ^{regions} with a few hands, chooses the ~~position~~ ^{tract} location which pleases him best, fells trees, cuts off the branches, saws the trunks the length he wishes his house to be, ~~clears the ends~~ ^{beats}, and cuts others suitable for the other two sides. When this is all done, the neighbors get together and help put two logs one on the other in a long square, double ~~at~~ ^{ing} the corners. The chimney is built of mud, a few gorges or stones. The windows are filled with ~~mud~~ ^{clay} mixed with bits of wood. The house is roofed with a few planks, a door is cut through the side at about $\frac{1}{3}$ and a little window at the other $\frac{2}{3}$. All this takes ordinarily a week. The new proprietor brings his provisions & goods, lights a fire at the foot of the trees he wishes to destroy, half burns them and sows his crops in the intervals left by the half burnt trunks. The first years crops repay his care and in time he is a candidate to repay that he ~~has~~ ^{borrowed}.

Thus, my dear master, is the "clearing done in the immense forest. These humble dwellings, primitive as those of the first human beings, are overflowing with lovely children, ~~to whom~~ ^{welcomed by} their laborious parents, a fertile earth yields them abundant food and they aid their father in extending his domain.

frontiers are always opening up and here liberty,
that precious thing which man has never learned how to
keep, here takes the ^{place} of those enjoyments which ^{enter} ~~out~~ and
conscience ~~refuses~~ ^{refuses} ~~the~~ ^{the} place of those enjoyments which ^{enter} ~~out~~ and
and mouth offer to the inhabitants of other lands.

From Litchfield to Fishkill the country is more level,
the mountains on the left: ~~the~~ the soil rich and well watered
F. is a very small place ~~xx~~ where there are several
barracks for the colonial troops ~~xx~~ from F. following a
gorge in the mountains having here about 5 or 6 toises
elevation, the road ends at the ferry over the North River
(Hudson) opposite West Point. Three miles ^{before reaching} ~~above~~ the ferry,
^{descending on} ~~for~~ the mountain side, ^{the} beautiful river reveals itself
^{mi} a most sublime and beautiful ~~feature~~ ^{feature}. West Point is a
position chosen with all possible skill and calculation
to intercept the navigation of the North River, which if in
possession of the English, would cut in two the American
states which must throw off this yoke. It was M.
du Pontail, a very habile french engineer, who ^{directed} ~~built~~ out the
works - a ^{road} ~~road~~ extending to the middle of the river bed
which has been fortified, obliges vessels to go ^{near} ~~in~~ shore
on the opposite side, where batteries have been placed
like an amphitheatre, and all the ridges & crests of the
surrounding ^{high} ~~mountains~~ are crowned by a dozen forts and
redoubts, well entrenched and palisaded

We hurried away from West Point hoping to ~~be~~
~~have~~ reach Staten Island ~~for~~ to be present at the attack
which was expected at any moment. ~~We~~ ~~reached~~ ~~here~~ at 5
in the evening of the next day we arrived at the American
head quarters. It should set out on the march at 4
in the morning. I had seen leave West Point a

detachment destined to make a great forray to give jealousy to the enemy, so I thought the affair certain and waited the order of marching orders, when I learned that the English, getting wind of the project of expedition, had transferred to Staten Island a force too considerable to be attacked with success, which determined Gen. Wash. to renounce the ^{design} plan. We passed 4 days with him, (lodging in his house with le Marquis de Chastellux to whom Wash gave two of the horses which the state of Virginia had just presented him) Every day we passed several hours in his company, listening to his conversation with M. de Chastellux, and the rest of the time always with him and ~~the~~ ^{the} generals of his army. I have never seen a man ^{so gentle} so accomplished and so frank. He is the best man ^{I have ever seen} of the world I have ever met, and I have never been so glad ^{in my life} as ^{at} that first moment I ~~saw~~ ^{saw} him. Of all great men he is the one one should wish to be like, morally as well as physically. The beauty of his soul is painted on the noblest of human visages.

The part of New Jersey which we ~~for~~ traversed on the way to Philadelphia was fine and well cultivated, the surface varied, very hilly along the river, which is hemmed in and flows between two ranges of granite hills about 5-6 toises d' elevation. They are full of iron mines and on their summits I picked up fragments rich in bitumen. On the second day we left the river behind us and travelled over a fine region watered by the Raritan, the millstone & other streams and arrived at JERICHO, & from there to Trenton, a spot celebrated by the success of the

The next fall, when Washington & Rochambeau lay
at the siege of Yorktown. Lynch and Moultrie for
prowling prodigies of valor and ^{young} ~~the~~ ^{formed part of} the delegate
commissioned to carry news of this so important
victory to France. Sailing on the royal frigate "Survill
ante" on ²⁴ ~~the~~ Oct: they arrived at Brest in less than
3 weeks. Rochambeau, ^{promotions} always demanding reinforcements
for ^{in 1781 is established} the siege of New York, which would be the final stroke
of the war, and on the 17th of the following May (1782)
embarked, with most of his old comrades and many new
sailed from Brest in the "Glorie" to join at Rochefort-
the "Aigle" a 40 gun frigate carrying 2500, was sent
in com^{mand} to Rochambeau. Storms, repairs and ^{and engine repairs} ~~delays~~
^{and engine repairs} kept them on the coast of F. until July 18th.
and it was 15. Sept. before they reached Philadelphia.

Chastellux, having ^{headed} ~~taken~~ over the command of the 1st
division of Rochambeau's army to ~~the~~ ^{the} baronne de
Vionville profited by the opportunity to visit the
^{new} ~~the~~ new system and in November, with Lynch & Moultrie
1782 and visited Hartford, Boston etc, Washington at
Newburg and came home just before Xmas. Of this trip
~~was~~ ^{was} the most interesting reference in
~~the~~ letters of the young military, to find the peace commu-
had busy road, to Syria, and with the other French officer
M. sailed on the Emeraude and reached St. Nazaire 16 Feb.
Some 6 months elapsed in papers & ~~business~~ ^{business} of the Society 1783
of circuits reached him. ~~With~~ Rochambeau ~~was~~

[Crossed out text:]
~~The next fall followed again by the time we reached
the middle of the village due to the arrangement
of officers. It is not clear if it is a
of circuits reached him. With Rochambeau~~

shift for the
 Spanish Army, and has established a depot for it at his house.
 I visited the library, which is reasonably good, the museum of
 natural history and a machine of the solar system after
 Newton; an American constructed it. and it seems to me
 a very ^{ingenious arrangement} ~~good~~ ~~arrangement~~ - but I enquire what occupies its
~~inventor~~ ^{inventor} at this moment? Verifying the
 paper = money! **

The desire to see Albany and Saratoga pushed
 us to leave P. where we had been so hospitably received
 by M. de la Luzerne, the Feb. club. a most amiable
 man, ^{as} well fitted to make the get. matter like as if he
 had been made on purpose. ** we retraced in part our steps
 stopping at New Windsor where winter quarters had been es-
 tablished, to see Washington again.

The country round Philadelphia is full of mines,
 marble is also found there, and the mineral = waters of Bristol
 are renowned. ^{But} The country from New Windsor to Albany is
 very fertile, the fields producing from 25 to 30 fold, the soil
 being all about the same. The rocks are granite, except a
^{range} chain of hills which follow the course of a stream which flows
 into the Hudson a dozen lieux from Albany. This range
 is of horizontal layers of calcareous stone; ~~and~~ the trees
^{seen to} grow out of the bare rock, without any sign of earth,
 and offer a rather curious spectacle. The two ranges of
 uplands which extend along the Hudson retire by degrees
 and leave on each bank a plain ^{of} about two miles wide.
 It is very rich fertility and extends as far as Saratoga
 in a varying width, always following the course of the river.

Of the men who have contributed most to the Revolution.
Congress was in session @ I saw the deputies of all the
different states north & south. In a space 3 miles long &
and one wide Philadelphia contains 35,000 inhabitants.
The streets are wide and well laid out and there are
sidewalks on each side. The houses are built of brick
and there are many useful establishments, due to the
charitable ideas of the Quakers, who, in return, have
banished every kind of public amusement so it happens
that ^{as no} Boston ^{is} because of its idleness, and Philadelphia
is because of its gravity. Just now the Quakers are accused of
being the Jesuits of America - that tells you enough. They
are nearly all Tory and have indeed degenerated from the virtues
of their forefathers. I profited by our stay here to visit
the surrounding country; taking an excursion on the
delaware I examined the forts at Mud ^{Island} Bank, Red Bank &
Bellingport, and the Chevaux de frise which the Americans
had placed ^{across} in the channel to prevent the English fleet from
reaching Philadelphia; but the ^{water by} current, ^{which} ^{is} the ^{power}
of the water, ⁱⁿ this place, the current was ^{so} ^{swift} ^{that} ^{it} ^{was} ^{not} ^{usually} ^{deep} ^{enough} ^{for} ^{navigation}, and by it
the English fleet passed. I went to see the fields of Brandy-
wine (with M. de Lafayette, de Chastellux, Lynch, le vicomte
de Noailles, & M. de la Luzerne, the French Ambassador, whose
quarters were, then) Willemasche, Barrenhill, Gormantown
and all the places celebrated for the battle fought here.
Otherville, I saw all the different classes of society; & the
daughter of doctor Franklin, who has made all the
women of Penn. promise to make a certain number of

Timidly I proffered the coin. His Holiness in his
outstretched hand and his face lighted with an
indulgent ~~and~~ caressing smile.

Overcome, I slammed the door and sank on the
black-covered wood box.

The audience ~~formed~~ ^{was} to be for the next day at
the school, ~~the feast of the Purification~~; ^{more} than twelve
hours notice never being given because of the uncertain state
of the Pope's health. Draped in the regulation black
"mantilla" we drove around St. Peter's, ^{the house door, where the Pope} ~~at~~ a full of
^{with the petty game} one-horse carriages whose occupants had neglected to
read their notice carefully, and around St. Peter's where
^{to guard} at the gate of the Cortile San Damaso saluted our
braucing span and smart Trohans. We ~~climbed~~ ^{came} up to
the stairs ^{with a room} and the guards saluted again as I went
past; taking me for at least a reigning prince,
for I had come with much state to the ~~most private~~
entrance, ^{the sala nobile} which no one horse vehicle nor numbered cab
may approach.

It was the feast of the Purification, and the
audience was the customary reception at which His
Holiness received the candles.

So strangers like myself were shown to seats at the
upper end of the Sala Cleucentina, the former ~~room~~,
the audience being the customary reception ~~at~~ the
feast of the Purification of the Virgin ~~in May~~, when His Holiness
receives the offering of candles.

he continued in the army; ^{receiving promotion after} a ~~very creditable~~
promotion, came after the outbreak of the revolution
but in 1791, being with the 20^e di ligne at Perpignan,
and ~~dismissing~~ ^{at Exeter} ~~at Exeter~~
he resigned and found other engagements in England.

His father, ^{good confidant} imprisoned in 94 as a suspect, was
released to liberty etc by Drouot as a tribute to
the memory of his father "immortal M" but shortly
after ^{the father's} ~~and the~~ ^{who had been imprisoned as suspect.}

His father died in 1795 and the property of La Bude
confiscated, and the same year Ch. L. married a
^{in a young} ~~Miss~~ Maria - Anne Mac Geoghegan & Neil, possibly
an orphan
a younger son of the captain & Neil, who was at
Yorktown with them and was a friend of Lord Lynch.
He had no children, but wishing to leave La Bude
to a nephew a cousin ^{son}, he, ^{eventually relinquishing his property} returned to France
and the First Consul, in deference to the memory of
"the immortal martyr" his good father, erased Ch. L.
name from the list of proscribed and restored the
Chateau of La Bude, which from the 18th century
had been there. Then, having made his will in favor of
the great grandchild of the first B. de la Bude, he
returned to England and died there in 1824, aged 75 yrs.

— Finis —

— Finis —

C

Montesquieu foresaw the independence of the U.S. when he wrote in his "Notes on England" ~~this~~ "I do not know what will ^{happen to} ~~become of~~ all the people who ^{go from} ~~are sent~~ Europe to America and the West Indies, but I think that if any nation is abandoned by its colonies, it will ^{be engulfed into the dust.} ~~begin by England first.~~

His grandson helped realize this prophecy ~~in~~ ~~taking part in the Revolution.~~ Charles Louis de Secondat, later baron de Montesquieu attained the grade of Captain in the Royal Piedmontese regiment 29 April, 1779 and as aide de camp of the Marquis de Chastellux took part in the siege of Jankovits.

Vast sympathy reigned in the Paris Salons for the Americans fighting for liberty. Franklin was stirring public opinion. In the army, moved by love of adventure ^{and} as well as a legitimate ambition, as well as burning with desire to avenge on the English the

born 64,
22 Nov.
1749.

Two and two they knelt at his knee, many
lifting the hem of his vestment to their lips. He
spoke to each of them. Some were old friends. Bow-
ing forward, he asked about their affairs and
mutual acquaintances. Sometimes he would venture a
little joke and a ripple of laughter ran over the
group on the steps. Others, representatives of dis-
tant establishments, repeated set speeches of pre-
sentation. He inquired after their progress, sent his
greetings to self-excited laborers in the field and
blessed their work. Occasionally he leaned back in
^{with a wave of his hand} his chair and ^{transparent} his face relaxed into the ~~set~~ smile
which his portraits show (and which is more a
muscular ^{infantile} habit than a revelation of feeling. ^{As a young man he did not have it,} The
^{expressions} ~~portraits~~ daguerotypes of his father at an advanced age
^{present-} ~~show~~ ^{unconscious} ~~at least~~ precisely the same mask.) His attenuated
hands clutching the arms of the chair betrayed the
effort. The audience was ~~to him~~. But in an instant
he ~~was~~ leaning forward again, showing unflagging
interest. The hands again at their ceaseless gestures
of benediction. He ^{never} ~~did~~ not once seem confused. Not